



Rail safety improvements approved for Ogle County

Chicago, IL – On Thursday, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved funds to install automatic warning devices and highway approach improvements at the Blackwood Road highway-rail crossing (AAR/DOT#372334J) near Davis Junction, in Ogle County.

“The ICC is proud to work with communities and railroads across Illinois to make highway-rail crossings safer for motorists and pedestrians,” said **ICC Commissioner Michael T. Carrigan**. “The Grade Crossing Protection Fund helps important projects like the one near Davis Junction come to fruition.”

The total estimated cost of the signal design and construction is \$564,833; the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) will be used to pay 95 percent of the signal costs, not to exceed \$536,620. The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad will pay the remaining 5 percent of the design and installation costs, along with all future maintenance costs related to the signals and circuitry.

The total estimated cost for the highway approach rehabilitation design and construction is \$96,220—100 percent of which will be covered by the GCPF. The Scott Township Road District will be responsible for any future highway approach maintenance.

All required signal work is to be completed within 18 months of the ICC’s order. More information on [Stipulated Agreement 2367](#) can be found in [Docket T25-0070](#).

The ICC encourages all rail crossing users to remain vigilant and adhere to safety regulations in and around crossings.

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About the Illinois Grade Crossing Protection Fund

In 1955, the State of Illinois passed legislation creating the GCPF. Since then, Illinois has strengthened its commitment to public highway-rail safety by increasing funding toward projects such as the closure and consolidation of existing public crossings, installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements, upgrades to existing warning devices and interconnection to nearby traffic signals, construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures, and the construction of pedestrian grade separations. The ICC administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements. The General Assembly appropriates \$42 million annually for the GCPF. Read more information on the ICC's annual Crossing Safety Improvement Program [here](#).

About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient, and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation

Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses, and repossession agencies. The ICC's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities, and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices, and bureaus [here](#). Consumers who need help resolving a utility dispute can call 800-524-0795 or file [an online complaint](#). For all transportation-related complaints, call 847-294-4326.

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