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FILE
(NC)

**Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio**

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2014 JUN -2 PM 2:00

PUCO

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division
Re: In the matter of the authorization of Norfolk Southern Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Erie County
Date: June 2, 2014

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has authorized funding for Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) to install mast-mounted flashing lights and roadway gates at Erie County, City of Sandusky, Olds Street, DOT# 481670T. The crossing was surveyed on November 12, 2013 due to its hazard ranking, and was 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- **1010** -RR-FED In the matter of the authorization of Norfolk Southern Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Erie 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


Ms Cayela Wimberly
Norfolk Southern Railway
1200 Peachtree St, Box 123
Atlanta, Ga 30309

Mr D Casey Talbot
Eastman & Smith Ltd
One Seagate, 24th Floor
PO Box 10032
Toledo, Oh 43699-0032

Mr Aaron Klein, PE, City Engineer
222 Meigs St
Sandusky, Oh 44870

Toledo Edison

**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: Erie County, Old Street, DOT 481670T
Norfolk Southern, PID 97265
DATE: June 2, 2014

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) established a diagnostic survey at the subject location on Olds Street. 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.

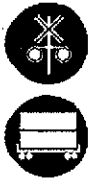
It is expected that all work necessary for FHWA acceptance of the warning devices will be completed by the in-service due date and that the railroad will be responsible for this work. This work includes, but is not limited to:

- 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 • Mark Policinski, ORDC Chairman

June 2, 2014

Ms. Cayela Wimberly
Public Projects Engineer
1200 Peach Street, Box 123
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

RE: Erie County, Olds Street, DOT 481670T
PID# 96426, NS Project 10.2122

Dear Ms. Wimberly:

The plan and estimate dated June 2, 1012, for the referenced project has been reviewed and is acceptable. NS may proceed with the construction of the proposed grade crossing warning system and resurfacing 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 \$334,751.00. 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 NS accepting the following instructions:

1. NS's project foreman will furnish written notification five (5) working days prior to the date work will start at the project site to Joe Reinhardt, ORDC, joe.reinhardt@dot.state.oh.us email and to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at George.martin@puc.state.oh.us. NS'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. NS 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 NS.
3. NS's project foremen will notify Joe Reinhardt at 614-580-7728 (telephone) or 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. NS 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

phone: 614.644.0306

IMPROVING RAIL TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S ECONOMY

5. NS 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)

Attachment: 1 (encumbrance estimate)

Diagnostic Review Team Survey

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

Date: 11/12/13

Location Data

Street or Road Name: Olds Street

Route/Road Number (i.e. Twp., Co., SR or US): _____ US DOT No.: 481670T and 509650S

County: ERI Township: _____ City: (In or Near) Sandusky

Railroad Name: Norfolk Southern Railroad Division: Lake Branch/Line Name: Sandusky

Nearest RR Timetable Station: Sandusky RR Milepost: 109.64 & 240.9

On-Site Review Team

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

1. Joe Ruback ORWG 614-644-0221
2. George Martin PUCO 614-752-9107
3. Aaron Klein Sandusky 419-627-5829
4. ED Dreyer Sandusky 419-627-5831
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
'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
Crossbucks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	2 w/ Yield
Number of Tracks Signs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	2
Inventory Tags	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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	ONE
Is crossing flagged by train crew?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Rumble Strips

Safety Data (Obtain crash reports, if possible, prior to review)

	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Number & dates of crashes in previous 5 years	0 (11/98) & (5/93) & (8/89)	
Hazard Ranking	817 409 - (12/20/2010) Date Run: 10/9/2013	

Railroad Data

Railroad Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Total trains per day	12 6	
< 1 per day		
Day thru trains	3 3	
Night thru trains	3	
Daytime switching movements	6 3	
Nighttime switching movements	0	
Total number of tracks	2 2	ONE
Number of main tracks	1 1	ONE
Number of other tracks	1 Side Track	NONE
Maximum train speed	20 20	
Typical train speed	15 15	
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:	City of Sandusky	
Roadway Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Average daily traffic	918 (2006)	
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:	13 ft.	
Number of highway lanes	2	
Urban or Rural	Rural	
Vehicle Speed:	25 MPH	
School Bus Operation:	X No Yes 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, deficient approach(es) _____	

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
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Pedestrians: No Yes

Is sidewalk present? No Yes

Is there a nearby intersection that could cause queuing over the crossing? No Yes

If yes, Distance _____

Is this intersection signalized? No Yes

Are the signals currently interconnected with the existing crossing warning devices? No Yes

Is there a 'Do not Stop on Track' sign? No 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? No 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: No Yes

Explain reasons: _____

Type of Development

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	Location of nearby schools: _____
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Utility Information

Is commercial power available? No Yes

Utility Provider (Company Name) Edison Phone Number _____

Nearest Available Power Source _____

What other utilities are present? (add locations to sketch)

<input type="checkbox"/> Gas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiber Optic Cable
<input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Sewer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			

Is(are) there potential utility conflict(s) Yes No Unknown

Comments:

Overhead telephone lines possibly need raised in the SE Quadrant.

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:

Ditch, possibly blocked culvert south of track;
Additional work will be needed in SE Quad.

Roadway and/or Sidewalks:

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

Environmental:

Other:

Two tracks have been cut & remain in roadway;
→ ONE of the remain tracks are in the main
track of the crossing



Diagnostic Team Recommendations

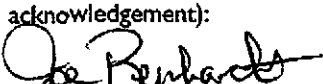
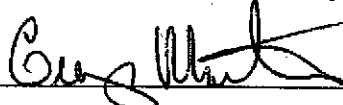

	Quadrants Needed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install/upgrade active devices	
<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Flashing Lights (AFLS)	
<input type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Cants	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Gates	SE & NW
<input type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Gates / Cants	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bells / number	
<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:

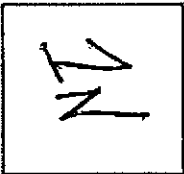
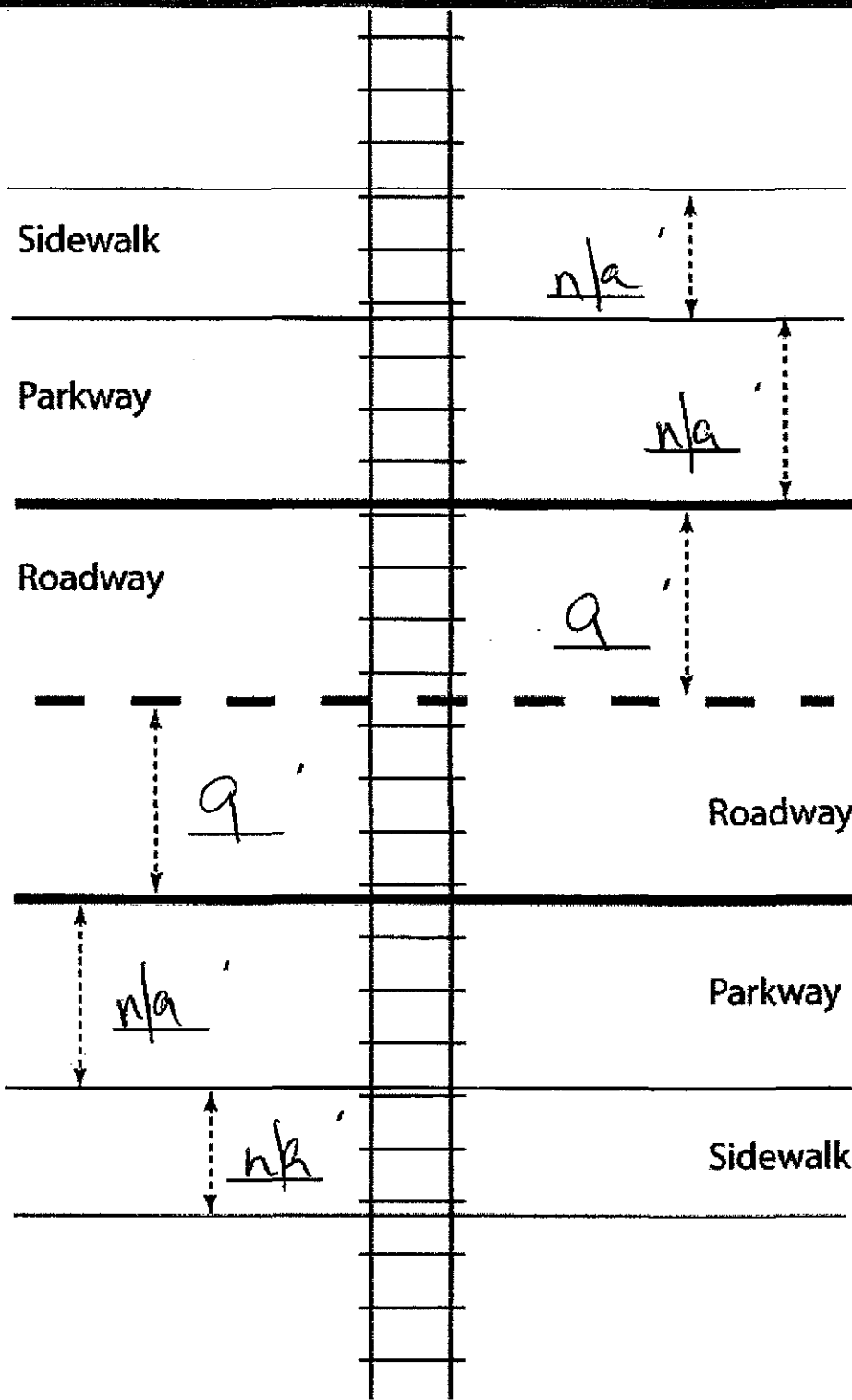
Install flg's parallel to track in SE Quadrant.
Eliminate tracks in roadway

<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 Dimensions



Show North Direction

Crossing Angle 0-29° 30-59° 60-90° Measured in _____ Quadrant?

Measurements by: *[Signature]*

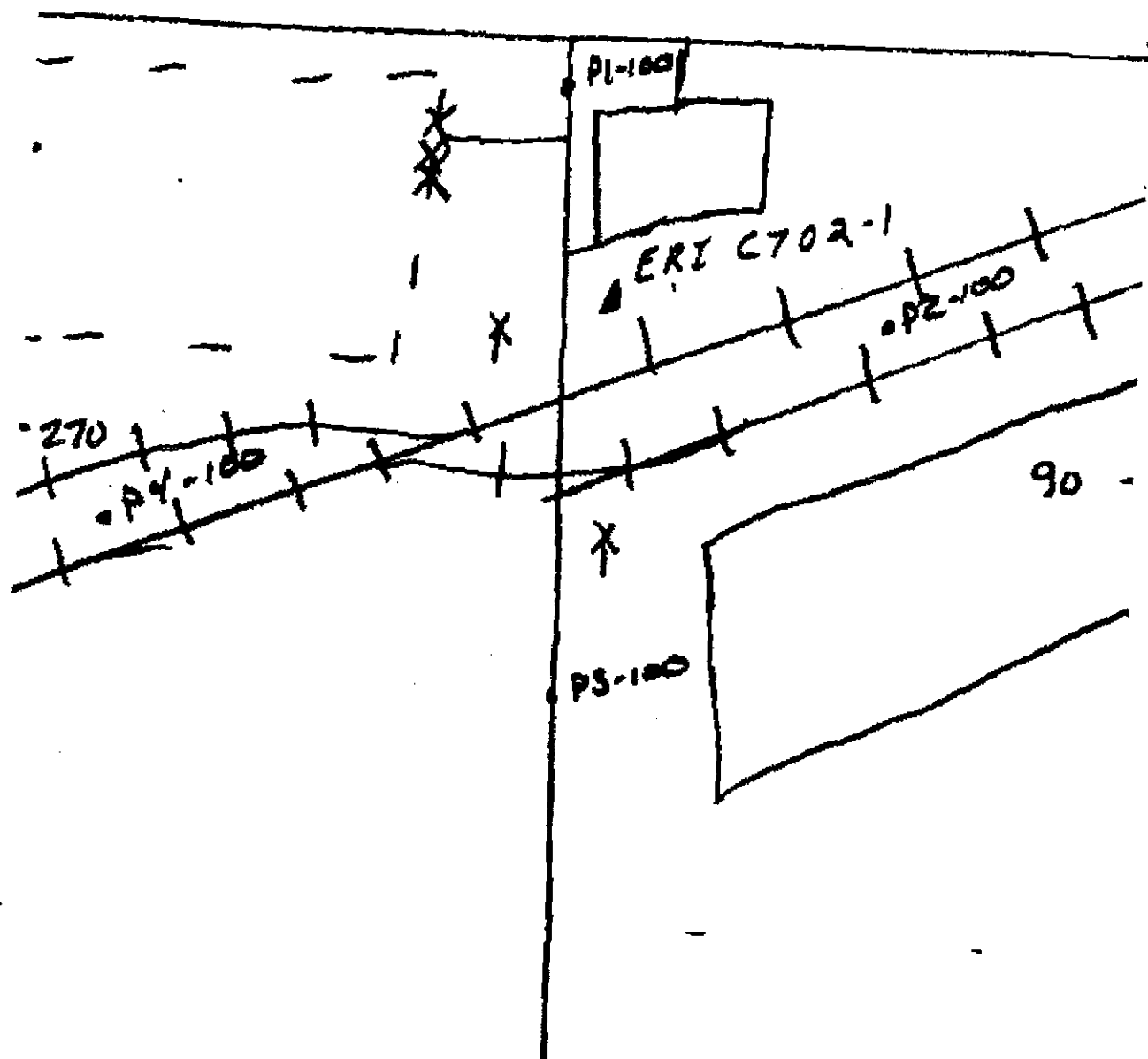


TABLE I

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.

11-12-13
JMK