



THE INDIANA RAIL ROAD COMPANY

1500 SOUTH SENATE AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46225 PH. 317-262-5140 INRD.COM

May 20, 2019

Brown County Board of Commissioners
711 Greasy Creek Road
PO Box 2088
Nashville, Indiana 47448

Re: Indian Hill Road DOT # 292 193F

Dear Board Members,

The Indiana Rail Road Company is requesting closure of the railroad crossing at Indian Hill Road, MP 40.20, DOT # 292 193F pursuant to Indiana Code 8-6-7.7-3.1. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, the most effective way to improve railroad crossing safety is to close crossings. Indian Hill Road is an ideal candidate for closure because the additional distance for motorists using an alternate route is not that great per the criteria mentioned below, the roadway embankment is experiencing severe erosion by Beam Blossom Creek, the roadway bridge crossing the river is prone to overtopping when the river floods and is being degraded by river erosion, the railroad crossing is on steep approach grades which is dangerous for vehicles and there is a large railroad bridge directly adjacent to the crossing which hinders sight distance for vehicles crossing. I have attached for your information the Federal Railroad Administration's top 15 States for Highway/Rail Grade Crossing Collisions. Indiana ranks number 3 in the nation for collisions. INDOT provides between \$10,000 and \$35,000 to local agencies close a crossing.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners should apply the criteria set out by IC 8-6-7.7-3.1(b) and determine whether the Indian Hill Road crossing meets the criteria for closure. To assist, I have listed the criteria and responsive information:

- (1) Timetable speed of passenger trains operated through the crossing. **N/A**
- (2) Distance to an alternate crossing. 4676' North of Crossing; 17,075' South of Crossing
- (3) Accident history of the crossing for the five (5) years preceding the department's or the unit's consideration. **NONE**
- (4) Amount of vehicular traffic and posted speed limits for the crossing. **AADT Count: 50**
- (5) Amount of freight trains and their timetable speeds operated through the crossing. **2 Trains a Day; 30 MPH**

(6) Type of warning device present at the crossing, if any. **Reflectorized Crossbucks**

(7) Alignment of the roadway and the railroad, and the angle of the intersection of an alignment at the crossing. **Appx. 45 degrees**

(8) Use of the crossing by:

- (A) trucks carrying hazardous materials;
- (B) vehicles carrying passengers for hire;
- (C) school buses; and
- (D) emergency vehicles.

(9) Other appropriate criteria as determined by the department.

In the event the Board of Commissioners determines that the crossing does not meet the criteria for closure, or determines that the crossing does meet the criteria for closure, but a compelling reason has been shown to exist for the crossing to remain open, please notify me so we can pursue an appeal pursuant to IC 8-6-7.7-3.3.

Respectfully,

Peter Ray
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