



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Public Works**

**Date:** January 16, 2007  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE RR Safety Project Railroad Agreement

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the proper City Officials to enter into an agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company and the Commissioner of Transportation, State of Minnesota pending satisfactory review by the proper City Officials.

**Previous Directives:**

December 11, 2006 (Resolution 2006R-610) - Project identified as part of the adopted Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

**Prepared by:** Rhonda Rae, P.E., Director Engineering Services Division, 612.673.3627  
Stephanie Malmberg, P.E., Project Engineer,  
Engineering Services Division, 612.673.3365

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenter:** Stephanie Malmberg, P. E., Project Manager, Public Works

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)      Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable   X    
Policy review Group (PRG)              Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable   X  

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase/decrease to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase/decrease to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan:  Action is within the plan.     Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):  
Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable  
City Goals: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city  
Comprehensive Plan: Yes  
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

## **Background/Supporting Information**

### **Railroad Crossing Safety Project at 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, between 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE and California Street NE.**

This Railroad Crossing Hazard Elimination Safety Project is part of the Federal Transportation Safety Program. This Program provides federal funds for safety improvements on all public roads and highways. These funds serve to eliminate or reduce the number and/or severity of traffic accidents at grade intersection railroad and roadway locations selected for improvement.

Each year, local agencies compete for funds by submitting candidate safety projects for review and analysis. The State Transportation Department prioritizes these projects, statewide, and releases an annual Hazard Elimination Safety Program Plan that identifies the projects that are approved for funding.

To increase safety at this crossing, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway will be upgrading their signal system and adding two arms. The City is participating in the mitigation of this hazard by providing the 10% local match for signal and arm upgrades, providing traffic control and producing the plans.

Public Works is also examining the site for possible Quiet Zone improvements and investigating the possibility of removing a nearby abandoned spur line. In order for this work to proceed, additional funds would need to be secured.

The total estimated cost for the signal and arm upgrades is \$171,300; the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation the State of Minnesota has authorized \$154,170.00 of Federal Aid and the City will contribute \$17,130.00 towards railroad signal work and will provide the traffic control. Should the City determine that additional net debt bonds or municipal state aid dollars are available the additional roadway work identified above would also be included as part of this project.

Attachments: Project Map

cc: Council Member Paul Ostrow, Ward 1  
Rhonda Rae, Director of Engineering Services  
Greg Schroeder, Engineering Services  
Jack Yuzna, Engineering Services  
Steve Mosing, Traffic and Parking Services