



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

August 18, 2008

## **CIRCULAR LETTER 2008-11**

### **FY 2010 LOCAL RAIL/HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSING SAFETY PROGRAM**

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS

We are requesting your submittal of applications for the Fiscal Year 2010 Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program. An application form for project funding through this program is attached. A completed application providing as much information as possible, along with a location map showing the crossing should be submitted to us for each location where safety improvements are proposed. Please note that we may independently select some projects jointly with the Illinois Commerce Commission or by a review of locations having a documented history of crashes.

We are continuing to place a stronger emphasis on signal and circuitry related projects as opposed to crossing surface or abandoned crossing type projects. Additional emphasis is being placed on passenger lines, lines with increased numbers of trains or vehicles, and at locations having a crash history. Signal related projects are eligible for 100 percent federal funding.

We request that the county engineers work with the individual township highway commissioners to identify at-grade crossings that may be in need of safety improvements.

If possible, please submit applications to us by October 1, 2008. Following receipt of the applications, we intend to perform on-site inspections at the candidate locations. After prioritization and selection of candidate projects by us, you will be notified by our department of the selected projects for this program.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Harpring at (217) 785-8542.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles J. Dingersoll".

Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

Attachment



Local Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Street or Route: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

RR: \_\_\_\_\_ Mile Post: \_\_\_\_\_ Crossing Inventory #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Crossing Characteristics**

Crossing Surface Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Road Surface Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Roadway Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Crossing Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Angle of Crossing: \_\_\_\_\_

Shoulder Type (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Shoulder Width: \_\_\_\_\_

ADT: \_\_\_\_\_ Speed Limit: \_\_\_\_\_ Posted:  Yes  No

Intersecting Roads: 100' \_\_\_\_\_ 200' \_\_\_\_\_ Num. of School Buses: \_\_\_\_\_

Hazardous Materials:  Yes  No Emergency Vehicles:  Yes  No

Traffic Control Devices Present within 200' of Crossing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Train Characteristics**

Existing Warning Devices: \_\_\_\_\_

Num. of Tracks: Main: \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial: \_\_\_\_\_ Switching: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Trains per Day: Passenger: \_\_\_\_\_ Freight: \_\_\_\_\_ Switch: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Train Speed: Passenger: \_\_\_\_\_ Freight: \_\_\_\_\_ Switch: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Simultaneous Movements:  Yes  No

*Expected Crash Frequency (ECF) = 0.0000013 X ADT X Trains/Day X "B" (see table below for "B" Factors)*

ECF = 0.0000013 X \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = 0.000000000

**B Factors – Basic Values for Railroad Protection Devices**

<b>Components (Currently in Place)</b>	<b>Basic Values</b>
Crossbucks, traffic volume less than 500 vehicles per day	3.89
Crossbucks, urban	3.06
Crossbucks, rural	3.08
Wigwags	0.61
Flashing lights, urban	0.23
Flashing lights, rural	0.93
Gates, urban	0.08
Gates, rural	0.19

Description of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Applicant:**

**Railroad Company**

**Local Agency**

**IDOT District**

This application was prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Title)

This application was prepared on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Applicant's contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail address)

**Note: A location map should be included with competed application.**

*For additional information, please contact Jeff Harpring at (217) 785-8542*

*Please return application to: Jeff Harpring, P.E.*

*Rail Safety and Project Engineer*

*Illinois Department of Transportation*

*Bureau of Local Roads and Streets, Room 205*

*2300 South Dirksen Parkway*

*Springfield, Illinois 62764*

**Instructions for Project Application**  
**Local Rail-Highway Crossing Safety Projects**  
(Form BLR0411) Revised 12-5-07

Please fill out as much of the form out as possible, placing "NA" in blanks that are not applicable and leave fields that are unknown blank.

Note: Instructions do not need to be returned with the application.

1. **Local Agency** – List the local agency, or local agencies having jurisdiction at the crossing location.
2. **Street or Route** – Show the street name, township road, or county highway number.
3. **County** – List the County the crossing is located in.
4. **RR** – List the name of the railroad company, or companies operating on the crossing.
5. **Mile Post** – The railroad mile post should be shown on a posting at the crossing, or can be obtained by checking with the railroad company.
6. **Crossing Inventory** – The US DOT crossing inventory number should be shown on a posting at the crossing, or can be obtained by contacting the railroad company.
7. **Crossing Surface Type** – List the existing type of railroad crossing surface, or surfaces at the crossing. For Example: Bituminous, Full Depth Timber, Timber and Asphalt, Concrete, or Rubber.
8. **Road Surface Type** – List the type of roadway surface. For example: Aggregate. Oil and Chip, Portland Cement Concrete (PCC), or Bituminous Concrete (Asphalt).
9. **Roadway Width** – The width of the traveled roadway from edge of pavement to edge of pavement.
10. **Crossing Width** – The measured length of the railroad crossing surface parallel to the tracks.
11. **Angle of Crossing** - At the point where the tracks intersect with the roadway, the angle of crossing is the angle measured from a line perpendicular to the center line of the roadway to a line along the center line of the tracks (Crossing angle is typically shown as 90 degrees or less).
12. **Shoulder Type** – List the type of shoulder material, if the shoulders have been stabilized with material such as aggregate or bituminous concrete. A blank in this field will indicate that the shoulders have not been stabilized. **Width** – show the measured width of the shoulders.
13. **ADT** – Show the most recent average daily vehicular traffic at the crossing location.
14. **Speed Limit** – show the vehicular speed limit and show in the checked box whether it is posted or not.

**Instructions for Project Application**  
**Local Rail-Highway Crossing Safety Projects (Cont.)**  
(Form BLR0411) Revised 12-5-07

- 15. Intersecting Roads** – check if there are any nearby intersecting roads within 100 feet or 200 feet of the crossing.
- 16. Num. of School Buses** - If known, list the number of school buses that travel over the crossing each day.
- 17. Hazardous Materials** - Check if hazardous materials, such as petroleum, flammable materials, chemicals, etc. are transported over the crossing.
- 18. Emergency Vehicles** - Check if emergency vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances, or rescue vehicles would use this crossing in order to respond to an emergency.
- 19. Traffic Control Devices** - Are there signalized intersections within 200 feet of the railroad crossing that is or needs to be interconnected with the railroad warning devices, or is there a signalized intersection nearby that causes vehicles to back up onto the railroad crossing?
- 20. Existing Warning Devices** - What are the existing warning devices at the crossing? Crossbucks only, Flashing Light Signals, Cantilevered Flashing Light Signals, Flashing Light Signals and Gates, etc.
- 21. Num. of Tracks** - List the number of tracks for: main line (through trains), Industrial, such as tracks for industry or grain facilities, switching sidings, or other, such as passing sidings etc.
- 22. Trains per day** - Number of trains per day at each of the crossings shown above.
- 23. Train Speed** - Train speed for each of the tracks listed above.
- 24. Simultaneous Movements** - Check if there are two or more tracks at the crossing and there is a possibility that there could be two or more trains at the crossing at any one given time.
- 25. Expected Crash Frequency (ECF)** - Calculate the Expected Crash Frequency (ECF) number using the formula given. For the formula, use the total number of trains per day, Average Daily Traffic (ADT), and the B factor, which is can be obtained from the chart shown on the application form.
- 26. Description of Project** - Provide a description of the proposed scope of work that is being proposed.
- 27. Estimated Cost** - If known, provide an estimate of the cost for the proposed scope of work.
- 28.** Provide information regarding the project applicant. Check the appropriate box to indicate if the application is being submitted by a representative of the railroad company, local agency, or the IDOT District office. Also indicate in the space provided to indicate the name and title of the person who prepared the application, the date prepared and the applicant's telephone number and e-mail address.