

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: 4/13/2017
TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Brian Dranzik, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Railroad Crossing Repair at Good Hope Road and Teutonia Avenue

POLICY

Resolution requiring County Board approval to submit a request to the Canadian National (CN) Railroad to repair the rail cross on Good Hope Road (County Trunk PP) and east of Teutonia Avenue. Should the railroad not fix the crossing, the resolution may be forwarded the State of Wisconsin Office of the Railroad Commissioner (ORC) for further follow up and action.

BACKGROUND

In spring of 2016 the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation was notified by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and members of the Glendale City Council that the rail crossing on Good Hope Road, County Trunk PP, at just east of Teutonia Avenue was in significant disrepair. Prior to this notification, the Highway Division of the Transportation Department had already made several attempts to contact the CN railroad who is responsible for maintaining the track crossing on Good Hope Road. Due to the significant movement in the metal plates between the track that would have otherwise caused damage to vehicles, the Highway division put a limited amount of cold patch asphalt down to alleviate the metal plate heaving condition.

During this time, the department also reached out to the State Office of the Railroad Commissioner to see what could be done to get CN to repair the rail crossing. The ORC has contacted CN railroad to make the necessary repairs and CN has responded that they would make the repairs, however to date no repairs have been made, nor has a schedule for repairs been provided.

The ORC has indicated to the Department that the best course of action at this point would be to authorize a resolution requesting that repairs to the rail crossing be made. The ORC has also provided a sample resolution which the Department has largely used for the Board's review and approval to help remedy the repair situation. The resolution provides notice to CN railroad that they have 30 days to take action and fix the rail crossing, if that action is not taken then the resolution will be forwarded to the ORC for further follow up action.

It is the Department's determination that is the best course of action to take at this time, given the lack of response to date from CN railroad to repair the rail crossing.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal impact to Milwaukee County for taking action of this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Transportation requests Board approval of the resolution requested CN railroad repair the rail crossing at Good Hope Road and Teutonia Avenue. If action is not taken, notice shall be provided to the Office of the Railroad Commissioner for further action.

Prepared by:
Brian Dranzik, Director of Transportation

Approved by:



Brian Dranzik
Director, Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Steve Kreklow, Budget Director, DAS - PSB
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller