LEARNING TO LIVE WITH THE RAILROAD AS YOUR NEIGHBOR
APWA – August 18, 2008
BNSF West Track Quiet Zone

BNSF System Track Map

Emporia - 88 TPD
Ft Scott - 40 TPD
Southgate - 8 TPD
• 5,300 At-grade X’s in Kansas
• Olathe has 23 X’s
• Rep. 1 out of 8 car-train conflicts

BNSF West Track Quiet Zone
BNSF At-Grade Crossings

College Blvd – $19,000,000
BNSF At-Grade Crossings

127th Street – $27,500,000

BNSF Elevated – $43,000,000
LOCUS MAP

PROPOSED GRADE SEPARATION

EXISTING VIEW ON SANTA FE

CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING

1 Existing Section
2 Construct Elevated Section and New West Track
3 Shift Rail Traffic (west side)
4 Relocate Rail Track
5 Shift Rail Traffic (east side)

CONCEPTUAL PLAN

CONCEPTUAL PROFILE

Landscape Enhancements

BNSF West Track Quiet Zone

BNSF At-Grade Crossings
Pictures of completed Elevated bridges

The Olathe Quiet Zone

Downtown Olathe Quiet Zone
8 trains per day
11 crossings
20 seconds horn per
train per crossing

OVER 5 HOURS OF
Horns a day
In our downtown

BNSF West Track Quiet Zone

The Olathe Quiet Zone

Federal Register

Wednesday,
April 27, 2005

Part II
Department of
Transportation

Federal Railroad Administration
49 CFR Parts 222 and 229
Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail
Grade Crossings; Final Rule
Here’s what is says:

- The crossings currently have a risk level which can be calculated
- If you stop blowing the horns the risk level goes up
- You need to improve the safety of the crossings to more than offset the loss of the horns
- If you do this you may qualify for the FRA to issue a quiet order

4 QUADRANT GATE

Install gates at a crossing sufficient to fully block vehicle traffic from entering the crossing when the gates are lowered.

COST:
$500,000 - $700,000
GATES WITH MEDIANS
BNSF West Track Quiet Zone
Install medians or channelization devices on both approaches denying the driver the option of driving around the lowered gates to cross the tracks.

COST:
$250,000 - $350,000

PERMANENT CLOSURE
BNSF West Track Quiet Zone
Permanently close the crossing to vehicle traffic.

COST:
$0 - $50,000
Gate must be installed such that all approaching lanes to the public highway-rail grade crossing are completely blocked.

Close the crossing to vehicular traffic during designated quiet period, for instance provide locked gates from 9:00pm to 6:00am.
A stationary horn located at the crossing to provide, upon the approach of a locomotive or train, audible warning to oncoming motorists of the approach of a train. This measure could be looked at as a substitute for the locomotive horn and the crossing will not be included in risk calculations.

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TRAFFIC VOLUMES

BNSF West Track Quiet Zone

STREET CROSSING

Crossing | Temporary Closure | 4- Quad Gates | Gates & Medians | One Way Street | Permanent Closure | Wayside Horns
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Dennis |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Elm |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Cedar |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Loula |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Santa Fe |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Poplar |  | |  |  |  |  |
Spruce |  |  |  |  |  |  |
               **BRIDGE**
Prairie |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Mulberry |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Harold |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Woodland |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Downtown Olathe Quiet Zone Project

Gates & Medians – Woodland, Harold, Mulberry, Loula, Dennis
4 Quadrant Gates – Santa Fe, Park, Elm
Closure – Prairie, Poplar, Cedar

Project Cost $5.6 M

FENCE ENHANCEMENTS
So you think you want to try to do this.....

Be prepared to answer a few questions before you start.

Be Prepared to answer:

Why are we doing this?

• Quality of life issues
• Economic impact on area
• How much do we REALLY want this?
Be Prepared to answer:

Who will benefit from this?

- Homes
- Businesses
- Economic impact
- Traffic

Questions to be Answered

Be Prepared to answer:

What will it be like when we are done?

- Visual – landscaping
- Traffic impact
- Pedestrians

Questions to be Answered
Be Prepared to answer:

Who are the players in this?

- City/County
- Railroad
- State agency
- FRA
- Local businesses and residences

Questions to be Answered

Be Prepared to answer:

What are the requirements?

- Railroad - agreement
- FRA – Quiet Order Application
- State DOT - coordination
- Application process
- Time frame – 18 months min.
Be Prepared to answer:

What are the costs?

• Signal and crossing costs
• Street modification
• Utility impact
• Landscaping
• Long term maintenance costs

Questions to be Answered

Be Prepared to answer:

Who will pay for this?

• City/county
• Railroad
• State DOT
• FRA

The Correct Answer is YOU will!
Be Prepared to answer:

What part does the public play in this?

- Public involvement plan
- Public meetings
- Newsletters, Newspapers, website, etc
- Public groups
- Develop support

Be Prepared to answer:

What are the risks and liabilities?

- Changed conditions
- Traffic
- Pedestrians
- Unknown increase in liability
Never Forget that:

- You need to include this as part of an overall traffic plan.
- Don’t forget the pedestrians.
- We are doing this for **OUR** benefit and therefore we need to be prepared to pay for it ourselves.

A Lesson Learned:

- I viewed this as a Quality of Life issue.
- The State, FRA and railroad view this as a ‘SAFETY” project.
So whatever you do......

LEAVE IT SAFER THAN YOU FOUND IT!

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QUESTIONS?