

**Minutes of Diagnostic Team Meeting for 95th Street NW/Saldana Road Railroad Crossing
In Watab Township**

A diagnostic team meeting for review of the plans to create a Quiet Zone at the 95th Street NW/Saldana Road BNSF railroad crossing in Watab Township was held at the crossing site on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Those present included Tom Domres, FRA Regional Crossing Manager; Richard Scott, BNSF Railway Manager of Public Works; Ted Gregory, MnDOT Rail Section Manager; Jon Bogart, Watab Township Engineer of Bogart, Pederson and Associates; Craig Gondeck, Watab Township Board Chair/Supervisor; Lloyd Erdmann, Watab Township Supervisor; Todd Waytashek, Watab Township Board Supervisor; Pat Spence, Watab Township Clerk; and Bob Raveling, interested citizen. (The attendance sheet with contact information is attached to the minutes.)

Jon Bogart explained the project plans which include an 8-inch median curb extending 100 feet from the mast arm on each side of the crossing, a decrease in grade on each side of the crossing of less than one percent, and increasing the width of the road and planking as much as possible without moving the arms. Four additional eight-foot planks will be needed as well as additional ten-foot ties. BNSF will provide the township with a cost estimate, which is anticipated at \$1,000 per foot for the planks or \$32,000.

A more up to date traffic count was requested, and Supervisor Gondeck will provide that from a 2015 study. The township will have its contractor provide the required liability insurance for BNSF as well as obtaining the permits.

The township supervisors and clerk requested that BNSF coordinate the installation of the new planks that are currently stored adjacent to this location in conjunction with this project. The township understands from the BNSF Road Master that there are currently not funds to install them. On the Lakewood Shore Quiet Zone project, BNSF came in later to replace planks and did damage to the new construction: removal of an erosion control area, breakup of a section of tar which was replaced, and cuts into the new curbing.

The township was commended for the plans and for the work at three other Quiet Zones in the township at BNSF crossings. Approval was granted for the safety improvements at this crossing. Jon Bogart explained the township timeline is to issue the Notice of Intent for the Quiet Zone, go out for bids in February or March, and hope for an early summer construction.

Supervisors were asked about plans for the remaining crossing on 105th Street NW; there are considerations both financial and planning for wider equipment to cross there and to make it a Quiet Zone. Tom Domres, FRA, suggested that the board look at the crossing in Dilworth. The meeting at the crossing was completed by 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence

