



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

November 21, 2019

CIRCULAR LETTER 2019-20

FY 2021 AND 2022 LOCAL RAIL-HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSING SAFETY PROGRAM (SECTION 130 FUNDS)

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS - DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS / MAYORS
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

IDOT provided a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on November 21, 2019. The Funding Opportunity Number is 21-1472-01. The NOFO for this program is available here: ([NOFO](#)) This program is listed in the Catalog of State Financial Assistance ([CSFA](#)) as 494-00-1472.

The Department is now accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 Local Rail / Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program (Section 130 Funds). Attached is the application form (BSPE RR 01) for the program. Applicants are requested to submit their application electronically. Information on the submittal process is provided with the form instructions.

The following safety improvements will be considered:

1. Crossing Closure
2. Railroad Warning Devices for open public roadway or pedestrian crossings
3. Railroad Circuitry
4. Railroad Crossing Surface Renewal. This will be allowed only if the warning devices and / or circuitry are improved. Pictures of the existing crossing surface will need to be submitted.
5. Roadway Approaches. This will be allowed only if the warning devices and / or circuitry are improved and the existing profile grade does not meet IDOT / Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) requirements. A drawing of the existing profile and proposed profile will need to be submitted.
6. Other (Signal interconnect, grade separation, or etc.)

IDOT continues to place a strong emphasis on crossing closure, warning device, and circuitry related projects as opposed to crossing surface and roadway approach projects. The Section 130 funds will match up to \$7,500 of a Railroad's incentive for a crossing closure. The program will work with the ICC crossing closure program and incentives where possible.

A completed application, along with required attachments should be submitted to IDOT for each location where safety improvements are proposed. A complete application is considered one that contains the following:

1. Complete [BSPE RR 01](#) form
2. General overview location map
3. Detailed location map
4. Location photographs
5. Existing and proposed roadway profiles (Only if roadway approach work is proposed)

A breakdown of the estimated project cost for all phases of the project and for each of the proposed improvement types should also be included on the application. Applications with considerable missing information will be returned to the applicant be completed. Please note that IDOT may independently select projects jointly with the ICC or by review of locations having a documented history of crashes.

While a co-applicant is not required, it is preferred for concurrence on the proposed scope of work and the estimated project cost. If the applicant is the local public agency (LPA), then the co-applicant is the railroad. If the applicant is the railroad, then the co-applicant is the LPA. Discussions between co-applicants are helpful, so all of the necessary improvements and realistic estimated project costs are submitted. If you need help determining who the co-applicant would be please contact the Rail Safety Projects Unit of the Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering at the location below.

The maximum federal share is 90 percent for railroad warning devices and circuitry; assignment of the 10 percent match will be determined by the type of project proposed. Railroad crossing surface renewals will be funded at 90 percent federal share; the 10 percent match will be assigned to the railroad. For roadway approach projects, IDOT will first work with the ICC to fund these with Grade Crossing Protection Funds (GCPF). If GCPF are not available; the roadway approaches will be funded at 90 percent federal share and the 10 percent match will be assigned to the LPA. Any local agency projects (non-railroad work) using Section 130 funds is preferred to be placed on a state letting and can only be locally let with Central Office approval.

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

Please submit applications to IDOT by January 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM. Following receipt of the applications, on-site inspections at the candidate locations may be performed. After prioritization and selection of candidate projects, successful applicants will be notified by this office of the selected projects for the FY 2021 and 2022 programs.

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Please contact Rail Safety Projects Unit by telephone at (217) 782-3568 or by email at DOT.LRSRail@illinois.gov with any questions regarding the federal rail / highway grade crossing safety program.

Sincerely,



Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, P.E., PTOE
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets



Cynthia Watters, P.E.
Engineer of Safety Programs and Engineering

WRP/tp

Attachment

cc: Jon-Paul Kohler, Federal Highway Administration – Illinois Division
Brian Vercruysse, Illinois Commerce Commission
Duane Ratermann, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Nathan Piper, Illinois Municipal League
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
Charlie Montgomery, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois