

DATE: July 1, 2020

TO: City/County Engineers, RDCs, MPOs, Townships, MnDOT Districts

FROM: Amy L. Johnson  
Program Manager, Rail Grade Crossing Safety  
[Amy.l.johnson@state.mn.us](mailto:Amy.l.johnson@state.mn.us)  
651/366-3709

SUBJECT: Grade Crossing Safety Program – Section 130 Funding

In our continuing efforts to involve local road authorities in improving railroad-highway grade crossing safety, MnDOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations (OFCVO), Railroad Safety and Coordination Unit is requesting local participation in funding railroad crossing projects. Up to \$4,500,000 is available for state fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) for railroad crossing projects.

Two categories of projects will be funded through this effort:

- Closures/Consolidations of Railroad crossings
  - This is top priority and up to \$3,000,000 will be available for this category.
- Railroad crossing safety projects at high risk locations
  - Up to \$1,500,000 will be available for this category. Additional money may be made available for this category depending on the number of closure/consolidation projects are received and funded.

### **Closures/Consolidations of Railroad Crossings**

In order for a project to be eligible for the Closure/Consolidation category, it must meet the criteria laid out in Minnesota Rule 8830.2740 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=8830.2740> and be ready to construct in the year of funding available.

Eligible projects will be scored on the following criteria:

- Number of crossings closed
- Risk/Cost factor = {(Risk Factors/cost)} \*1,000,000
- Deficient Geometry

### **Railroad Crossing Safety Projects at high Risk Locations**

The locations of concern were identified using the following risk factors: roadway AADT, number of trains/day, volume cross product (# vehicles x # trains), train speed, skew, distance to nearby intersection, distance to nearest crossing, clearing sight distance, approaching sight distance. Taking into consideration these factors, each crossing was assigned a risk score from 0-9. In this solicitation, we are considering locations with a score of

6 or higher. These locations have been prescreened by the Engineers/Project Managers as a viable project. A list of potential locations can be found on pages 4-5.

From the list of potential projects, please identify **your** top priority locations and send them to me by 08/31/2020. Once the solicitation period ends, each location will receive a score and ranked accordingly. The scoring for each candidate will be based on the following:

- LRA funding priority
- Magnitude of clearing sight distance restriction (4 points total, 1 for each quadrant)
- $(ADT * \# \text{ of trains}) / \text{cost} * 100$
- Non redundant crossing (no crossing within 5 miles)
- Cost participation over 10% (up to 2 points)

The road authority and RR will then be contacted and a diagnostic field review at the crossing will be scheduled with the Project Manager. Projects typically range between \$175,000 and \$350,000. Additional improvements may be required at the crossing (I.E. widening of the road, crossing surface extensions, sidewalk/pathway modifications, etc) that raise the cost above the typical range. These improvements would be identified and discussed during the diagnostic review.

The following information may be requested prior the diagnostic review:

- 1) The most recent traffic count (CSAH & MSAS recent counts are already available to OFCVO)
- 2) An evaluation of whether the crossing and/or adjacent crossings can be closed or consolidated (costs associated with closing and consolidating crossings are eligible for funding)
- 3) Plans for any future road work
- 4) Information and traffic projections for any development

The Excel spreadsheet (Rail Grade Crossing Safety Solicitation) contains all passive, public, open railroad crossings in Minnesota. If you do not see a passive crossing in your jurisdiction listed as a potential project on pages 4-5 to be funded in state fiscal year 2023, open the spreadsheet and sort by your county to find it. The total risk factors present at each crossings are listed in column V. If you have more current information for your crossing(s), such as AADT, please provide us with that information. The spreadsheet can be found here: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/railroad/safety.html>

The timeline for this solicitation is as follows:

July – August 2020: Solicitation is open

**August 31, 2020: Responses due**

September - October 2020: Field diagnostics

November 2020: Project scoring

December 2020: Initial project recommendations made

January 2021: Metro Planning Organization comment period

February 2021: Final project selection to be funded for state fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

MnDOT was informed by Federal Highway Administration that the Section 130-Grade Crossing Safety Program is no longer able to fund 100% of the project costs. Effective immediately, a 10% match from a non-federal source is required. The latest Federal Share for Selected Programs guidance Fact Sheet ([www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/federalsharefs.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/federalsharefs.cfm)) was updated and vetted per FAST Act. It identifies the Rail-Highway Crossings Program federal share at 90% with no eligibility for 100% funding.

Please share this information with your smaller local agencies and submit all requests by **08/31/2020** to [amy.l.johnson@state.mn.us](mailto:amy.l.johnson@state.mn.us) or the address above. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

cc: District State Aid Engineers, MnDOT

# Projects Eligible for Fiscal Year 2023

## Crossing Identification

## Passive Risk Factors

Crossing Number	Primary Operating Railroad	District	County	Road Authority	Highway Type and No.	Local Street Name	Active or Passive Warning Devices	AADT	Highway Speed Limit	Total Trains	Maximum Timetable Speed	AADT	Total Trains	Cross Product = AADT X Total Trains	Maximum Timetable Speed	Approximate Distance (Intersecting roadway)	Distance to nearest Crossing	Skew	Clearing Sight Distance	Approaching Sight Distance	Total Risk Factors	
061073C	BNSF		8 KANDIYOHI	Genessee Township	T102	135th St NE	Passive	84	55	6	60	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	
061109H	BNSF		8 SWIFT	Pillsbury Township	T134	165th Ave SE	Passive	13	55	10	40	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
0616075	BNSF		3 ISANTI	Athens Township	T176	273rd Ave NE	Passive	15	35	6	50	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
062790D	BNSF		4 OTTER TAIL	Newton Township	T94	570th Ave	Passive	5	15	34	75	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
062725V	BNSF		8 LYON	Fairview Township	T252	320th St	Passive	56	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
0627291E	BNSF		8 LYON	Lynd Township	T447	235th St	Passive	36	30	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	
067316X	BNSF		8 LYON	Hope Township	T1	T-1	Passive	84	55	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	
067319T	BNSF		8 PIPESTONE	Ruthton	M288	231st St	Passive	64	30	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
067572N	BNSF		4 GRANT	Grant County	CR33	CR-33	Passive	90	55	6	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
067804B	BNSF		8 MEEKER	Darwin Township	T332	650th Ave	Passive	75	55	6	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
067841D	BNSF		3 WRIGHT	Franklin Township	T707	Darrow Ave SE	Passive	5	30	6	60	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
067906U	BNSF		4 SWIFT	Swift County	CSAH14	40th St SE	Passive	68	55	10	40	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
075603F	BNSF		8 LAC QUI PARLE	Lac Qui Parle County	CSAH34	340th St	Passive	227	55	2	40	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
075619C	BNSF		4 SWIFT	Swift County	CR51	90th St SW	Passive	161	55	2	40	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
075628B	BNSF		4 SWIFT	Edison Township	T87	60th ST SW	Passive	82	55	6	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
076419W	BNSF		1 PINE	Partridge Township	T556	Partridge Dr	Passive	45	30	6	50	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
076420R	BNSF		1 PINE	Partridge Township	T889	Mulling Rd	Passive	5	30	6	50	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
076421X	BNSF		1 PINE	Partridge Township	T575	Root Rd	Passive	45	15	6	50	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
076422E	BNSF		1 PINE	Partridge Township	T590	Starch Rd	Passive	45	15	6	50	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082367V	BNSF		8 YELLOW MEDICINE	Yellow Medicine County	CSAH17	240th Ave	Passive	50	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082369J	BNSF		8 YELLOW MEDICINE	Minnesota Falls Township	T15	230th Ave	Passive	46	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082370D	BNSF		8 YELLOW MEDICINE	Yellow Medicine County	CSAH3	220th Ave	Passive	15	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082371K	BNSF		8 YELLOW MEDICINE	Wood Lake Township	T98	520th St	Passive	50	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082381R	BNSF		8 YELLOW MEDICINE	Sandnes Township	T150	180th Ave	Passive	75	30	10	49	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	6	
082388N	BNSF		8 LYON	Sandnes Township	T279	160th Ave	Passive	18	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082400T	BNSF		8 LYON	Lucas Township	T126	360th St	Passive	40	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
082420E	BNSF		7 PIPESTONE	Rose Dell Township	T72	201st St	Passive	60	55	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
082458B	BNSF		7 ROCK	Beaver Creek Township	T40	71st St	Passive	18	55	10	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
082489A	BNSF		8 CHIPPEWA	Stoneham Township	T52	70th St SE	Passive	64	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	
082497S	BNSF		8 CHIPPEWA	Granite Falls Township	T56	Chip Renville St SE	Passive	25	55	10	49	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	
097732G	BNSF		1 ITASCA	Coleraine	M70	Gunn Rd	Passive	329	50	4	25	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	
097735C	BNSF		1 ITASCA	Blackberry Township	T5	N Bluebird Dr	Passive	95	10	2	50	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
097839J	BNSF		8 PIPESTONE	Eden Township	T66	40th Ave	Passive	48	55	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	
097902Y	BNSF		8 PIPESTONE	Grange Township	T306	131st ST	Passive	57	55	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
097903F	BNSF		8 PIPESTONE	Grange Township	T166	100th Ave	Passive	23	55	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
185278P	BNSF		8 LAC QUI PARLE	Lac Qui Parle County	CSAH2	South Ave	Passive	450	30	2	25	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	6	
185420R	UP		7 BLUE EARTH	Judson Township	T184	200th St	Passive	42	55	4	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
193495K	DME		7 BROWN	New Ulm	MSAS113	Valley St	Passive	2000	30	7	30	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	6
193669E	DME		8 REDWOOD	Charlestown Township	T149	Laser Ave	Passive	142	20	7	40	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
195615F	UP	M	SCOTT	Sand Creek Township	T175	Jordan Ave	Passive	264	30	3	30	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	6	
1959555	UP		7 FARIBAULT	Seely Township	T10	50th St	Passive	140	55	6	40	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
260200A	DWP		1 KOOCHICHING	Koochiching County	CR111	County Rd 111	Passive	20	15	15	60	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
260204C	DWP		1 KOOCHICHING	Koochiching County	UT195	UT-195	Passive	48	30	16	60	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	6	
312186D	CN		2 LAKE OF THE WOODS	Lake Of The Woods County	UT66	14th Ave NW	Passive	22	55	17	60	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
312193N	CN		2 LAKE OF THE WOODS	Lake Of The Woods County	UT89	38th Ave NW	Passive	30	55	17	60	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
380744D	DME		6 FREEBORN	Albert Lea	M513	Wedgewood DR	Passive	350	30	1	40	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
380769Y	DME		6 FREEBORN	Freeborn County	CR61	620th Ave	Passive	55	55	1	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
380805S	DME		7 FARIBAULT	Faribault County	CSAH69	CSAH 69	Passive	210	30	1	40	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
380841M	DME		7 FARIBAULT	Faribault County	CSAH1	315th Ave	Passive	160	30	1	40	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
380855V	DME		7 MARTIN	Granada	M4	1st St	Passive	416	30	1	40	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
608617P	UP		7 FARIBAULT	Faribault County	CSAH2	530th St	Passive	600	45	2	40	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	
691703H	SOO		4 POPE	Ben Wade Township	T201	300th Ave	Passive	24	55	6	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
691734G	SOO		4 GRANT	Elk Lake Township	T18	143rd Ave	Passive	16	55	6	49	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
695506H	SOO		4 POPE	Leven Township	T283	210th AVE	Passive	67	45	6	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
695975I	SOO		2 KITTSON	Norway Township	T287	390th Ave	Passive	38	55	5	40	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
695976R	SOO		2 KITTSON	Norway Township	T48	190th St	Passive	3	55	5	40	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
696013Y	SOO		2 KITTSON	Granville Township	T71	T-71	Passive	25	55	5	40	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	
696016U	SOO		2 KITTSON	Granville Township	T241	270th AVE	Passive	37	55	5	40	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	

## Crossing Identification

## Passive Risk Factors

Crossing Number	Primary Operating Railroad	District	County	Road Authority	Highway Type and No.	Local Street Name	Active or Passive Warning Devices	AADT	Highway Speed Limit	Total Trains	Maximum Timetable Speed	AADT	Total Trains	Cross Product = AADT X Total Trains	Maximum Timetable Speed	Approximate Distance (Intersecting roadway)	Distance to nearest Crossing	Skew	Clearing Sight Distance	Approaching Sight Distance	Total Risk Factors	
696019P	SOO	2	KITTSON	Richardville Township	T165	260th AVE	Passive	79	55	5	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
876342V	UP	6	STEELE	Owatonna Township	T65	SW 22nd Ave	Passive	121	55	5	50	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
061094V	BNSF	8	KANDIYOHI	Willmar Township	T29	45th St NW	Passive	185	55	10	40	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	8
067312V	BNSF	8	LYON	Lyon County	CR51	120th Ave	Passive	145	55	8	49	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
067314J	BNSF	8	LYON	Shelburne Township	T426	115th St	Passive	22	55	8	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
082463X	BNSF	8	KANDIYOHI	Lone Tree Township	T232	Kandi Chippewa Line St	Passive	352	55	10	49	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
097907H	BNSF	8	PIPESTONE	Gray Township	T267	9th St NE	Passive	325	55	8	49	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
876280A	UP	6	FREEBORN	Freeborn County	CNTY 99	CR 99	Passive	175	55	5	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	7
689334N	SOO	4	POPE	Bangor Township	T136	130th Ave	Passive	13	30	10	60	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
689337I	SOO	4	POPE	Bangor Township	T140	140th Ave	Passive	24	30	10	60	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
689345B	SOO	4	POPE	Glenwood Township	T158	180th Ave	Passive	84	30	10	60	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7
689350X	SOO	4	POPE	Glenwood Township	T85	190th St	Passive	18	30	10	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
691720Y	SOO	4	DOUGLAS	Solem Township	T503	Roland Lake Rd	Passive	37	30	6	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
691728D	SOO	4	GRANT	Elk Lake Township	T169	160th St	Passive	61	55	6	49	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
695921D	SOO	2	MARSHALL	Marshall County	CSAH2	230th St NE	Passive	325	55	5	40	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	7
695941P	SOO	2	MARSHALL	New Maine Township	T329	140th Ave NW	Passive	38	55	5	40	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7