

Docket Number: T12-0108
Bench Date: 08/15/12
Deadline: N/A

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission
FROM: Michael E. Stead, Railroad Safety Program Administrator
DATE: August 1, 2012
SUBJECT: Norfolk Southern Railway Company, the Village of Hull and the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation.

Stipulated Agreement regarding improving public safety at the Walnut Street and 170th Street highway-rail grade crossings of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company's track in Hull, Pike County, Illinois, designated as crossings AAR/DOT #479 622D, railroad milepost DH-506.04 and AAR/DOT #479 625Y, railroad milepost DH-506.79, respectively.

RECOMMENDATION: Enter Order approving Stipulated Agreement.

The recommended Order accepts the terms of Stipulated Agreement 1678, executed by the above named parties, which requires the installation of new automatic flashing light signals and gates and approach grade improvements at the Walnut Street and 170th Street grade crossings in Hull, Pike County. The project came to the attention of the Rail Safety Section via quantitative analysis by staff.

The total estimated cost for the new automatic warning devices is \$499,570. Staff recommends that the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) be used to pay 95% of the signal installation costs, not to exceed \$474,592. Norfolk Southern will pay all remaining installation costs, as well as all future operating and maintenance costs related to the new automatic warning devices.

The total estimated cost for improving the highway approaches is \$203,780. Staff recommends that the GCPF be used to pay 100% of the highway approach improvement costs, not to exceed \$203,780. Staff would normally recommend that the Village of Hull pay 100% of the costs for the approach improvements. However, due to documented economic hardship, the Village cannot afford to contribute monetarily to the project. Staff considers the proposed approach improvements important enough to recommend that the GCPF be used to pay the Village's portion of the project costs.

The signal installation work is to be completed within twelve (12) months from the Order date. The highway approach work is to be completed within eighteen (18) months from the Order date. I recommend entry of the attached Order.

Attachment
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