

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division
Cc: PUCO Legal Department
Date: 2/12/18

Re: PUCO Case No. 18-269-RR-STP- In the Matter of a Request for the Installation of Active Warning Devices at the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad Crossing on Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K) in Medina County, Ohio.

On December 14, 2017, Commission Staff (PUCO), the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), Medina County, and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad (WE) entered into an agreement (attached) whereby active warning devices would be installed at Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K). The electric utility provider for this crossing is the Lorain Medina Rural Electric Cooperative.

The costs of the Project shall be apportioned between the PUCO, ORDC and WE as follows:

Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K)

Estimated Project Cost: \$315,000

WE:	\$31,500	which is 10%
PUCO:	\$204,750	which is 65%
ORDC:	\$78,750	which is 25 %

NOTE: these are predesign estimates. Actual project design and estimates are not yet complete.

An onsite field review was conducted on November 15, 2016. The field review determined that a light and gate upgrade was warranted due to issues with site previews of this crossing.

Staff has reviewed this document and has determined it to be in order. Staff requests an Entry adopting the attached letter agreement and directing WE to submit plans and estimates to the Commission within 90 days and to complete the upgrades within one year. Upon approval of the plans and estimates by the PUCO, construction may commence.

Please serve the following parties of record:

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad
Mr. Tim Andrews
Signals & Communications
Supervisor
100 E. First Street
Brewster, Ohio 44613

Commissioner Patricia Geissman
Medina County
144 N. Broadway Street
Medina, Ohio 44256

Mr. Patrick Crouch
Traffic Control Analyst
Medina County Engineer
791 W. Smith Road
P.O. Box 825
Medina, Ohio 44256

Cathy Stout
Ohio Rail Development Commission
Safety Section Manager
1980 West Broad Street
Mail Stop 3140
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative
22898 West Road
P.O. Box 158
Wellington, OH 44090



Public Utilities Commission

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

Commissioners

M. Beth Trombold
Thomas W. Johnson
Lawrence K. Friedman
Daniel R. Conway

December 8, 2017

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad
Mr. Tim Andrews
Signals & Communications Supervisor
100 E. First Street
Brewster, Ohio 44613

Commissioner Patricia Geissman
Medina County
144 N. Broadway Street
Medina, Ohio 44256

Cathy Stout
Ohio Rail Development Commission
Safety Section Manager
1980 West Broad Street
Mail Stop 3140
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Re: Medina County, Firestone Road,
DOT#002-039K

Dear Mr. Andrews, Commissioner Geissman, and Ms. Stout:

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) surveyed Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K), on November 15, 2016, for warning device upgrades. The review was attended by representatives of Medina County ("County"), Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad ("RAILROAD"), the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") and the Ohio Rail Development Commission ("ORDC"). Following the diagnostic review and discussions between the parties this location has been approved for flashing lights and roadway gates.

This Letter Agreement sets forth the scope of work for the project, hereinafter referred to as the "PROJECT," and the understanding of all parties.

The PROJECT shall comply with Agreement No. 0001-A, dated September 17, 1990, entered into by the State of Ohio and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad, entered into by the State of Ohio and Indiana & Ohio Railroad. Furthermore, the RAILROAD shall comply with the general terms and conditions under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and subsequent amendments and all applicable state and federal laws governing grade crossing safety programs.

The work to be performed and cost allocations for the PROJECT is as follows:

Highway ID	DOT #	Modifications
Firestone Rd	002-039K	Installation of Flashing Lights and Roadway Gates

The PROJECT cost will be borne ten percent (10%) by the RAILROAD, twenty five percent (25%) by ORDC using federal funds and sixty five percent (65%) by PUCO using state funds. The total amount of costs incurred by the PUCO shall be paid for from the State Grade Crossing Protection Fund per ORC§4907.472 to help defray the public's share of costs for this project. The actual respective dollar amount, which the PUCO/ORDC shall bear, will be based upon actual costs incurred by the RAILROAD for this project.

Reimbursable costs will be limited by PUCO/ORDC based upon approved estimates and bid tabulations, if applicable. These limits will be quantified by the PUCO in its construction authorization to the RAILROAD and may be amended by the PUCO/ORDC based upon revised estimates and bid tabulations. Additional costs must be approved in writing by the PUCO/ORDC prior to being incurred.

No project activity reimbursable under this agreement, including, without limitation, preliminary engineering, shall be commenced until this letter agreement has been approved and the Railroad has been directed to submit plans and estimates by the PUCO. The RAILROAD shall complete plans and estimates for the Project within ninety (90) days after the RAILROAD is notified of authorization to proceed unless otherwise agreed by ORDC/PUCO and the RAILROAD.

The RAILROAD shall not commence construction prior to PUCO's Order or construction authorization. The RAILROAD shall provide written notification of the construction start date to PUCO and ORDC no later than five (5) business days prior to such date. Construction will be completed by the RAILROAD within twelve (12) months or other time specified in the time specified by the PUCO.

Please indicate your acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Letter of Agreement by signing and returning one (1) copy to Ms. Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be a duplicate original, but all of which taken together shall be deemed to constitute a single Agreement.

Sincerely,




Milan Orbovich
Director of Transportation
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Ohio Rail Development Commission

By _____

Title: Executive Director

Date _____

Medina County
By 
Title Commissioner
Date 12-12-17

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Sincerely,



Milan Orbovich
Director of Transportation
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Ohio Rail Development Commission

By 

Title: Executive Director

Date 12-14-17

Medina County

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Sincerely,



Milan Orbovich
Director of Transportation
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Ohio Rail Development Commission

By _____

Title: Executive Director

Date _____

Medina County

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad

By 

Title S&C Supervisor

Date 12/11/17



Public Utilities Commission

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

Commissioners

M. Beth Trombold
Thomas W. Johnson
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Daniel R. Conway

August 30, 2017

Mr. Patrick Crouch
Traffic Control Analyst
Medina County Engineer
791 W. Smith Road
P.O. Box 825
Medina, Ohio 44256

Re: Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K), Wheeling &
Lake Erie Railroad

Dear Mr. Crouch:

Pursuant to the application submitted by the Medina County Railroad Task Force on behalf of Medina County for state funded lights and gates at the above referenced crossing, the Commission has completed the field survey and received an estimate from Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad (WE).

The standard apportionment for upgrading warning devices is a 90/10 split between the Local Highway Authority (Medina County) and the railroad. The Commission will assist the LHA with a percentage of their share. The railroad has the responsibility for the maintenance of the devices. Based upon the preliminary cost estimates submitted by WE the funding breakdown would be:

Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K)

Estimated Project Cost: \$315,000

RR:	\$31,500	which is 10%
PUCO:	\$204,750	which is 65%
LHA:	\$78,750	which is 25 %

Please note that the foregoing proposal contains only ballpark estimates, and is intended to assist the County in its evaluation of the project. A copy of the diagnostic review is attached for your review.

Please contact me by October 15, 2017 as to whether the County accepts or rejects this proposal. The Commission looks forward to assisting the County in developing safer highway-railroad grade crossings for your citizens.

If you have any additional questions, I can be contacted at 614-466-0435.

Sincerely,

Jill Henry
Rail Specialist
PUCO Rail Division

Enclosure

cc: Medina County Railroad Task Force
Railroad
File



Diagnostic Review Team Survey

Date: 11/15/16

Location Data

Street or Road Name: Firestone Road

Route/Road Number (i.e. Twp., Co., SR or US) CR 26 (include SLM if State or US route)

AAR-DOT No.: 002-039K

County: Medina

Township:

City: Spencer
(In or

Railroad Name: WE

Railroad Division: Carey

Branch/Line Name: Main

Nearest RR
Timetable Station: Spencer

RR Milepost: 121.77

On-Site Review Team

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

1. Jill Henry PUCO- 614-466-0435 jill.henry@puc.state.oh.us
2. James Tucker ORDC- 614-398-6897 james.tucker@dot.ohio.gov
3. Tim Andrews Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad- 330-417-5541 tandrews@wlerwy.com
4. Pat Crouch Medina County- 330-764-8780 pcrouch@medina.co.org
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Type of Warning Devices	Installed?		Quantity/Comments
Advance Warning Signs (condition?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
'Stop' Signs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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	Worn/stop bars need replaced
Crossbucks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Number of Tracks Signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	1 track
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
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	Uneven Track signs

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	2650 Date Run: 11/2/16	877 8/5/17
Railroad Data		
Railroad Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Total trains per day	6	10
< 1 per day	n/a	
Day thru trains	6	5
Night thru trains	0	5
Daytime switching movements	0	
Nighttime switching movements	0	
Total number of tracks	1	
Number of main tracks	1	
Number of other tracks	0	
Maximum train speed	40	
Typical train speed	30	40
Amtrak	n/a	
If non-gated crossing, is clearing sight distance adequate in all quadrants? (See Table 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Curve and vegetation		
If multiple tracks, can two trains occupy crossing at the same time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Can one train block the motorists' view of another train at crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Explain below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Can one or more tracks be eliminated through the crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Are there other track(s) crossing this same roadway within 100 ft of this crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:		Medina County
Roadway Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Average daily traffic	444 (2012)	
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: <u>20</u> ft. '		
Number of highway lanes	2	
Urban or Rural	Rural	
Vehicle Speed: <u>55</u> MPH	Not posted	
School Bus Operation: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <u>unknown</u> Amount		
Hazardous Materials Trucks: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 Nearby Intersection south of crossing		

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	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
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:	
Type of Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Space <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	Location of nearby schools: 3.5 miles south of crossing.
Utility Information	
Is commercial power available? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Near Crossing	
Utility Provider (Company Name) <u>Lorain Medina Rural Electric Coop</u> Phone Number _____	
Nearest Available Power Source <u>near crossing</u>	
What other utilities are present? <u>Water, Electric, Gas pipeline, Communications</u> (add locations to sketch)	
Is(are) there potential utility conflict(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Comments: Water Line marker in NW quadrant. Water line runs along roadway on west side. Phone box in NE quadrant. Gas pipeline vent in NE quadrant. Gas Pipeline runs along roadway on east side.	

Potential Red Flags / Project Challenges

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

N/A

Crossing Consolidation or Closure:

No

Real Estate or ROW:

Railroad ROW- 46/33

Roadway 60'

Culverts / Drainage / Ballast Conditions:

Culverts on both sides of crossing.
Ballast is clean.

Roadway and/or Sidewalks:

None

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

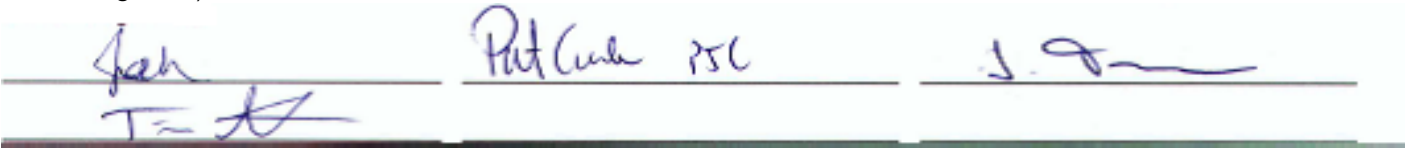
Overlap with crossing to the west SR 162.

Environmental:

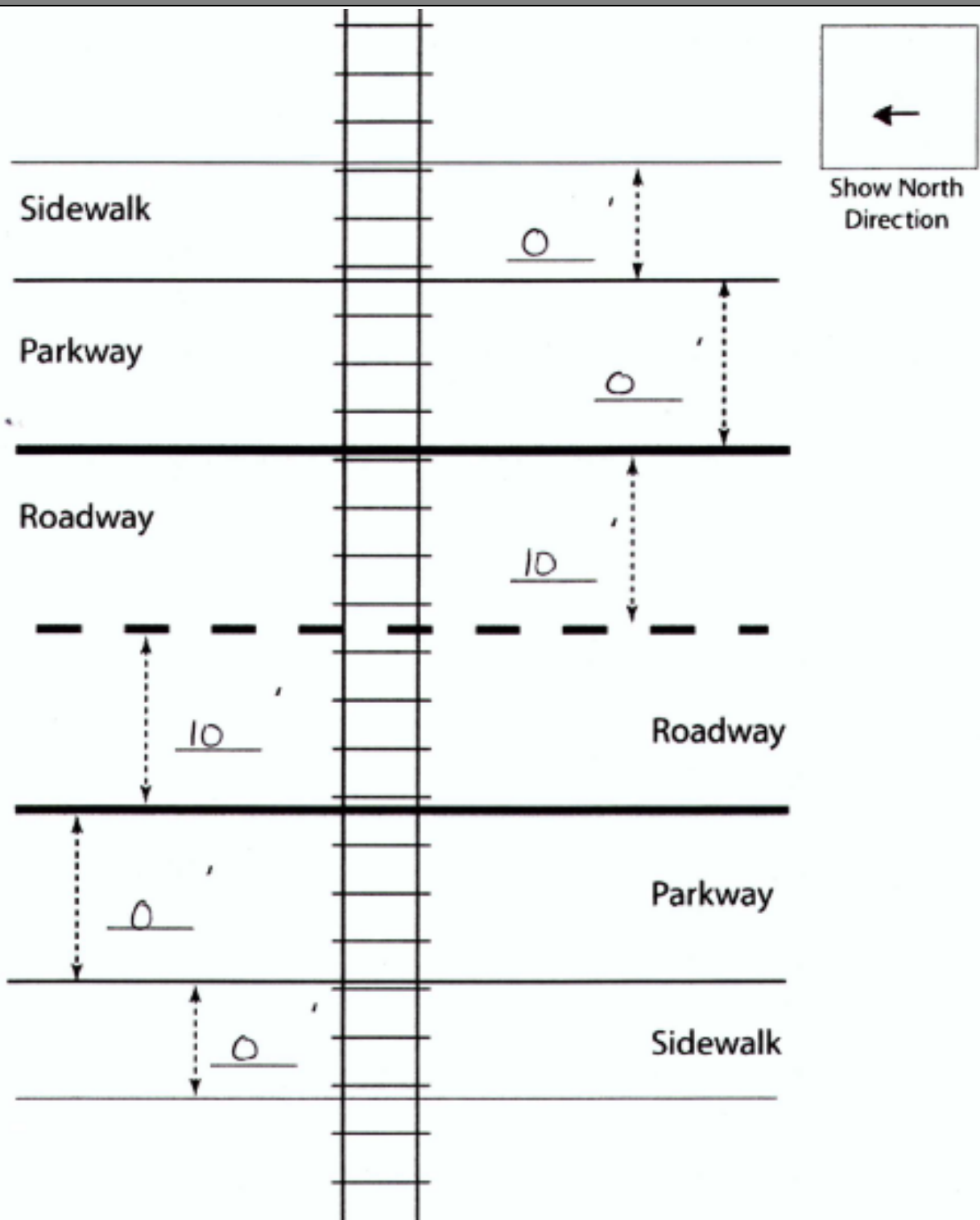
None

Other:

None

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	
<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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (define)	
Comments: Culvert extension will be needed for access to the equipment house.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Install/upgrade traffic signal preemption	
<input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (define)	
<p>Acknowledgement of Recommendations (each entity represented at the diagnostic must have at least one signature acknowledgement):</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;">  </div>	

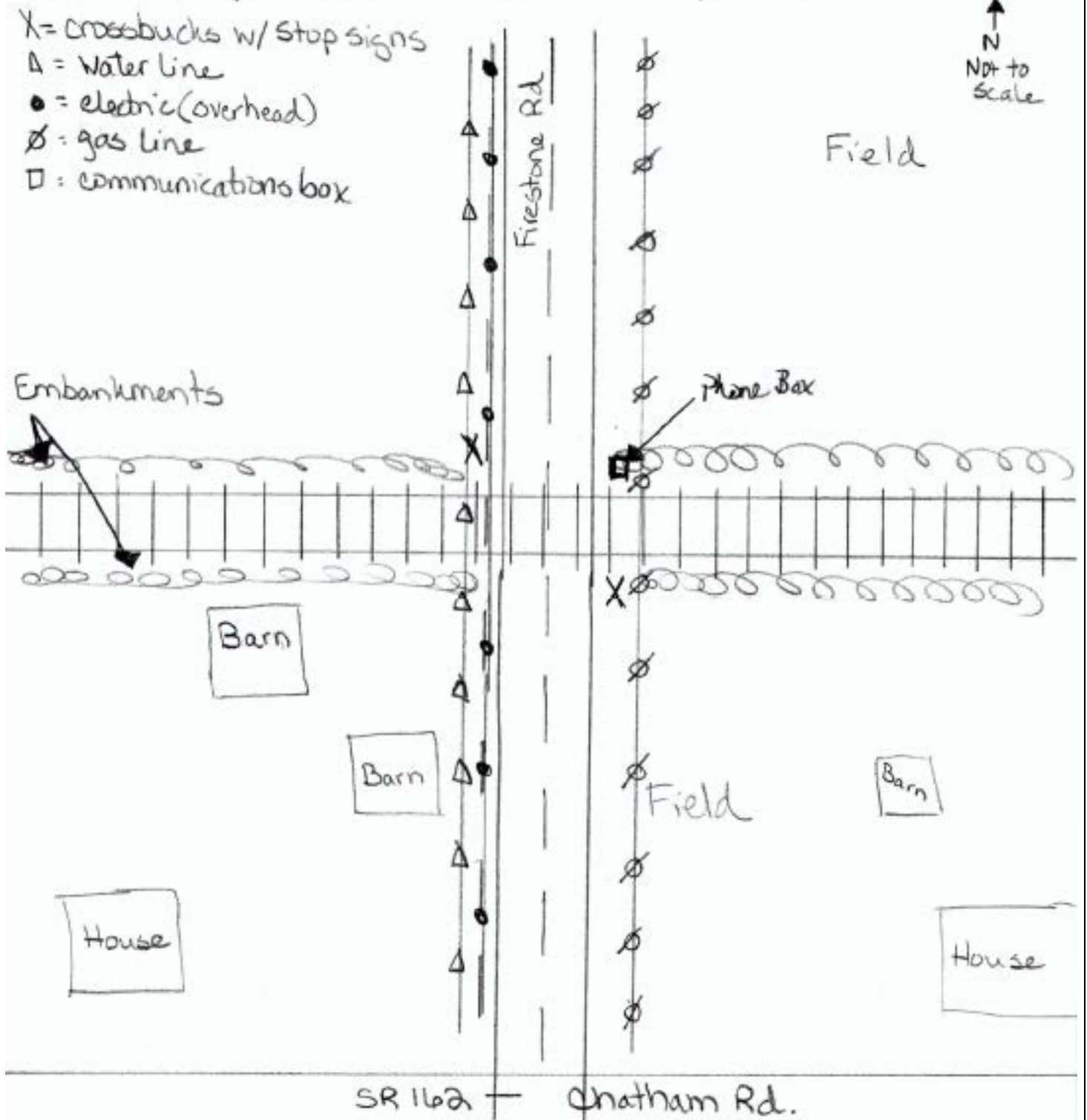
Field Dimensions



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

Measurements by: IAH

Field Sketch



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

Sketch by: IAH

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

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

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.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

2/12/2018 11:16:32 AM

in

Case No(s). 18-0269-RR-STP

Summary: Application In the Matter of a Request for the Installation of Active Warning Devices at the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad Crossing on Firestone Road (DOT#002-039K) in Medina County, Ohio. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of PUCO/Rail Division