

Docket No.: T15-0161/
T15-0163 consol.
Bench Date: 07/20/16
Deadline: N/A

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission
FROM: Latrice Kirkland-Montaque, Chief Administrative Law Judge
DATE: July 8, 2016
SUBJECT:

Union Pacific Railroad Company, a Delaware Corporation,
Petitioner,

v.

Village of Melrose Park and Village of Maywood, Illinois, municipal Corporations in Cook County, Illinois, and the Illinois Department of Transportation,
Respondents.

Petition for an Order of the Illinois Commerce Commission for authorization to modify the existing 19th Avenue highway-rail grade crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's tracks (AAR/DOT #174009S, railroad milepost 11.38), under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation and located in the Village of Melrose Park, Cook County, Illinois, on the Geneva Subdivision, to accommodate the installation of an additional railroad track at said 19th Avenue highway-rail grade crossings on said Geneva Subdivision, and authorizing the reconfiguration of the existing crossing surface, existing roadway surface and the existing warning devices.

Consolidated with

Union Pacific Railroad Company, a Delaware Corporation,
Petitioner,

v.

Village of Melrose Park and Village of Maywood, Illinois, municipal Corporations in Cook County, Illinois, and the Illinois Department of Transportation,
Respondent.

Petition for an Order of the Illinois Commerce Commission for authorization to modify the existing (1) 1st Avenue highway-rail grade crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's tracks (AAR/DOT #173996K, railroad milepost 10.2), under the jurisdiction of the Illinois

Department of Transportation and located in the Village of Maywood, Cook County, Illinois, on the Geneva Subdivision, (2) 5th Avenue highway-rail grade crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's tracks (AAR/DOT #173998Y, railroad milepost 10.57), located in and under the jurisdiction of the Village of Maywood, Cook County, Illinois, on the Geneva Subdivision and (3) 9th Avenue highway-rail grade crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's tracks (AAR/DOT #174001M, railroad milepost 10.76), located in and under the jurisdiction of the Village of Maywood, Cook County, Illinois, on the Geneva Subdivision to accommodate the installation of an additional railroad track at said 1st Avenue, 5th Avenue and 9th Avenue highway-rail grade crossings on said Geneva Subdivision, and authorizing the reconfiguration of the existing crossing surface, existing roadway surface and the existing warning devices.

RECOMMENDATION: Enter Order granting the Petitions.

On December 16, 2015, the Union Pacific Railroad Company filed Petitions with the Commission seeking an order authorizing the construction of an additional mainline track at the 19th Avenue highway-rail grade crossing of its tracks in Melrose Park, Cook County, ("Melrose Park") and the 1st Avenue, 5th Avenue and 9th Avenue highway-rail grade crossings of its tracks in Maywood, Cook County ("Maywood").

On March 24, 2016, the UP filed a Motion to Consolidate and Amend the Petitions identifying the correct respondents based upon highway jurisdiction, and seeking consolidation of the cases to provide efficiency and to account for the nature of the corridor project. On April 13, 2016, the Motion was granted.

UP operates trains over double mainline railroad tracks on the Geneva Subdivision, which runs by compass direction in an east/west direction near and through the vicinity of the 1st Avenue, 5th Avenue and 9th Avenue grade crossings in Maywood, and the 19th Avenue grade crossing in both Maywood and Melrose Park. Along this segment there are approximately 60 passenger trains per day operating at a maximum speed of 70 mph, and 40 freight trains operating at a maximum speed of 50 mph.

UP proposes to install an additional mainline track in this segment from 1st Avenue west to 19th Avenue. Similar work is planned in the City of Geneva, and once complete the UP will have continuous three track operations from the City of Chicago west to the Village of Elburn. The UP states that this will improve passenger and freight train traffic operating along the Geneva Subdivision. The costs for the work associated with the project will be the responsibility of the UP funded and paid for on a 50/50 basis by UP and the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation dba Metra.

The project will progress from east to west, and each crossing will be closed for approximately four weeks to complete the necessary work. Only one crossing at a time will be closed, and all work should be completed in early 2018. Due to regional traffic concerns, the UP will not close the 19th Street crossing until the nearby 25th Avenue grade separation, which is under construction, is open to two-way vehicular traffic. It is

anticipated that the new 25th Avenue grade separation will be complete by December 31, 2016, per Commission Docket T13-0051.

Staff and Respondents have no objection to the Commission granting the Petitions. I recommend entry of the attached Order granting the Petitions.