

FILE

16-1419-RR-RCP  
16-1549-RR-RCP

PUCO Hearing July 21

27

Providence Township / Lucas County

Otsego Schools Transportation Department is here today to request exemptions for 11 railroad crossings formerly known as the "Bluebird Train" route; in Lucas County in the townships of Providence and Waterville.

Otsego school buses stop 42 times per school day at these unused railroad crossings. Stopping at these unused tracks has become a safety issue for our buses; as well as other vehicles that are not prepared to stop at these unused tracks, the tracks are removed in several places.

The average railroad stop takes one minute or more when following the proper state procedure:

- 1- Slow down prepare to stop
- 2- Turn on Hazard lights
- 3- Open driver's window, ask students for silence
- 4- Turn off noisy equipment, radio, heaters, etc.
- 5- Set parking brake
- 6- Place bus in neutral
- 7- Open door look both ways
- 8- Shift back to drive
- 9- Close the door
- 10- Release parking brake

2016 JUL 25 AM 11:07  
PUCO

Bus # 10 stops 30 times per day, Bus # 1 stops 12 times. Each bus runs two morning routes and two afternoon routes. The railroad crossing increases our route times by 45- 60 minutes per day, reduces our efficiencies, and increases ride times for our students.

On behalf of the Otsego Transportation department, we are requesting exempt status at these railroad crossings in Lucas County.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.  
Technician Shu Date Processed JUL 25 2016

Primary USDOT	Railroad	Milepost	Street	Highway	City	County	Ownership	Position	Local Highway Authority	Warning Devices
475245D	TLEW	15.42	WATERVILLE-MONCLOVA RD		WATERVILLE	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Village of Waterville	Crossbucks
475251G	TLEW	17.52	NOWARD RD	TR137	WATERVILLE	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Waterville Twp.	Crossbucks
475252N	TLEW	17.54	NEOWASH RD	CR143	WATERVILLE	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks
475254C	TLEW	18.92	HERTZFELD RD	CR221	WATERVILLE	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks
475255J	TLEW	19.22	BAILEY RD	TR145	WATERVILLE	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Providence Twp.	Crossbucks
475256R	TLEW	19.76	BOX RD	CR146	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks
475257X	TLEW	20.34	HELLER RD	CR151	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks
475258E	TLEW	20.48	POLLOCK RD	TR147	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Providence Twp.	Crossbucks
475261M	TLEW	21.47	BERKEY SOUTHERN RD	SR295-0.22	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	State-ODOT District #2	Lights and Gates
475262U	TLEW	21.61	PATTON RD	TR148	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Providence Twp.	Crossbucks
475264H	TLEW	22.31	HARTMAN RD	TR113	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Providence Twp.	Crossbucks
475265P	TLEW	22.6	YAWBERG RD	TR112	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Providence Twp.	Crossbucks
475266W	TLEW	23.26	LUDWIG RD (Jeffers)	CR1576	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks
475267D	TLEW	23.56	LUDWIG RD	CR1576	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks
475268K	TLEW	23.77	GRAND RAPIDS RD	CR1577	GRAND RAPIDS	LUC	Public	At-Grade	Lucas County	Crossbucks



# Otsego Local Schools

P.O. Box 290 – Tontogany, Ohio 43565  
Phone (419) 823-4381- Fax (419) 823-3035



Adam Koch  
*Superintendent*

Deb Ford  
*Treasurer*

*Board of Education*  
Brad Anderson, President  
Judy Snyder, Vice President  
Elizabeth Gorski  
Jamie Harter  
Mark Tolles

June 14, 2016

Providence Township  
Attn: Ken Biller  
13257 Perry Road  
Grand Rapids, OH 43522

Re: Crossing Exemption for the Toledo Lake Erie & Western Railroad System

The Otsego Local School District is requesting that Providence Township petition to exempt several railroad crossings under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63. We have attached and highlighted the list of crossings for your convenience. We feel that that making the crossings exempt would increase safety for our school buses and the entire community.

The railroad tracks are no longer being used, but until they are exempt, our school buses are required by state law to stop at them. By exempting these crossings, no vehicles would be required to stop, creating fewer hazards and increasing safety for our students and community members. Our buses are stopping at these crossings over 30 times per day, which increases our route times by at least 30 minutes and reduces our overall efficiencies.

We also attached an email from Jill Henry, PUCO Rail Specialist, stating that these crossings are good candidates for exemption. By declaring the crossings exempt, that will allow for the posting of an exempt sign and then placarded vehicles and school buses would be exempt from stopping.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 419-823-4381 or via email at [akoch@otsegoknights.org](mailto:akoch@otsegoknights.org) or [evasher@otsegoknights.org](mailto:evasher@otsegoknights.org). Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Adam Koch  
Superintendent

Eva Vasher  
Director of Transportation

## Providence Township

Lucas County  
13257 Perry Road  
Grand Rapids, Ohio 43522  
419-875-6531 Fax 419-875-6503

### Trustees

Steve Kendall 419-832-3224  
Lee Bialecki 419-832-0131  
Jeremiah Floyd 419-297-0973

### Fiscal Officer

Brett Hile 419-875-5201

### Zoning Administrator

Enc Gay 419-877-0156

### Solicitor David Chamberlain 419-875-6531

Road Superintendent/Cemetery Manager  
Ken Biller 419-875-6531 cell 419-260-9218

[ken.biller@providence-ohio.org](mailto:ken.biller@providence-ohio.org)

June 15, 2016

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Docketing Division  
180 E Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

### Subject: Crossing Exemptions

Providence Township is requesting exempt status for the following the following five crossing all within the Township limits.

- 1) 475255J TLEW Bailey Rd. Tr. 145
- 2) 475258E TLEW Pollock Rd. Tr. 147
- 3) 475262U TLEW Patton Rd. Tr. 148
- 4) 475264H TLEW Hartman Rd. Tr. 113
- 5) 475265P TLEW Yawberg Rd. Tr. 112

These tracks are removed in several places. They have not been used in quite some time and it has become a time and safety issue for the local school buses. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

  
Ken Biller Providence Township Road Superintendent



# Otsego Local Schools

P.O. Box 290 – Tontogany, Ohio 43565  
Phone (419) 823-4381- Fax (419) 823-3035



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*Superintendent*

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*Treasurer*

*Board of Education*  
Brad Anderson, President  
Judy Snyder, Vice President  
Elizabeth Gorski  
Jamie Harter  
Mark Tolles

June 14, 2016

Lucas County Engineer's Office  
Attn: Ron Myers  
1049 S. McCord Road  
Holland, OH 43528

Re: Crossing Exemption for the Toledo Lake Erie & Western Railroad System

The Otsego Local School District is requesting that Lucas County petition to exempt several railroad crossings under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63. We have attached and highlighted the list of crossings for your convenience. We feel that that making the crossings exempt would increase safety for our school buses and the entire community.

The railroad tracks are no longer being used, but until they are exempt, our school buses are required by state law to stop at them. By exempting these crossings, no vehicles would be required to stop, creating fewer hazards and increasing safety for our students and community members. Our buses are stopping at these crossings over 30 times per day, which increases our route times by at least 30 minutes and reduces our overall efficiencies.

We also attached an email from Jill Henry, PUCO Rail Specialist, stating that these crossings are good candidates for exemption. By declaring the crossings exempt, that will allow for the posting of an exempt sign and then placarded vehicles and school buses would be exempt from stopping.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 419-823-4381 or via email at [akoch@otsegoknights.org](mailto:akoch@otsegoknights.org) or [evasher@otsegoknights.org](mailto:evasher@otsegoknights.org). Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Adam Koch  
Superintendent

Eva Vasher  
Director of Transportation

**Date:** June 28, 2016

**Resolution No. 16-531**

**Title:** Request the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to Exempt the Crossings of the Toledo Lake Erie and Western Railroad (Blue Bird)

**Department/Agency:** Lucas County Engineer's Office

**Contact:** Ronald L. Myers, P.E., Traffic Operations Engineer

**Summary/Background:** The Lucas County Engineer Office's has received a letter from Otsego Local Schools, dated June 14, 2016, requesting that Lucas County petition to exempt several railroad crossings with the Toledo Lake Erie and Western Railroad (Blue Bird Line) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Section 4511.63.

Otsego Local Schools letter also states that the schools feel that making the crossing exempt would increase safety for Otsego school buses and the entire community. The railroad tracks are no longer being used, but until they are exempt, school buses are required by state law to stop at them. By exempting the crossings, no vehicles would be required to stop, creating fewer hazards and increasing safety. Otsego buses stop at these railroad crossings 30 times per day, which increases school bus route times by at least 30 minutes.

In reference to an email from Jill Henry, dated June 8, 2016, PUCO Rail Specialist stated that the subject railroad crossings are good candidates for exemption. By declaring the crossing exempt, that will allow for the posting of an exempt sign. The posting of the exempt sign, would exempt placarded vehicles and school buses from stopping at the crossings.

**Budget Impact:** N/A

**Statutory Authority/ORC:** *Ohio Revised Code*, Section 4511.63

**Commissioner Gerken offered the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. This Board directs the Lucas County Engineer to petition and/or make application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) exempt the Toledo Lake Erie and Western Railroad (Blue Bird Line) crossings with Grand Rapids Road (CR# 1577), Ludwig Road (CR #1576), Jeffers Road (CR #111), Heller Road (CR #151), Box Road (CR #146), Hertzfeld Road (CR #221), Neowash Road (CR #143) in Providence and Waterville Townships.

Section 2. This Board supports requests made to the PUCO by Providence and Waterville Townships, and the City of Waterville to exempt the Toledo Lake Erie and Western Railroad (Blue Bird Line) crossings.

Section 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and

**June 28, 2016**

**Request the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to Exempt the Crossings of the Toledo Lake Erie and Western Railroad (Blue Bird)**

**Page 2**

relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in a meeting open to the public in compliance with the law.

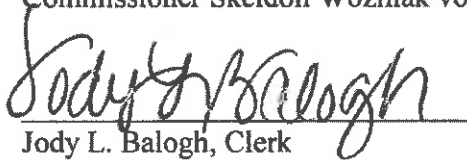
Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

**Action Taken:**

Commissioner Gerken voted yes

Commissioner Contrada voted yes

Commissioner Skeldon Wozniak voted yes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jody L. Balogh", is written over a horizontal line.

Jody L. Balogh, Clerk














A photograph of a gravel road with a white chalk line. The road is made of dark gravel, and a white chalk line is drawn across it, curving from the left towards the right. To the right of the road is a grassy area with some wooden debris. A small white label with handwritten text is placed on the gravel road.

July 14  
Grand Rapids Rd





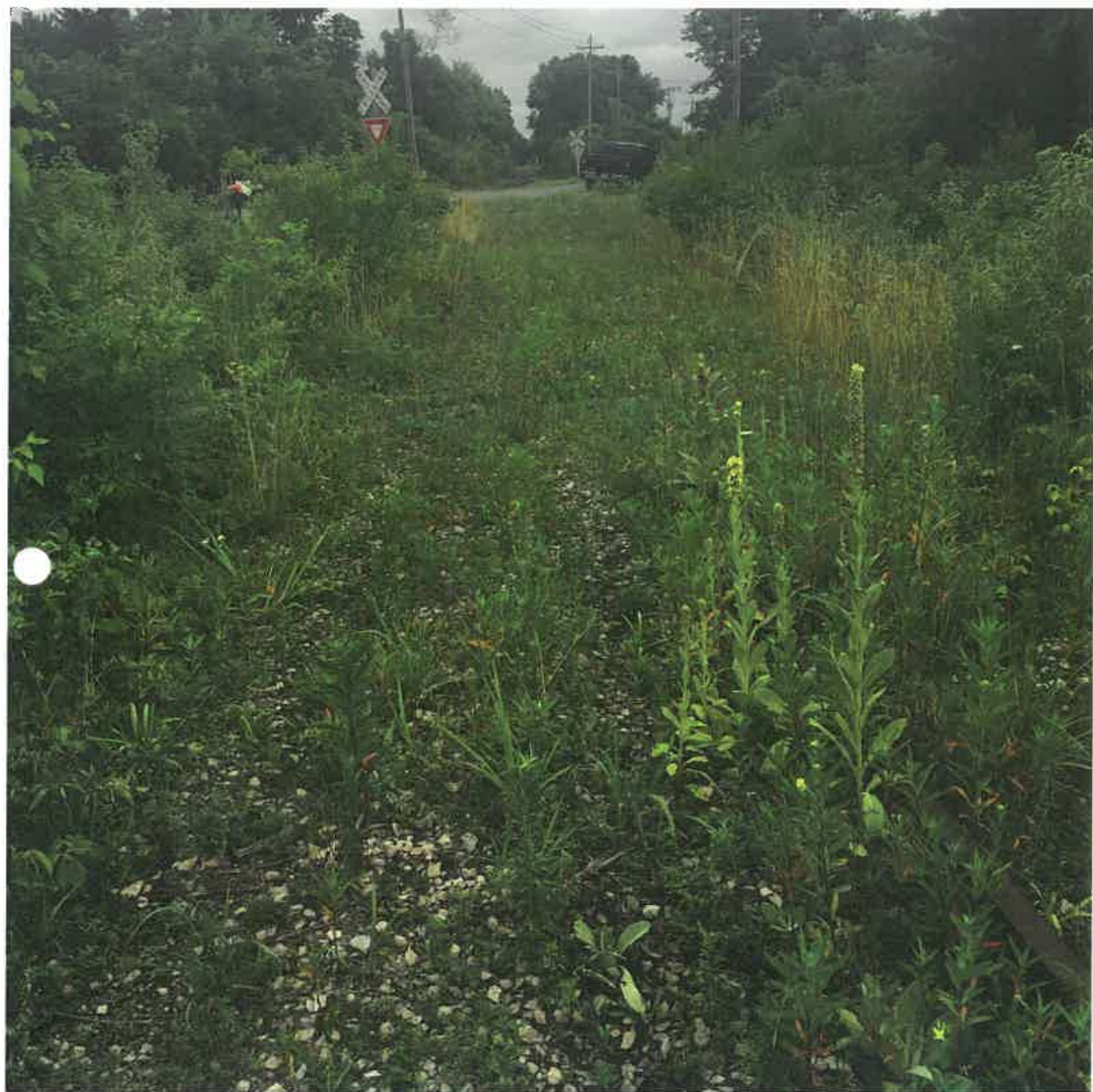


























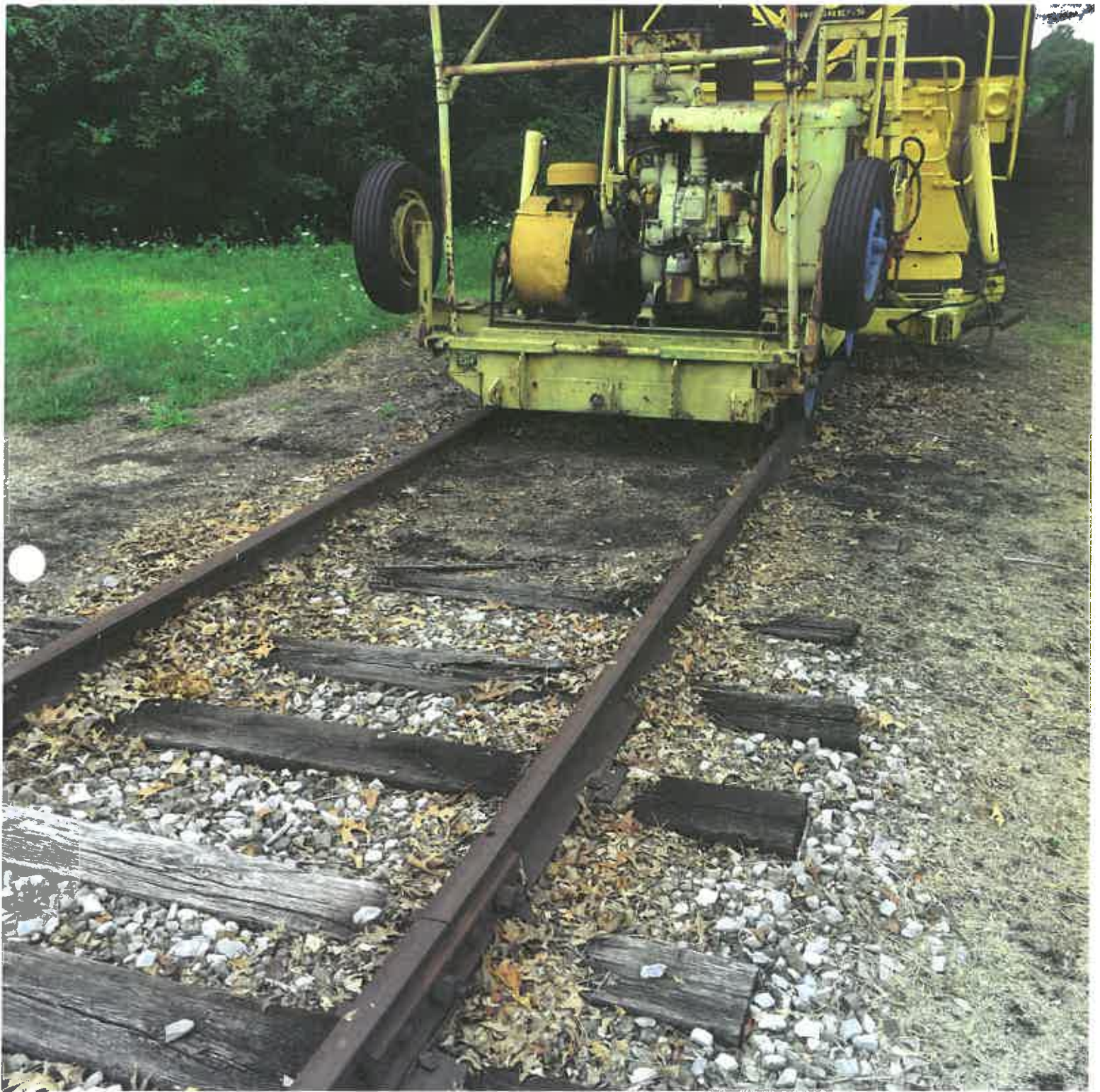


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July 14 2014













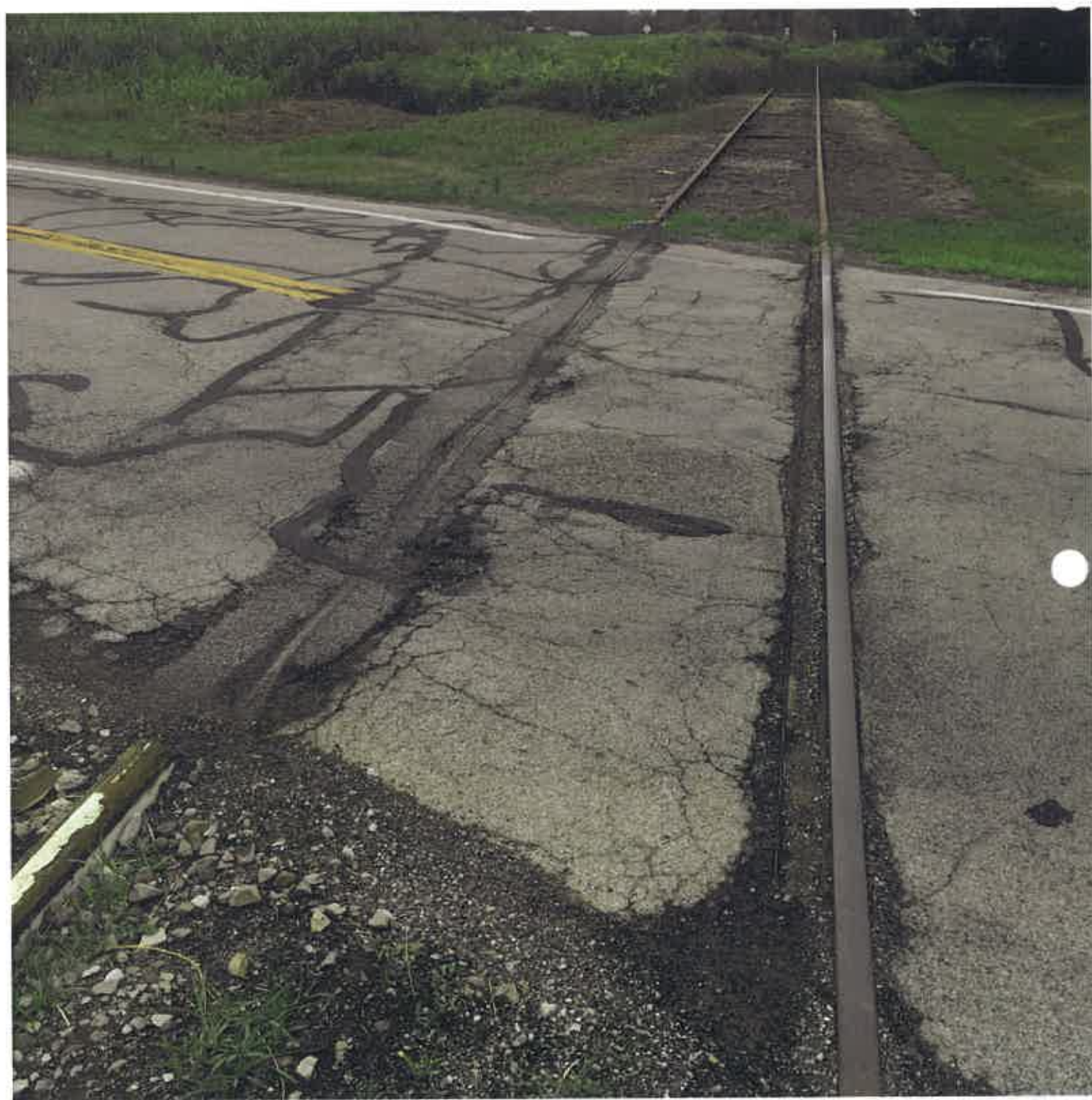


















**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**7/26/2016 9:30:39 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-1419-RR-RCP, 16-1549-RR-RCP**

Summary: Correspondence from Otsego Schools Transportation Department requesting exemptions for 11 railroad crossings formally known as the "Bluebird Train" route in Lucas County in the townships of Providence and Waterville filed by J. L. Balogh, Clerk (Color Copy) Original filed July 25, 2016 electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M Hunter on behalf of PUCO Staff