

NEWS

OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hazardous Lorain Crossing Gets Safety Upgrade *Beaver Lake Road Crossing Will Get New Lights & Gates*

(Columbus) -- A dangerous, private grade crossing in the City of Lorain that once had little hope of being made safer is now slated for a major safety improvement.

The Beaver Lake Road crossing over the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks on Lorain's northwest side will be getting new, state-of-the-art lights and gates with a system that triggers the operation of the lights and gates according to the speed of on-coming trains.

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has authorized the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to issue a word order to the railroad to begin engineering design and construction of the new safety system. The railroad will have one-year from that date to have the project completed and in operation.

In the meantime, the City of Lorain has been authorized to install stop signs at the crossing until the new lights and gates are installed.

The authorization comes after an agreement with a landowner, the railroad and the courts was reached recently for the City of Lorain to take possession of the portion of the private-owned roadway that crosses the railroad tracks. The fact that the crossing was privately-owned prevented ORDC from funding the

installation of warning lights and gates. Federal funds will be used to finance construction of the lights and gates. New light and gate installations typically cost around \$200-thousand dollars.

“We are very glad we can finally address this long time hazard and improve the safety of this crossing for all who use this crossing”, says ORDC Acting Executive Director Matthew Dietrich.

The Beaver Lake Road crossing has been the scene of a number of fatal accidents over the years. The most recent was in January of this year.

According to the railroad, the double-tracked crossing sees an average of 20 to 24 trains a day, while local traffic records indicate an average of 544 crossings per day by motor vehicles.

(The Ohio Rail Development Commission is an independent agency operating within the Ohio Department of Transportation. ORDC is responsible for economic development through the improvement and expansion of passenger and freight rail service, railroad grade crossing safety and rail travel & tourism issues. For more information about what ORDC does for Ohio, visit our website at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/>)