


<div></div> <div>RESOLUTION # <u>4-5/25</u></div> <div>TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</div>	<div>ITEM # <u>5-9</u></div> <div>BOARD ACTION</div> <div>Adopted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>For: <u>23</u></div> <div>Against: <u>0</u></div> <div>Abstain: <u>0</u></div> <div>Abs/Excd: <u>5</u></div> <div>Vote Req: <u>1</u></div> <div>Other Action: <u>—</u></div>	<div>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION</div> <div>Adopted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>For: <u>9</u></div> <div>Against: <u>0</u></div> <div>Abstain: <u>0</u></div> <div>Abs/Excd: <u>0</u></div>
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RE: RESOLUTION TO CONTEST THE WISDOT’S PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS, INCLUDING CLOSURE, OF THE EXISTING PUBLIC RAILROAD CROSSINGS AT LIBERTY STREET/ST. CLOUD STREET AND AVON STREET/HAGAR STREET

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2025, the Department of Transportation of the State of Wisconsin (WisDOT) filed a petition with the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) to alter two public at-grade railroad crossings: one at the intersection of Liberty and St. Cloud Streets (Liberty/St. Cloud), and one at the intersection of Avon and Hagar Streets (Avon/Hagar);

WHEREAS, the WisDOT petition requests closure of the Liberty/St. Cloud railroad crossing, which will eliminate roadway through-access at this intersection;

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan encouraged “joint advocacy between county and municipalities regarding infrastructure concerns.” *Strategic Plan*, page 9.

WHEREAS, to date, three City of La Crosse Committees have unanimously passed a similar resolution opposing the railroad crossing closure, advocates within the City are seeking support for the City’s position on the railroad crossing, and the full City Council will vote on May 8, 2025 on the resolution’s passage;

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has an interest in maintaining public access to emergency services, and the lack of an available crossing or a reduction in the number of currently available crossings in this neighborhood would affect response times and efficiency of such services;

WHEREAS, historic closures of platted at-grade railroad crossings have reduced the average density of available at-grade public railroad crossings to one every two miles, substantially hindering public access for the community;

WHEREAS, the proposed location for closure and alteration is located in an area considered to be environmentally burdened and socially vulnerable, and would further contribute to this area’s disenfranchisement;

WHEREAS, the current number of at-grade crossings meets neither federal recommendations for closures (reference Highway-Rail Crossing Handbook 3rd Edition) nor accessibility minimums, and closure of the Liberty/St. Cloud crossing would further distance the City of La Crosse from such standards;

WHEREAS, the closure of the public at-grade railroad crossing would result in traffic redistribution and therefore increase the average daily traffic at the only other available crossing, resulting in an increase in points of conflict at other neighborhood intersections and a permanent increase in the density of vehicle traffic at the remaining at-grade crossing;

WHEREAS, the current configuration allows for alternative access crossing, and a reduction in the number of at-grade railroad crossings would result in only one crossing being available to the public, leaving the entire neighborhood without any available crossing when maintenance or construction is done on the streets adjacent to the crossings;

WHEREAS, Soo Line Railroad petitioned the OCR in 2015 to add an additional track at the same two at-grade railroad crossings, Liberty/St. Cloud and Avon/Hagar, but did not request closure of either at-grade crossing. The written decision acknowledges that these crossings provide the only north-south access for this part of the City. Further, the OCR’s decision included no recommendation for closure and ordered both at-grade crossings to remain open to and be maintained for motor vehicle traffic and ADA compliant pedestrian use. The OCR specified that the Railroad could only close one crossing at a time when performing work, indicating the importance of keeping both crossings open;

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Strategic Plan (“Strategic Plan”) outlined a vision that “La Crosse County’s vibrant local economy and strong public services create the foundation for a healthy, safe and inclusive community.” *La Crosse County Strategic Plan*, page 3.

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan highlighted “Healthy Infrastructure” in which the County would promote “intentional and sustainable infrastructure management ensures comprehensive access and safety.” *Strategic Plan*, page 5.

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan emphasized that “(e)very member belongs and feels connected in our diverse community.” *Strategic Plan*, page 5.

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan promoted strategies that are supported by data driven decision making. *Strategic Plan*, page 9.

WHEREAS, the reduction in number of public at-grade railroad crossings would negatively impact access to neighborhood schools, parks, places of employment, local businesses, and more;

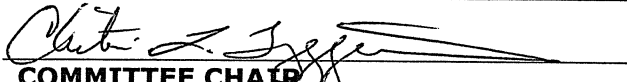
WHEREAS, the request for closure is not reasonable and is detrimental to public safety and convenience.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the La Crosse County Board that La Crosse County hereby opposes the closure of the public railroad crossing at Liberty Street and St. Cloud Street.

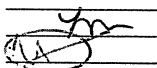
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED for all the reasons identified above that the County Board recommends the public railroad crossing at Liberty Street and St. Cloud Street remain open to motor vehicles and pedestrian access via sidewalks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk shall file this Resolution in the Electronic Records Filing System with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin under Docket ID 9150-RX-638.

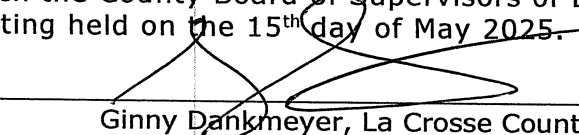
FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal impact

Date: 5/7/25

COMMITTEE CHAIR


RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.				Requested By: Supervisor Pierce
Fin. Director				Date Requested: May 1, 2025
Corp. Counsel				Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Board Chair				

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 15 Day of May, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 15th day of May 2025.

Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk