



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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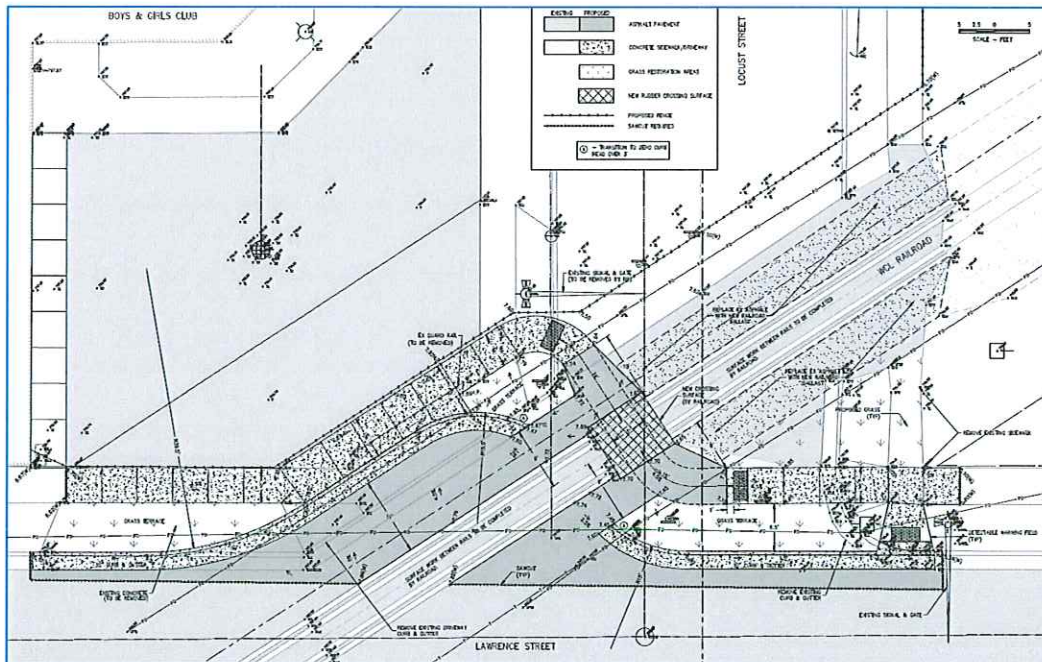
To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Eric Lom, City Traffic Engineer
Date: June 17, 2020
Re: Proposed Locust Street Railroad Grade Crossing Modifications

The City recently closed the Locust Street railroad grade crossing and vacated the Locust Street right-of-way between Lawrence Street and the alley south of College Avenue. The closure of the rail crossing was accomplished using temporary concrete barriers, since the ultimate design for the area was unknown at the time since the design process for the expansion of the adjacent Boys & Girls club was ongoing.

As a part of that design process, the stakeholders identified an opportunity to improve the safety of the crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians (The existing crossing is challenging for bicyclists and pedestrians due to the acute angle of the crossing, which can easily catch tires). Working with the designer for the Boys & Girls Club, we agreed on a “bulb-out” design that would allow bicyclists and pedestrians to cross the tracks at a 90-degree angle, which would improve safety. The incremental cost (above and beyond the “base” cost to simply connect sidewalks and curb lines in a traditional way) would be covered by the Boys & Girls club.

Because this is a railroad grade crossing, any proposed changes to it need to be reviewed and approved by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR). As such, we have been working with them to understand the process they will require. Among other things, they require that a resolution be adopted by the local agency that indicates their support for the project.

The required resolution is attached. We request that the committee approve this resolution as a first step toward gaining approval from the OCR.



Resolution No. 2020-03

**CITY OF APPLETON
PETITION FOR THE ALTERATION OF AN AT-GRADE CROSSING**

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton proposes to alter the at-grade crossing of Locust Street, a public street crossing the tracks of the Canadian National Railroad, and

WHEREAS, the alteration of the crossing is necessary to promote public safety and convenience by providing a 90-degree track crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists, and

WHEREAS, Section 195.29 Wisconsin Statutes authorizes the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads to determine whether the alteration of the crossing is necessary to promote public safety and convenience, to determine the necessary warning devices for the new crossing, and to apportion all costs for the crossing, including the costs of any automatic warning devices, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Appleton hereby directs the City of Appleton staff to take all necessary steps to petition the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads for an investigation and order to approve the alteration of the crossing, to determine the necessary warning devices, and to apportion the costs for the crossing of Locust Street with the tracks of the Canadian National Railroad in the City of Appleton, Outagamie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Appleton staff shall comply with Chapter 195, Wisconsin Statutes and RR 1.025, Wisconsin Administrative Code in the filing of the petition.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020

Jacob A. Woodford, Mayor

Attest: Kami Lynch, City Clerk