



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

December 4, 2009

CIRCULAR LETTER 2009-17

DESIGN OF ROADWAY APPROACHES AT RAILROAD/HIGHWAY CROSSINGS

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS/MAYORS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Recent correspondence with our department has indicated concerns with variations in the interpretation of design requirements for railroad crossing approach grade improvements that are funded through the Illinois Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF). In an effort to achieve a consistent and economical design, this circular letter serves to define the level of design that will be appropriate for these types of projects.

Recognizing that the Grade Crossing Protection Fund is a Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) based fund, railroad crossing approach improvements funded by the GCPF should be designed in accordance with design criteria set forth in the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Manual. However, in order to provide a more economical design for the improvement of existing roadway approaches at railroad crossings on the local highway system, these projects should be designed using the 3R standard as outlined in Chapter 33, Geometric Design of Existing Highways. District review and release of existing roadway approach improvements for these types of projects will be made according to the standard set forth in this chapter.

Chapter 32, which covers new construction and reconstruction, is appropriate for railroad crossing approach improvements using GCPF involving new construction or construction on new alignments. In cases where it is not economically feasible to design the approaches to policy, our department can consider granting requests for a variance to the design.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Burke, Local Policy and Technology Unit, at dot.localpolicy@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell Lewis".

Darrell W. Lewis, P.E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets