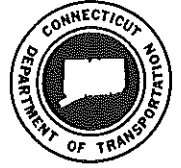




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

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DOCKET NO. 1302-178-RR

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FROM THE OFFICE OF RAIL AND DIVISION OF
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING RAILROAD APPURTANCES AT THE
RAILROAD CROSSING AT LONG RIDGE ROAD IN REDDING.

FINAL DECISION

March 15, 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Petitioner's Proposal

By petition dated February 4, 2013, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343 and assigned Docket No. 1302-178-RR, the petitioner, Office of Rail and Division of Traffic Engineering of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (hereinafter "petitioners"), propose to upgrade the safety devices at the Long Ridge Road railroad crossing in Redding by modernizing the railroad flashing lights and installing vehicular gates. Pavement markings and signage will also be installed.

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343, a public hearing on this petition was held at the administrative offices of the Department of Transportation in Newington, Connecticut on March 7, 2013.

Notice of the petition and hearing to be held thereon was given to the petitioner and to such other parties as deemed necessary by the department. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

The hearing on this matter was conducted by a hearing officer, designated by the Commissioner of Transportation, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17.

C. Appearances

Stephen Curley, Transportation Engineer 3 in the Division of Traffic Engineering, presented the department's case.

Gilbert Smart, Supervising Rail Officer with Rail Regulatory and Compliance Unit, testified for the department.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner in this matter is the Department of Transportation's, Office of Rail and Division of Traffic Engineering (hereinafter "petitioner").
2. The petitioner seeks to upgrade a railroad crossing at Long Ridge Road in Redding under State Project Number 302-007. The proposed upgrade includes installing new railroad flashing lights and vehicular gates in addition to signage and pavement markings.
3. The current safety devices at the crossing are railroad flashing lights, a pedestrian bell,

signing and pavement markings.

4. The daily vehicular traffic over the crossing is approximately 2100 vehicles per day with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

5. The crossing is on the Danbury branch of the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company at mile post 17.19. There are sixteen (16) train movements over the crossing on a daily basis with a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour.

6. The total cost of the project is approximately \$76,000,000.

7. The crossing upgrade will improve public safety.

8. The installation of the railroad appurtenances will be performed by the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company by way of railroad force account agreement with the petitioner. Per existing service agreement with the petitioner, the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company will continue to provide maintenance of the railroad equipment.

9. The town of Redding will install and maintain the signage and pavement markings. The petitioners will supply the signage to the town.

10. The crossing improvements will be governed by the provisions of the Association of American Railroads, the American Railway Engineering Association, the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and the Connecticut Office of State Traffic Administration Regulations.

11. The Rail Regulatory and Compliance Unit, after receiving the plans and after conducting a review, is in favor of upgrading the crossing.

III. DISCUSSION

The petitioner seeks to upgrade a railroad crossing at Long Ridge Road in Redding. The upgrades include modernizing the existing railroad flashing lights and add vehicular gates, signage and pavement markings.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the proposed upgrades will make the crossing safer and are in the public interest.

IV. ORDER

Based on the evidence of record and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343, the following safety measures and orders shall be undertaken:

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1. The petitioner shall be responsible for the implementation of the railroad appurtenances. The railroad appurtenances will consist of the modernization of existing railroad flashing lights and the installation of new vehicular gates. The work is funded under State Project Number 302-0007 and will be performed by the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company by way of a railroad force account agreement with the petitioner.

2. The town of Redding is responsible for installing and maintaining pavement markings and signage. The signage will be provided by the petitioners.

3. The proposed work will be governed by the standards and specifications of the Association of American Railroads, the American Railway Engineering Association, the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and the Connecticut Office of State Traffic Administration Regulations.

4. Upon completion of the work, the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the railroad appurtenances at the crossing.

5. The petitioner, upon completion of the installation of the proposed railroad crossing improvements as stated in the above-mentioned Order #1 and Order #2 shall be responsible for contacting the Department's Rail Regulatory and Compliance Unit in order that an inspection of the railroad/highway at-grade crossing is performed for the approval of the traffic control devices.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut, on this 15th day of March 2013.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Judith Almeida
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Administrative Law Unit
Bureau of Finance and Administration