



File
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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DOCKET NO. 0804-N-74-RR

RE: PETITION FROM THE BUREAU OF ENGINEERING AND HIGHWAY OPERATIONS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF A RAILROAD/HIGHWAY AT GRADE CROSSING ON THE TERRYVILLE SECONDARY BRANCH OF THE SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY LOCATED ON CENTRAL STREET IN BRISTOL.

FINAL DECISION

May 16, 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Petitioner's Proposal

By petition dated April 11, 2008, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343 and assigned Docket Number 0804-N-74-RR, the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations of the Department of Transportation (Petitioner), proposes safety improvements consisting of the modernization of railroad flashing lights, installation of railroad vehicular gate arms and reconstruction of the crossing surface with minor roadway approach work on an at grade crossing on Central Street in Bristol Connecticut.

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343, a public hearing on this petition was held at the Newington Department of Transportation, in Newington, Connecticut on May 13, 2008.

Notice of the petition and hearing to be held thereon was given to the Petitioner and to such other parties as deemed necessary by the Department. Legal notice to the public was given by publication in the Bristol Press, a newspaper having circulation in the area of concern.

The hearing on this matter was conducted by a hearing officer, designated by the Commissioner of Transportation, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17.

C. Appearances

Mr. Randall Eick, Transportation Supervising Engineer from the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations, appeared on behalf of the Petitioner.

Mayor Arthur Ward appeared on behalf of the City of Bristol along with Mr. Ray Rogozinski, an engineer from the City of Bristol. The mailing address is 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut 06010.

Mr. Stephen Curley, from the Department's Rail Regulatory Unit appeared as a member of staff.

II. FINDING OF FACTS

1. The subject crossing is on the Terryville Secondary Branch of the Springfield Terminal Railway Company also known as Pan Am Railway. The railroad has a mailing address of Iron Horse Park, N. Billerica, Massachusetts 01862.

2. The proposal seeks to improve crossing safety by improving the railroad flashing lights, installing vehicular gates, pedestrian gates and reconstructing the crossing surface with minor roadway approach and drainage work. The current safety devices installed at the crossing are flashing lights.

3. There are four train movements a day over the crossing at speeds of twenty-five miles per hour.

4. There are approximately 12,700 motor vehicle movements over the crossing on a daily basis.

5. The total anticipated cost of the improvements proposed is \$904,139. The improvements will be paid for by the rail highway grade crossing program which is federally funded.

6. The railroad will construct the proposed safety device improvements and will assume responsibility for the continuous maintenance of these devices. The Department will go out to competitive bid for a contractor to perform the road work. After the road is finished, it will be maintained by the City of Bristol.

7. The anticipated completion date of the proposed improvements is spring 2009.

8. The Regulatory and Compliance Unit after receiving the plans and conducting a field review, is in full support of the project.

9. The City of Bristol is in full support of the project.

10. The Springfield Terminal Railway Company and the City of Bristol are in full support of the proposal.

11. The improvements will enhance public safety at the crossing.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Petitioner's request is to provide for improvement to the aforementioned crossing in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343.

The upgrade proposal of the warning devices, that will be installed, and maintained by the railroad, has the full support of local city and state officials and the Department's Regulatory and Compliance Unit.

The evidence of record is clear that a grant of the proposal will enhance the public safety at this crossing and that approval is in order.

IV. ORDER

Based on the evidence of record and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-343, the following safety measures and orders shall be undertaken:

1. The installation of the safety devices will be performed by the Springfield Terminal Railway Company/Pan Am Railways and funded by federal funds. The Springfield Terminal Railroad Company/Pan Am Railways will perform maintenance on the safety devices. The roadwork will be performed by a contractor hired by the competitive bid process with continued maintenance of the roadway to be performed by the City of Bristol. The City of Bristol will be responsible for inspection and maintenance of the pavement markings and signage.


2. All warning devices and timings, pavement markings and signage shall be installed in accordance with the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and operated within the guidelines issued by the Office of Rail.

3. Upon completion of the installation of the proposed railroad safety devices, the petitioner shall notify Department's Rail Regulatory & Compliance Unit for an inspection to be performed. The crossing should not be considered officially accepted for service until a member of the Regulatory and Compliance Unit has inspected and approved its overall operation and installation.

4. The safety devices shall not be placed into service until approval is granted by the Rail Regulatory Unit.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut, on this 16th day of May, 2008.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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