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PUCO

Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio

13

# Memo

**To:** Docketing Division

**From:** George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division

**Re:** In the matter of the authorization of Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Lorain County

**Date:** February 20, 2014

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has authorized funding for Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway (WE) to install mast-mounted flashing lights and roadway gates at Lorain County, Pitts Rd/CR 64, near Wellington, DOT# 473592T. The crossing was surveyed on 8/20/2013 and found to warrant the upgrade.

The project will be paid for with federal funds, and is actual cost. As the plan and estimate has already been submitted and approved, staff requests a Finding & Order with completion of the project in nine months. Construction may commence at once. Staff requests that the following language be incorporated in the Entry:

**It is expected that all work necessary for FHWA acceptance of the warning devices will be completed by the in-service due date and that the railroad will be responsible for this work. This work includes, but is not limited to:**

**Any ancillary work to make the warning devices function as designed and visible to the roadway user, and**

**MUTCD compliance, including minor roadway work if necessary.**

A suggested case coding and heading would be:

PUCO Case No. ~~14~~ 277 -RR-FED In the matter of the authorization of Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Lorain County

C: Legal Department

Please serve the following parties of record

Ms Cathy Stout

Ohio Rail Development Commission  
1980 West Broad St, Mailstop #3140  
Columbus, Oh 43223

Mr Tim Andrews

Wheeling & lake Erie Railway  
100 E First St  
Brewster, Oh 44613

Mr Wayne Milet, Deputy Engineer

Lorain County Engineer  
247 Hadaway St  
Elyria, Oh 44035

Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Coop  
22898 W Rd, Wellington, OH 44090

**OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**TO:** George Martin, Rail Division, PUCO  
**FROM:** Cathy Stout, Manager, Safety Section, ORDC  
**BY:** Joe Reinhardt, Project Manager, ORDC  
**SUBJECT:** Lorain County, Pitts Road, DOT 473592T  
Wheeling & Lake Erie Rwy, PID 96750  
**DATE:** February 19, 2014

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The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) established a diagnostic survey at the subject location on Pitts Road. The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) attended the review. The Diagnostic Team recommended the improvement of warning devices to flashing lights and roadway gates. Copies of the diagnostic review form and the plan and estimate are attached.

PE has already been provided by the railroad. ORDC approves the site plans and estimates as provided. Please issue a construction-only order for the project outlined above. This construction authorization is made with the stipulation and understanding that any field work needs prior approval before the work begins. This authorization is made with the stipulation and understanding that an approved estimate may contain entries for items or activities that may be cited and found to be ineligible for federal participation during the project audit.

It is expected that all work necessary for FHWA acceptance of the warning devices will be completed by the in-service due date and that the railroad will be responsible for this work. This work includes, but is not limited to:

- any ancillary work to make warning devices function as designed and visible to the roadway user, and
- MUTCD compliance – including minor roadway work if necessary.

Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Attachment: Diagnostic Review  
Plan & Estimate

c: George Martin, PUCO  
ORDC Project Manager (file)



# OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mail Stop #3140, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus OH 43223

John R. Kasich, Governor • James G. Bradley, Chairman

February 19, 2014

Mr. Tim Andrews  
Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway  
100 East First Street  
Brewster, Ohio 44613

RE: Lorain County, Pitts Road  
DOT 473592T, PID# 96750

Dear Mr. Andrews:

The plan and estimate dated December 28, 2013, for the referenced project has been reviewed and is acceptable. WLE may proceed with the construction of the proposed grade crossing warning system in accordance with the abbreviated plan. This authorization is made with the stipulation and understanding that the approved estimate may contain entries for items or activities that may be cited and found to be ineligible for federal participation during the project audit. Reimbursement of eligible actual cost is limited to \$223,705.48. Additional costs must be approved in writing by the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) prior to being incurred. Emergency verbal authorizations by ORDC may be permitted and will be confirmed by ORDC in writing within ten (10) business days of the verbal approval.

This authorization is contingent upon WLE accepting the following instructions:

1. WLE's project foreman will furnish written notification five (5) working days prior to the date work will start at the project site to Joseph Reinhardt, ORDC, email [joe.reinhardt@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:joe.reinhardt@dot.state.oh.us) and to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at [George.martin@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:George.martin@puc.state.oh.us). WLE's project foreman will also notify the same of any stops and re-starts of the work activity and of the date work was completed for the project.
2. WLE will arrange for utilities to be located at the project site by the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) prior to any construction activities at the site. Utilities that are not participating members of the service must be contacted directly by WLE.
3. WLE's project foremen will notify Joe Reinhardt at [joe.reinhardt@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:joe.reinhardt@dot.state.oh.us) (email) of any changes in the scope of work, cost overruns, material changes, etc. which are not included in the approved plan and estimate and secure approval of same before the work is performed.
4. WLE will furnish two (2) copies of each partial bill to ORDC. Please find the enclosed Encumbrance Estimate to reference when billing.



[www.rail.ohio.gov](http://www.rail.ohio.gov)

phone: 614.644.0306

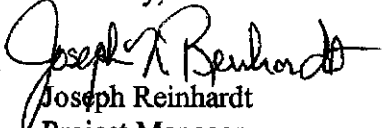
IMPROVING RAIL TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S ECONOMY

[Type text]

5. WLE will furnish two (2) copies of the final all-inclusive bill to ORDC stating the exact dates of starting and completing work, the initial and final dates of construction and location where the accounts may be audited.

Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Reinhardt  
Project Manager

C: George Martin, PUCO, Grade Crossing Planner  
ORDC (file)



## Diagnostic Review Team Survey

Reason for Survey:  
(e.g. formula, accident, constituent, etc.)

Date: 8/20/2013

### Location Data

Street or Road Name: Pitts Rd	
Route/Road Number (i.e. Twp., Co., SR or US) CR 64	US DOT No.: 473592T
County: LOR	Township: Wellington
Railroad Name: Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway	Railroad Division: Hartland
Nearest RR Timetable Station: Wellington	Branch/Line Name: Main
	RR Milepost: 85.71

### On-Site Review Team

(Include: Name - Organization - Phone Number - Email)

1. Joe DeLand ORDC 614-644-0291
2. Frank Allaire WLE 330-575-7003
3. GEORGE MARTIN PUCO 614-752-9107
4. WAYNE A. MILETI LOR.CO.PUCO 440-329-9591
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

### Existing Traffic Control Devices

Type of Warning Devices	Installed?		Quantity/Comments
Advance Warning Signs (condition?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	2 - GOOD
'Stop' Signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
'Stop Ahead' Signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Pavement Markings (condition?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	2 - GOOD
Crossbucks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	W/ YIELD SIGNS
Number of Tracks Signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Inventory Tags	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Interconnected Highway Traffic Signal	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Mast-Mounted Flashing Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Cantilever Flashing Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number: Length:
Side Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Automatic Gates	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number: Length:
Bells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number:
Sidewalk Gate Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
'No Turn' Signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Illumination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	2
Is crossing flagged by train crew?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Safety Data (Obtain crash reports, if possible, prior to review)		
	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Number & dates of crashes in previous 5 years	None	
Hazard Ranking	1443	Date Run: 7/30/2013

Railroad Data		
Railroad Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Total trains per day	7	
< 1 per day		
Day thru trains	1	
Night thru trains	5	
Daytime switching movements		
Nighttime switching movements	1	
Total number of tracks	1	
Number of main tracks	1	
Number of other tracks		
Maximum train speed	50	
Typical train speed	50	
Amtrak		

If non-gated crossing, is clearing sight distance adequate in all quadrants? (See Table 1) ☒ Yes ☐ No

If multiple tracks, can two trains occupy crossing at the same time? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Can one train block the motorists' view of another train at crossing? ☐ Yes (Explain below) ☒ No

Can one or more tracks be eliminated through the crossing? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are there other track(s) crossing this same roadway within 100 ft of this crossing? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, Crossing DOT # (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, distance \_\_\_\_\_ (take measurement between track centerlines at closest point along roadway)

Roadway Data		
Local Highway Authority: Lorain County		
Roadway Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Average daily traffic	290 (2013)	
Highway paved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Roadway Surface: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blacktop <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Roadway width: 22 ft		
Number of highway lanes	2	
Urban or Rural	Rural	
Vehicle Speed: 55 MPH		
School Bus Operation: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes 4 Amount		
Hazardous Materials Trucks: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ Amount		
Shoulders: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Is the shoulder surfaced? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Is there existing guardrail along roadway in crossing vicinity? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Is stopping site distance adequate? (See Table 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If no, deficient approach(es) <u>SOUTH APPROACH</u>	

HARD TO SEE KING.

Quadrant <u>NW</u> Curb and Gutter: <input type="checkbox"/> Functional (Curb height = 4" or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-functional (Curb height = Less than 4") <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Quadrant <u>SE</u> Curb and Gutter: <input type="checkbox"/> Functional (Curb height = 4" or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-functional (Curb height = Less than 4") <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None
Pedestrians: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Is sidewalk present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Is there a nearby intersection that could cause queuing over the crossing? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, Distance _____ Is this intersection signalized? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Are the signals currently interconnected with the existing crossing warning devices? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Is there a 'Do not Stop on Track' sign? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Is a roadway improvement project (e.g. widening, turn lanes, nearby new or upgraded traffic signal, sidewalk) planned at or near this location in the foreseeable future? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, Improvement type _____ Lead Agency _____ Timeline/completion _____	
Is it the consensus of the Diagnostic Review Team that this is a potential closure project: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Explain reasons: _____	
<b>Type of Development</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Space <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	Location of nearby schools: _____
<b>Utility Information</b>	
Is commercial power available? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Utility Provider (Company Name) <u>Lochinadian Electric</u> Phone Number _____ Nearest Available Power Source _____	
What other utilities are present? (add locations to sketch) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Gas  <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Cable  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water  <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Sewer         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone  <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber Optic Cable         </div> </div>	
Is(are) there potential utility conflict(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown Comments: _____	



## Potential Red Flags / Project Challenges

Traffic Signal Preemption (include traffic signal intersection name and LHA with jurisdiction over traffic signal, if known):

Crossing Consolidation or Closure:

Real Estate or ROW:

Culverts / Drainage / Ballast Conditions:

Roadway and/or Sidewalks:

Circuitry (e.g. reaches out to other crossings, specific needs, etc.):

Environmental:

Other:

N/A  
JWZ  
8-20-13



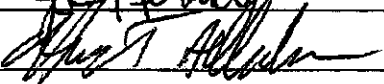
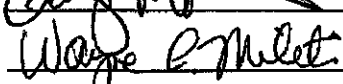
## Diagnostic Team Recommendations

	Quadrants Needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Install/upgrade active devices	
<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Flashing Lights (AFLS)	
<input type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Cants	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Gates	2
<input type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Gates / Cants	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bells / number	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade circuitry / type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sidelights	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardrail Needed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Install/Replace curb	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow placement & offset from rail & highway	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (define)	

Comments:

<input type="checkbox"/> Install/upgrade traffic signal preemption	
<input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (define)	

Acknowledgement of Recommendations (each entity represented at the diagnostic must have at least one signature acknowledgement):

Field Sketch

↑  
N  
NW

house

NE

Junk Dealer

Trees  
railroad  
signal house

X

Trees

X



Fairgrounds Back Entrance

Hillside blocks  
View of trains  
to East

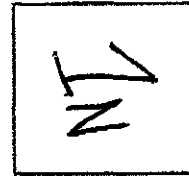
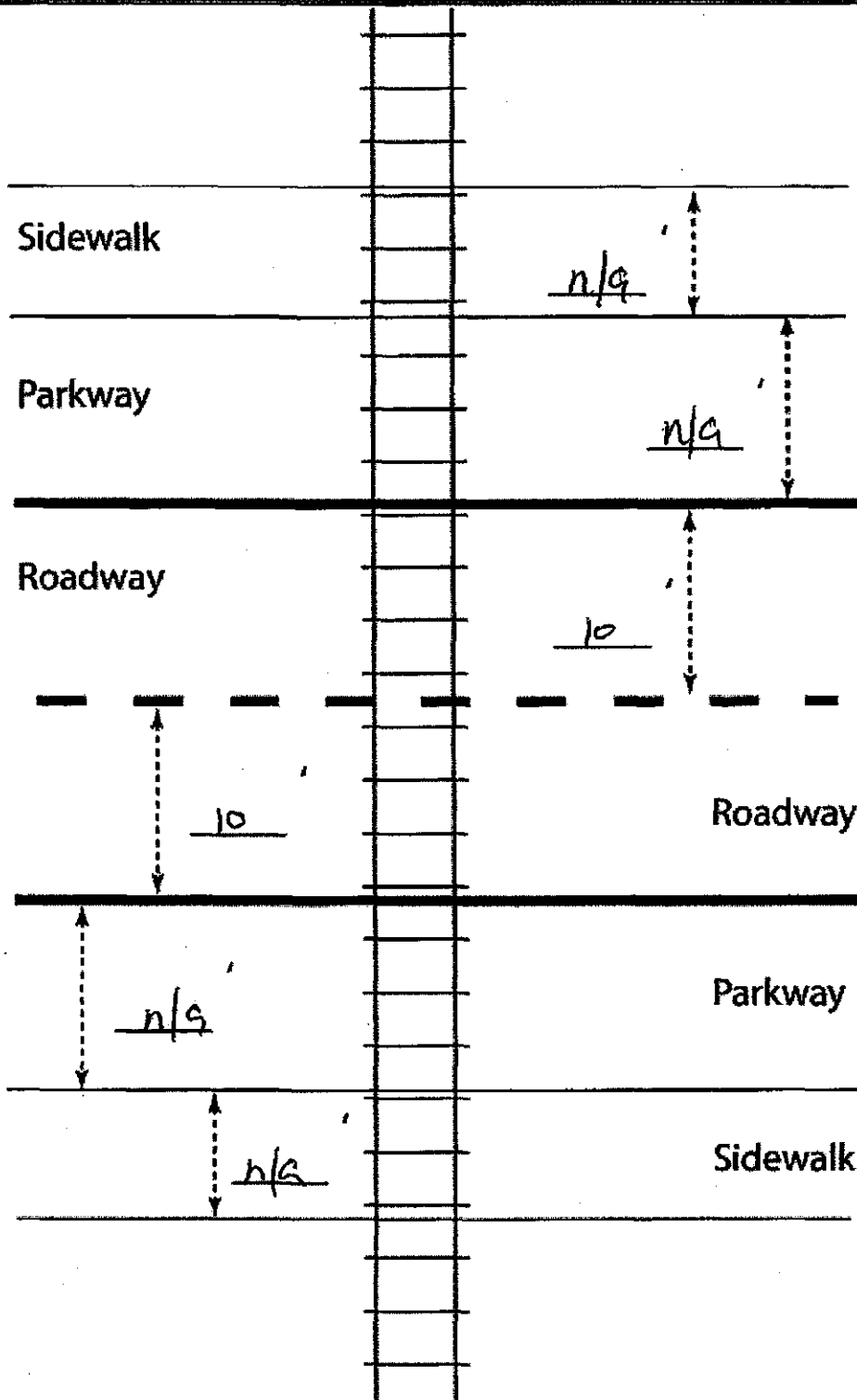
SE

SW

Crossing Angle ☒ 0-29° ☐ 30-59° ☐ 60-90° Measured in SE Quadrant?

Sketch by: IAH

# Field Dimensions



Show North Direction

Crossing Angle ☐ 0-29° ☐ 30-59° ☒ 60-90° Measured in SE Quadrant?

Measurements by: QJL

TABLE 1

## Clearing Sight Distances

Maximum Authorized Train Speed	Distance (dT) Along Railroad from Crossing (ft)
1 - 10	240
15	360
20	480
25	600
30	720
35	840
40	960
45	1080
50	1200
55	1320
60	1440
65	1560
70	1680
75	1800
80	1920
85	2040
90	2160

Source: R-H Grade Crossing Handbook Table 36 (pp. 132-133)

## Notes:

All calculated distances are rounded up to the next higher 5-foot increment.

Distances indicated are for 65-ft double bottom semi-tractor trailers and level single track 90 degree crossings; and may need to be adjusted for multiple tracks, skewed crossings or approaches on grades.

Clearing Sight Distance is to be measured in each vehicle travel direction at non-gated crossings as viewed from a point 25 feet from centerline of nearest track in the center of whichever travel lane is nearest the direction along track being measured.

Table 2

## Stopping Sight Distances

Highway Vehicle Speed	Distance (dH) Along Roadway from Crossing (ft)
0	n/a
5	50
10	70
15	105
20	135
25	180
30	225
35	280
40	340
45	410
50	490
55	570
60	660
65	760
70	865

Source: R-H Grade Crossing Handbook Table 36 (pp. 132-133)

## Notes:

All calculated distances are rounded up to the next higher 5-foot increment.

Distances indicated are for 65-ft double bottom semi-tractor trailers on dry level pavements.

Stopping Sight Distance is to be measured on each roadway approach to crossing from stop bar.