

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Request of)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company to)
Downgrade the Existing Warning Devices) Case No. 12-2198-RR-RCP
at the State Avenue Grade Crossing)
(473-711A), Fremont, Sandusky County.)

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) On July 30, 2012, as amended on August 28, 2012, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) filed a request for a temporary downgrade of the existing warning devices at the State Avenue grade crossing (473-711A), in the city of Fremont (City), Sandusky County. According to NS, a motor vehicle struck and irreparably damaged the foundation/cantilever assembly in the northeast quadrant of the grade crossing. NS indicated that it entered into a plan with the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) for new warning devices at the crossing interconnected with highway traffic signals. NS requested the Commission authorize it to defer the replacement of the cantilever for 18 months and to maintain, in its place, a mast-mounted flasher with gate, and high flashers mounted on a standoff bracket until the installation of new warning devices is completed.
- (2) By previous entries, the Commission approved NS's requests for extensions of the temporary downgrade, most recently until April 3, 2015.
- (3) On March 20, 2015, NS filed a consent request for an extension of the temporary downgrade of the existing warning devices until April 3, 2016. NS notes that the extension will give the parties additional time to develop a new warning device installation at the crossing, including interconnection with adjacent highway traffic signals. According to NS, the project has proved to be quite complex and additional time is needed to confirm the requisite scope of the project and to resolve related technical concerns. NS states that the City and ORDC consent to this request.

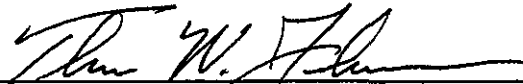
- (4) On March 23, 2015, Staff filed a memorandum recommending the Commission grant NS's request.
- (5) Upon review, the Commission finds that NS's request for an extension of the temporary downgrade, until April 3, 2016, to complete the project is reasonable and should be granted. During the temporary downgrade, NS should work with Staff, ORDC, and the City in order to develop a comprehensive improvement project for this grade crossing, as well as follow all standard railroad grade crossing safety protocol to ensure the protection of the traveling public at this crossing. Staff should continue to monitor work on this project.

It is, therefore,


ORDERED, That NS's request for an extension of the temporary downgrade until April 3, 2016, of the State Avenue grade crossing (473-711A) be granted in accordance with this Entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served on NS, ORDC, the city of Fremont Engineer, and all other parties of record.


THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman


Steven D. Lesser


Lynn Slaby


M. Beth Trombold


Asim Z. Haque

SEF/dah

Entered in the Journal

APR 02 2015



Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary