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COOK COUNTY
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
Rupert F. Graham Jr., P.E.
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Illinois Commerce Commission
RAIL SAFETY SECTION

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August 16, 2007

Mr. David Lazarides
Director of Processing and Information
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Re.: Docket No. T05-0051
171st Street
Wood Street to Ashland Avenue

Dear Mr. Lazarides:

Pursuant to the Commission's Order dated July 12, 2006 in the above – referenced docket, please find below the scope of work and construction progress report for the 171st Street Project.

The scope of work for the project includes the reconstruction of 171st Street, from Wood Street to Ashland Avenue, and a portion of Park Avenue, which work includes among other items; the lowering of the pavement under the Illinois Central Railroad Company's and Metra's bridge structures to provide a minimum vertical clearance of 14' – 6"; installation of new drainage system with detention pond, pump station and improved ditch outlets; installation of new lighting system and traffic signals; improvements to the bridge façade; reconstruction of retaining walls; relocation of various utilities (watermains, gas mains, fiber optics); construction of Metra commuter lot parking; landscaping; and other incidental and collateral work.

Progress Report: Construction of the project started March 9, 2007. Among the work performed were: placement of Traffic Control and Protection Devices and Signs, including detour signs along designated route; clearing and tree removal; guardrail removal; excavation and removal of existing pavement along 171st Street and Park Avenue; excavation and placement of slurry wall; finished retaining wall footing foundations and started the construction of retaining walls; finished excavation of detention pond; and completed the underground work along 171st Street and Park Avenue, which includes the installation of storm sewers, manholes and catch basins, and the installation and relocation of watermains, forcemains and valve vaults.

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Mr. David Lazarides
Re.: Docket No. T05-0051
171st Street
Wood Street to Ashland Avenue

Page 2

August 16, 2007

As prescribed by the Order, the completion deadline for the project should be within 30 months from the date of the Order – which will be by January 12, 2009. Currently, the construction is on schedule. It is anticipated that 171st Street will be opened to traffic by November 30, 2007.

If you have any questions or need additional information, the Cook County Highway Department's contact person for this docket is:

Mr. Mark M. Johnson
Head of Consulting and Estimating Division
Design Bureau
Cook County Highway Department
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Chicago, Illinois 60602
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Very truly yours,



Rupert F. Graham, Jr., P.E.
Superintendent of Highways
Cook County, Illinois

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