



March 14, 2024

Timothy Nittle
Management Analyst II
City of Columbus
Via email

Dear Mr. Nittle,

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (“Rail Commission”) has received your October 27, 2023, application to the Ohio Grade Crossing Elimination Program. The Rail Commission commits up to \$3,329,924, or 10% of the estimated project cost, in grant funds toward a grade separation at Galloway Road, eliminating the at-grade crossing at Hilliard-Rome Road (DOT #513244C) in Columbus. The Rail Commission will also provide technical assistance and a letter of support to the community.

Our understanding of the project is as follows:

- Total investment is estimated to be approximately \$33,299,240;
- Norfolk Southern Railway Company, as the operating railroad, is involved in the railroad infrastructure planning process; and
- The City of Columbus will apply to the Federal Railroad Administration’s Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) Program for the project.

The expected benefits of this project are:

- Enhanced community access to regional employment and commercial areas;
- Improved service times for the local fire station that is located less than a mile away from crossing; and
- Implementation of a long-term plan of the city to eliminate an at-grade crossing with high vehicle and train traffic.

The Rail Commission’s commitment is based on the understanding of the project as described above. If the project assumptions change, the Rail Commission reserves the right to change its commitment accordingly. The Rail Commission’s commitment is contingent upon the formal approval of the full Commission and upon the parties of the project meeting Rail Commission’s normal program guidelines.

This letter is not to be constructed as the Rail Commission's final project approval. The terms of this letter will remain in effect until June 30, 2024, or until such time as a decision is made on the CRISI grant application. ORDC cannot reserve funds for this project beyond June 30, 2024.

The Rail Commission appreciates your patience during this process. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact Ms. Gerika Logan, Program Administrator, Ohio Grade Crossing Elimination Program. Gerika can be reached by email at gerika.logan@dot.ohio.gov or by phone at (614) 398-6766.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Dietrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and last name "Dietrich" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew Dietrich
Executive Director