



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

**Date:** January 30, 2007

**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Subject:** Benjamin Street NE / Soo Line Railway Co. Railroad Crossing Safety Project

**Recommendation:**

- a). Passage of a Resolution closing Benjamin Street NE to traffic south of the Soo Line Railway right-of-way and its intersection with 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.
- b). Passage of a Resolution closing McKinley Street NE to traffic south of its intersection with 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

**Previous Directives:**

- February 10, 2006, Resolution 2006R- 055 Vacating the Soo Line Railroad Company (d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway Company) Crossing, Grade Crossing USDOT NO. 688991B, RAILROAD MILEPOST 5.37, in the City of Minneapolis at Benjamin Street NE.
- March 11, 2005, Resolution 2005R-135 Amending the 2005-2009 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

**Prepared by:** Robb Urquhart, P.E., Professional Engineer, Engineering Services, 673-2628  
Rhonda Rae, P.E., Director of Engineering Services, 673-3627

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

**Presenters:** Robb Urquhart, P.E., Professional Engineer, Engineering Services

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval _____	Not applicable _____
Policy review Group (PRG)	Approval _____	Not applicable _____

**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 to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase 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: Yes

City Goals: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

**Background/Supporting Information**

Each year as part of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Railroad Crossing Hazard Elimination Safety Program, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) prioritizes at-grade railroad crossings based on traffic volumes, existing warning devices, crossing geometry and accident history. Based on the data, MNDOT develops an annual Hazard Elimination Safety Program Plan that identifies and approves projects for federal funding.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) after applying the Federal Transportation Department's rating formula approved several railroad crossing intersections for warning device improvements within the City of Minneapolis. The intersection of Benjamin Street NE and Soo Line Railroad near 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE (City Project No. 9848) was one that was selected.

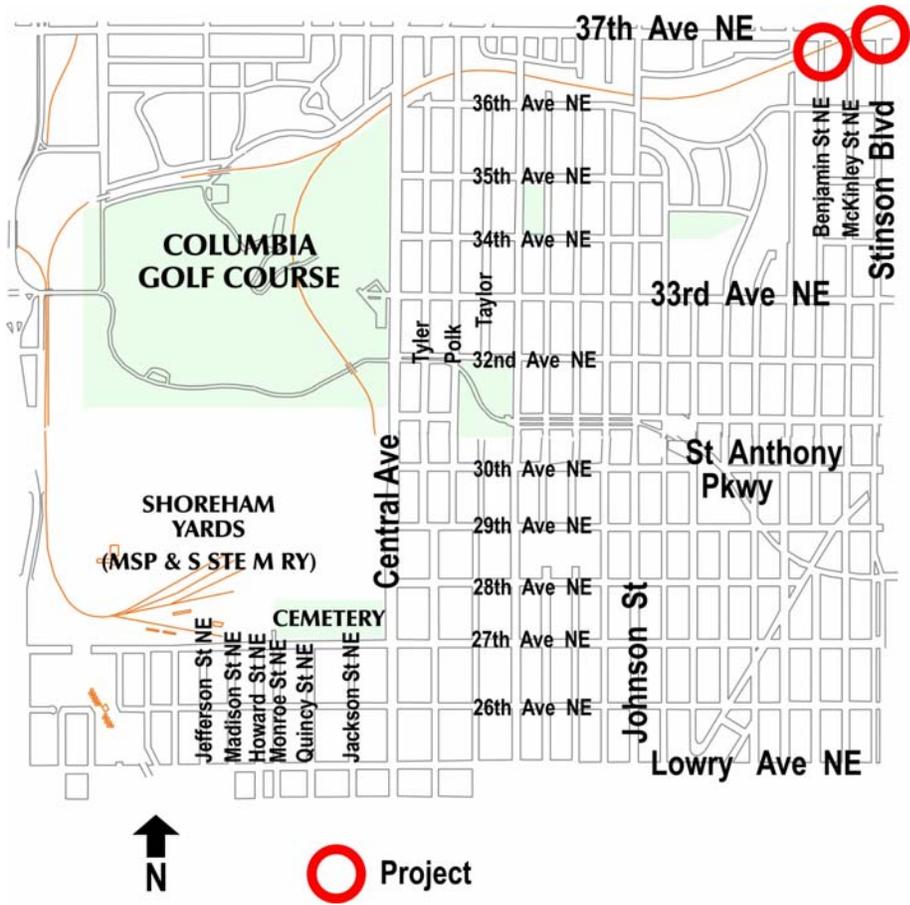
The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the State of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis authorized \$171,765 of Federal Aid funds budgeted for the design and removal of the roadway portion of the intersections and the closure of Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE from adjacent to the Soo Line Railroad property to 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in the City of Minneapolis for the elimination of the above referenced intersection.

The intention of the federal program is the elimination and/or reduction in the number and/or severity of traffic accidents at-grade railroad crossings. It was determined that the closure of Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE would best meet the intent of the program.

Additionally, the City of Minneapolis requires that Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE, along and adjacent to the Soo Line property, be closed to traffic.

Cc Council Member Paul Ostrow; Ward 1  
Steve Collin, Street Maintenance Engineer  
Paul Ogren, Field Services  
Larry Matsumoto, Paving  
Jack Yuzna, Engineering Services

**RAIL ROAD SAFETY PROJECT 2 RAIL ROAD SAFETY PROJECT 2**



**T&PW** – Your Committee having previously resolved to Vacating the Soo Line Railroad Company (d/b/a CANADIAN PACIFIC RIALWAY COMPANY) Crossing, Grade Crossing USDOT NO. 688991B, RAILROAD MILEPOST 5.37, in the City of Minneapolis at Benjamin Street NE, and

Now, additionally, the City desires to close Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE to traffic adjacent to the Soo Line Railroad property to 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in the City of Minneapolis.

**By Colvin Roy**

Your Committee having previously resolved to Vacating the Soo Line Railroad Company (d/b/a CANADIAN PACIFIC RIALWAY COMPANY) Crossing, Grade Crossing USDOT NO. 688991B, RAILROAD MILEPOST 5.37, in the City of Minneapolis at Benjamin Street Northeast, and

WHEREAS, The Minneapolis City Council has vacated the closures of Benjamin Street NE, and

WHEREAS, The Minneapolis City Council, further, has considered the closures of Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE adjacent to the Soo Line Railroad property to 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in the City of Minneapolis are required, and

WHEREAS, The City of Minneapolis has received neighborhood input concerning the closure of Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE at the Soo Line Railroad, and

WHEREAS, The City of Minneapolis conducted a Public Hearing on the proposed vacation and closures at Waite Park School on March 31, 2005 (7:30 PM), and

WHEREAS, The City Council decided that the vacation of the railroad crossing and closures described herein is in the best interest of public safety.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

The City of Minneapolis having previously vacated and discontinues the railroad crossing on Benjamin Street Northeast, closes to traffic Benjamin and McKinley Streets NE adjacent to the Soo Line Railroad property to 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in the City of Minneapolis.