



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

April 5, 2004

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES & PLANS
Environmental Assessment
Finance Docket No. 34395
Peoria, Peoria Heights & Western Railroad
Construction of Connecting Track Exemption
Peoria County

Mr. Troy Brady
Environmental Project Manager
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Brady:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above-captioned Environmental Assessment. The project proposes to reactivate the Peoria, Peoria Heights, and Western Railroad (PPHW) crossing at Allen Road in Peoria, Illinois. This portion of Allen Road is currently under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The crossing is located in the taper of a three-lane section of Allen Road. Photographs of the existing crossing are enclosed. This portion of Allen Road is proposed to be widened to five lanes with funding currently included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2004-2008 Highway Improvement Program. Design for the improvement is underway. A preliminary design of the proposed five-lane improvement at the PPHW crossing is also enclosed. Upon completion of the widening, jurisdiction of this section of Allen Road will be transferred from IDOT to the City of Peoria.

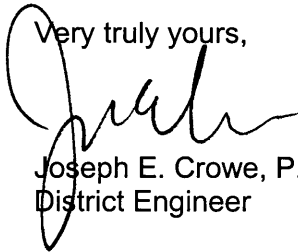
On page 5-6 of the Environmental Assessment, you explain that the 2003 ADT on Allen Road has been conservatively adjusted from the 2001 traffic figures given to you by IDOT. Due to new and proposed development in this area, the projected ADT for the year 2021 is anticipated to be 30,000. This figure is based on the design year projected ADT for the proposed five-lane widening of Allen Road. Based on the projected traffic, it appears that gates will be warranted. The LOS should be checked with the aforementioned projected traffic.

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With the possible exception of providing gates at the crossing, IDOT concurs with the voluntary and additional mitigation measures outlined in the report. IDOT also agrees that due to the low volume of trains expected to use the rail (two per week), the proposed improvement will have minimal impact on the State Highway System.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Paula Green at (309) 671-3478.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Crowe", written over the typed name and title.

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

PAG:tdp\s:\mgr2\winword\std&plns\green\letters\pag0019.doc

Enclosures

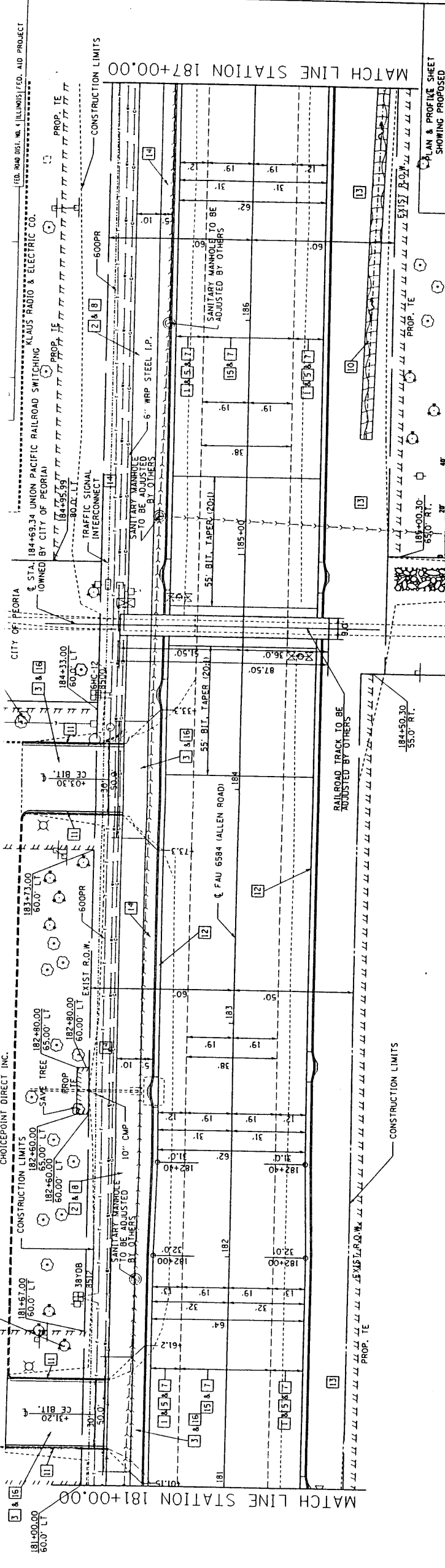
cc: Railroads (S. Eckhoff)



Allen Road and PPHW Crossing – Looking South



Allen Road and PPHW Crossing – Looking North



PRELIMINARY

DATE: April 5, 2004