

FILE

Village of Middle Point

103 N. Adams St.
PO Box 191
Middle Point, Ohio 45863
Phone: (419) 968-2005
Fax: (419) 968-2006

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

SUBJECT DOT 532757C, Request for downgrade
Case No 19-1090-RR-RCP

PUCO

2019 JUL 23 PM 1:51

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

Enclosed you will find letters from the Village of Middle Point Council, Middle Point Fire Department and The Angels on Track Foundation requesting that the requested downgrade of the railroad crossing at Main Street in the Village of Middle Point NOT be granted.

Also, enclosed is several signed petitions by concerned citizens requesting that the downgrade NOT be granted.

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 A Date Processed 7/23/19

Mayor Mark Dickman
Fiscal Officer – Julie Doner

Administrator – Mike Wolfcale
Office Manager - Lynn Stoffel

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The Mayor of the Village of Middle Point received the May 28, 2019 Entry for the above Case in early June.


The Village of Middle Point Council was presented this information and has concerns regarding of the downgrading of the Main Street Railroad crossing. The other two crossings in the village have safety arms that lower and block the intersection. The Main Street crossing only has the audible signal to warn of an oncoming train.

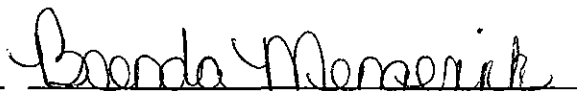
The Village Council is refuting that this crossing has a "minimal car count per day". This is a main crossing especially for those who live on the east side of the village. Also, during the school year, buses use this crossing.

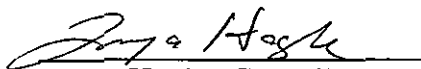
The crossing has properties on both sides of the street that have foliage and structures near the tracks that blocks a clear view of the tracks. The Council is concerned that without an audible signal that there will be a heightened safety risk.

The Village of Middle Point Council is requesting that PUCO deny the request for downgrading the railroad crossing at Main Street and have the audible bell signal remain at that intersection.

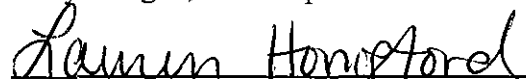
Sincerely,


Cathie Malone, Council President



Brenda Mengerink, Councilperson


Tonya Hoghe, Councilperson


Gary Scott Myers, Councilperson


Lauren Honigford, Councilperson


Cotey Schoeff, Councilperson


Mark Dickman, Mayor

Mayor Mark Dickman
Fiscal Officer – Julie Doner

Administrator – Mike Wolfcale
Office Manager - Lynn Stoffel



MIDDLE POINT FIRE



104 E. Jackson St.
P.O. Box 46
Middle Point, Ohio 45863

chiefmpfd@bright.net
419-968-2441
419-968-2185 fax

Craig King, Chief
419-968-2930
419-513-0669 cell

REF: Railroad Signal Devices

To Whom it may Concern,

It has been brought to my attention that the railroad company that operates the railroad line that runs through the Village of Middle Point, Ohio is requesting to remove all signaling devices at the crossing of Main St. inside the village.

While this may not be the most heavily traveled crossing in town, it is DEFINITELY the most hazardous due to the placement of houses and foliage in that location. With the increase of crude oil train traffic, I feel removing the signaling the devices is an accident waiting to happen, especially since the residents who travel that route have grown accustom to the warning system.

Life safety is always a priority in our line of work, and I wish it would be in all others, especially when it only amounts to a few dollars.

Please consider mandating a warning device at this location. It is very important and worth every penny spent to save a life.

Thank you,

Chief Craig King
Middle Point Fire



July 17, 2019

Mayor Mark Dickman
Village of Middle Point
103 N. Adams Street
Middlepoint, Ohio 45863

Dear Mayor Dickman:

It was brought to my attention that the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) is considering removing the bells at Main Street (532757C) railroad crossing in VanWert, County Ohio. Upon checking the State and Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) websites, I found CSX as the crossing owner and that the only active warning device at this crossing is bells. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook, August 2007, bells are considered an active control device. Pictures on the PUCO's website show various sight obstructions in all four quadrants, including permanent structures that include homes and other buildings. It is unclear if the railroad has removed vegetation on their right-of-way according to ORC4955.36. The crossing is only marked with a crossbuck sign which by standards is considered minimal.

The vehicle traffic count is low, but school buses use this crossing on a daily basis. It should be noted the FRA's website shows ZERO school bus count.

Because this crossing is not protected with gates and has sight obstructions preventing a driver from being able to see down the tracks for an oncoming train in all four quadrants, the bells might be the only advance warning of an oncoming train. If you take away the audible sounding of the bell, the only option for a motorist or a school bus driver would be to look down the tracks. And as mentioned, the crossing has sight obstructions which include permanent structures.

It is the Angels on Track Foundation's opinion that taking the bells away would create a dangerous hazard for any motorist or school bus driver. The only possible reason for removing the bells would be eliminating responsibility for the railroad to ensure their equipment is working properly. The safety of the public and school students would surely be put in jeopardy. The best option for the crossing would be gates, as school bus traffic is part of the federal criteria for selection.

In our opinion, there is no logical reason to take away any form of active advance warning of an oncoming train at a railroad crossing.

Vicky L. Moore, Trustee/Founder
The Angels on Track Foundation ®

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We, the undersigned, are residents of the Village of Middle Point and request that PUCO deny the request of Chicago Ft Wayne & Eastern Railroad to degrade the intersection at Main Street, Middle Point, OH and to deny the request to remove the audible bell signal.

Jeffrey T. Snyder
Printed Name

Jeff T. Snyder - Superintendent of Lincolnview Local Schools
Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

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Printed Name

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Printed Name

Signature

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BARBARA Etzler, Barbara Etzler
Printed Name Signature

Matt Shepherd, Matt Shepherd
Printed Name Signature

Madison Shepherd, Madison Shepherd
Printed Name Signature

Tina Eley, Tina Eley
Printed Name Signature

Joe Hoghe, Joe Hoghe
Printed Name Signature

Billy C. Jones, Billy C. Jones
Printed Name Signature

Aaron Ladd, Aaron Ladd
Printed Name Signature

Amanda Ladd, Amanda Ladd
Printed Name Signature

Jesse Frank, Jesse Frank
Printed Name Signature

Jacob Frank, Jacob Frank
Printed Name Signature

Karen Strunkenburg, Karen Strunkenburg
Printed Name Signature

Rachel VanCleave, Rachel VanCleave
Printed Name Signature

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Regis Walter, Regis Walter
Printed Name Signature

Thatring Emmons, Thatring Emmons
Printed Name Signature

Larry Hogg, Larry Hogg
Printed Name Signature

Toni C. Wisler, Toni C. Wisler
Printed Name Signature

Donald C. Eversole, Donald C. Eversole
Printed Name Signature

Sherrie Friedrich, Sherrie Friedrich
Printed Name Signature

Juanita Kline, Juanita Kline
Printed Name Signature

Bonnie L. Doming, Bonnie L. Doming
Printed Name Signature

Jerry M. Kohnen, Jerry M. Kohnen
Printed Name Signature

Trudy O'Daffer, Trudy O'Daffer
Printed Name Signature

Roxanne Hernandez, Roxanne Hernandez
Printed Name Signature

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Rene R Huddley
Printed Name

Rene R Huddley
Signature

Vernon Nuddley
Printed Name

Vernon Nuddley
Signature

Kim Strickler
Printed Name

Kim Strickler
Signature

Colleen Rowland
Printed Name

Colleen Rowland
Signature

FRANK CAMPBELL
Printed Name

Frank Campbell
Signature

Gayle Sterling
Printed Name

Gayle Sterling
Signature

SAMUEL BETERSON
Printed Name

Samuel Betson
Signature

Susan Bowery
Printed Name

Susan C Bowery
Signature

WARREN BOWERY
Printed Name

Warren Bowery
Signature

Richard C. Moore
Printed Name

RC Moore
Signature

Christina Brown
Printed Name

Christina Brown
Signature

Ellen M. Brown

Ellen M. Brown

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Mona Kennedy
Printed Name

Mona Kennedy
Signature

Tim Kennedy
Printed Name

Tim Kennedy
Signature

Judy Myers
Printed Name

Judy Myers
Signature

Kayla Hoensten
Printed Name

Kayla Hoensten
Signature

Craig King
Printed Name

Craig King
Signature

Andre Wolf
Printed Name

Andre Wolf
Signature

Mike Wolfcale
Printed Name

M. Wolfcale
Signature

Teresa Bradley
Printed Name

Teresa Bradley
Signature

Tabitha Williams
Printed Name

Tabitha Williams
Signature

Keeley Welker
Printed Name

Keeley Welker
Signature

Melissa Emmons
Printed Name

Melissa Emmons
Signature

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John Rist
Printed Name John Rist
Signature

Kelly Rist
Printed Name Kelly Rist
Signature

Vernice Dickman
Printed Name Vernice Dickman
Signature

Mark Dickman
Printed Name Mark Dickman
Signature

BARBARA BERRUMAN
Printed Name Barbara Berruman
Signature

Sandra Moore
Printed Name Sandra Moore
Signature

Nancy Johnson
Printed Name Nancy Johnson
Signature

Amanda Richey
Printed Name Amanda Richey
Signature

Eunice Triboket
Printed Name Eunice Triboket
Signature

Marie Runyon
Printed Name Marie Runyon
Signature

CALVIN RUNYON
Printed Name Calvin Runyon
Signature

Sharon Wisener
Printed Name Sharon Wisener
Signature

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Briana Guger

Printed Name

Signature

Denise Cramer

Printed Name

Signature

Doris Kundert

Printed Name

Signature

CLARA EBERLE

Printed Name

Signature

Robert Miller

Printed Name

Signature

Sallyanne Calvert

Printed Name

Signature

Tim Owens

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

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Colleen Wiley
Printed Name

Colleen Wiley
Signature

Coty Schoeff
Printed Name

Coty Schoeff
Signature

Tonya L. Hoghe
Printed Name

Tonya Hoghe
Signature

Jessica Kaverman
Printed Name

Jessica Kaverman
Signature

Brian Hire
Printed Name

Brian Hire
Signature

Printed Name , Signature

Printed Name , Signature

Printed Name , Signature

Printed Name , Signature

Printed Name , Signature

Printed Name , Signature

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