



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

Date: January 31, 2006
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation and Public Works Committee

**Subject Railroad Crossing Safety Project at the intersection of Benjamin Street
Northeast and Soo Line Railway Company's Railroad Track.**

Recommendation

- A. Passage of a Resolution closing the Soo Line Railroad Company at grade crossing with Benjamin Street Northeast in the City of Minneapolis.

Previous Directives

RESOLUTION 2005R-135 Amending the 2005-2009 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

For directing Public Works to enter into an Agreement with Soo Line Railroad Company and the State of Minnesota for the removal of the at grade intersection at Benjamin Street Northeast.

Prepared by Robb Urquhart, P.E., Professional Engineer, 612.673.2628
Approved by Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer Director of Public Works

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
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

- Neighborhood Notification Yes
- City Goals 1,2,3
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

Background/Supporting Information

Railroad Crossing Safety Project at the intersection Benjamin Street Northeast in Minneapolis and the Soo Line Railroad.

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.

The State of Minnesota after applying the Federal Transportation Department's rating formula has selected, reviewed and approved the referenced following referenced Railroad Crossing at the following intersections within the City of Minneapolis:

At grade intersection of the Soo Line Railroad Line with Benjamin Street Northeast, City Project Number 600D/9848, for design and removal of the roadway portion of the intersection.

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the City of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota has authorized \$171,765 of Federal Aid for the elimination of the above referenced hazard. Additionally, the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department is cooperating and participating in the mitigation of this hazard. The City of Minneapolis has provided plans and specifications for the removal required for the intersection at Benjamin Street Northeast.

The State of Minnesota additionally requires that the City of Minneapolis resolve to close the Benjamin Street Northeast intersection.

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

T&PW & W&M/Budget – Your Committee is hereby advised that a Resolution 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 is required and as follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Minneapolis City Council has considered vacating the Railroad Crossings at Benjamin Street Northeast in the city of Minneapolis, and

WHEREAS, The City of Minneapolis requires neighborhood input concerning the closure of the intersections of Benjamin Street Northeast at the Soo Line Railroad, and

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

WHEREAS, The City Council decided that the closing of the railroad crossings described herein is in the best interest of public safety.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

The City of Minneapolis hereby closes and discontinues the railroad crossing on Benjamin Street Northeast.