



OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mail Stop #3140, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus OH 43223

John R. Kasich, Governor • Mark Policinski, ORDC Chairman

September 14, 2016

The Honorable Donald Lofty
Village of Glendale
30 Village Square
Glendale, OH 45246

Subject: Grade Crossing Safety Improvements
East Sharon Road, CSX, DOT# 152376N
Albion Avenue, CSX, DOT# 152375G
Oak Road, CSX, DOT# 152374A
Pedestrian Crossing, CSX, DOT# 153617D

Dear Mayor Lofty:

It is a goal of Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) to improve the safety of the travelling public by implementing safety improvements at highway-rail grade crossings. One important method of improving safety, recognized and endorsed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is to eliminate redundant grade crossings. The ORDC and CSX Transportation have partnered in numerous instances where crossings have been deemed redundant and we have worked with communities to accomplish grade crossing closures.

The Village has mentioned a desire for a quiet zone. A quiet zone is an FRA exemption to the rule requiring trains to sound their horns. A quiet zone may be a section of rail line at least one-half mile in length that contains one or more consecutive public grade crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded. In order to qualify for a quiet zone, all crossings must have flashing lights and gates, constant warning time, and power-out indicators. Supplemental or alternative safety measures may also be required.

Diagnostic reviews were conducted at the grade crossings identified above on 7/19/2016 following the community's request for assistance regarding a potential quiet zone. The diagnostic team recommended the closure of the Albion Avenue and the pedestrian grade crossings.

Should the City decide in favor of closing the crossings, CSX and ORDC are prepared to offer the following project package:

- Oak Road: Upgrade to LED lighting, constant warning time and power out indicator. ORDC will administer the construction of a second set of gates at this location if the community is willing to provide the funding for that portion of the project.
- East Sharon Road: Upgrade to LED lighting, constant warning time and power out indicator. Additionally, install the second set of exit gates, including vehicle detection, in support of the establishment of a quiet zone.



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- Albion Avenue: ORDC will reimburse the City up to \$5,000.00 for the cost of barricading the crossing. CSX will be responsible for removing the crossing surface and warning devices.

The progression of this project will require the following participation from the Village:

- The community agrees to install vehicle detection at crossings to be equipped with exit gates. Vehicle detection at East Sharon Road would be a reimbursable expense.
- The community agrees to be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the vehicle detection at East Sharon Road and, if applicable, at Oak Street.
- The community will convert Greenville Avenue into a one-way street with right turn only access that will allow the placement of warning devices on the north-west corner of East Sharon Road.
- The community will install treatments to discourage trespassing between the municipal parking lot and the town square.
- The community will provide any necessary curbing to facilitate the projects at East Sharon Road and Oak Street (to be reimbursed by ORDC).

In addition CSX will provide monetary incentive of \$50,000 which may be used by the Village for any purpose, including treatments to discourage trespassing and reroute pedestrians away from the pedestrian crossing to be closed.

A response is requested within 30 days as to whether the Village of Glendale intends to accept this proposal, subject to the outcome of the public involvement and legislation process.

Thank you for consideration of this proposal. Please continue to work with Cathy Stout, Manager of Safety programs on this project. Cathy may be reached at (614) 644-0313 or catherine.stout@dot.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Matthew R. Dietrich
Executive Director

CC: Tony Bellamy, CSX
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