RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

LOCATION:

CROSSING NO. 2AH-188.80 ON COUNTY ROAD NO. 1211, NORTH OTT ROAD, APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE EAST OF HERMISTON, OREGON

CROSSING NO. 2AH-190.10 ON COUNTY ROAD NO. 1203, CANAL ROAD, APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES EAST OF HERMISTON, OREGON

PARTICIPANTS:

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RAIL DIVISION

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

UMATILLA COUNTY

PUBLIC

STAFFORD HANSELL GOVERNMENT CENTER 915 S. E. COLUMBIA DRIVE HERMISTON, OREGON

MAY 7, 2013

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CROSSING NO. 2AH-188.80 COUNTRY VIN S 1250EP BELLINGER 1218 A ELM Schulz Ln HIGHT LOOP RD EAST 22 Furnish-1198 HIGHLAND E A 234 See Detail Map of City 16 of Hermiston Page 57 1194M 1202 E AIRPORT RD CROSSING NO. 2AH-190.10 22 8/ SP 19 20 HERMISTON FEEDVILLE RD. FEEDVILLE | RD 1000F FEEDVILLE 1000F Pop. 14,120 See detail Map of City of Hermiston Page 58 PACIFIC 29 River ERIDAN Cr. Hinkle YARDS Umatilla Umatilla STANFIELD HERMISTON 1336 STATE GAME FARM : 1332SM (207)STANFIELD

O.D.O.T. CROSSING NO. 2AH-188.80 U. S. D.O.T. NO. 809057R UMATILLA COUNTY ROAD NO. 1211 NORTH OTT ROAD



AT EAST LOOP ROAD NEAR CROSSING LOOKING NORTH ALONG NORTH OTT ROAD

History

North Ott Road (County Road No. 1211) was originally established in 1907 as County Road No. 605. It began at what is now Feedville Road (County Road No. 1000) and ended at East Punkin Center Road (County Road No. 1250). In 1907 the U. P. R. R. Hinkle to Juniper Point track did not exist, though the U. S. R. S. Feed Canal did. The Railroad was deeded the property for their track in this area in 1949 and 1950.

Attached is a 1949 Union Pacific Railroad Map labeled "Exhibit A" showing a proposed vacation of a portion of the existing County Road No. 867 (East Loop Road - highlighted in red) and realignment of the road (highlighted in yellow). At that time Loop Road tied into East Highland near what is now the East Highland/Townsend Road intersection. The new road right of way was deeded to the County by the U. P. R. R. in 1952; the old right of way was vacated in 1953. The North Ott Road crossing is shown on the map as Crossing "B". In the notes on the right side of the map, it says the average daily traffic volume was 8 at this time. A traffic count taken in 2012 shows the volume to be 140 with many of the vehicles being school buses.

Problems With the Crossing and Loop Road/Ott Road Intersection

Traffic moving southwest on Loop Road and turning north (right) onto Ott Road must swing wide left into oncoming eastbound Loop Road traffic and/or encroach into oncoming southbound Ott Road traffic in order to make the turn. Southbound Ott Road traffic wanting to turn east (left) on Loop Road must block the northbound Ott Road lane and/or drive partially off of the pavement on the south side of Loop Road in order to make the turn. Both of these problems are caused by the angle of intersection of the two roads, which is approximately 20 degrees (anything less than 85 degrees is considered substandard).

Once traffic turns from Loop Road onto Ott Road, it faces a downhill grade to the crossing which exceeds 10% for a portion of the distance. In the event of freezing rain and other inclement weather this steep grade could make it difficult to stop at the crossing. It could also tempt traffic moving south on Ott Road to disregard the stop sign at the crossing in order pick up enough speed to make it to Loop Road.

A portion of Ott Road between the crossing and Loop Road is entirely outside of any legal right of way the County has jurisdiction over (highlighted in yellow on the attached survey map); it lies entirely on U. P. R. R. property.

There was one recent accident at the crossing involving a road grader and a train. There have been many accidents at the road intersection over the years due to its poor configuration.

<u>Proposed Remedy</u>

The proposal is to close (barricade) Ott Road at the northerly U. P. R. R. right of way line and construct a cul-de-sac on the east side of the road for turnaround purposes. That portion of Ott Road lying between Loop Road and the northerly railroad right of way line would then be obliterated (see attached drawing and photograph). Advanced warning signs for the closure would be placed along Loop Road east and west of the closure and near the intersection of Ott Road and Hooker Road. Construction of the cul-de-sac would require the acquisition of

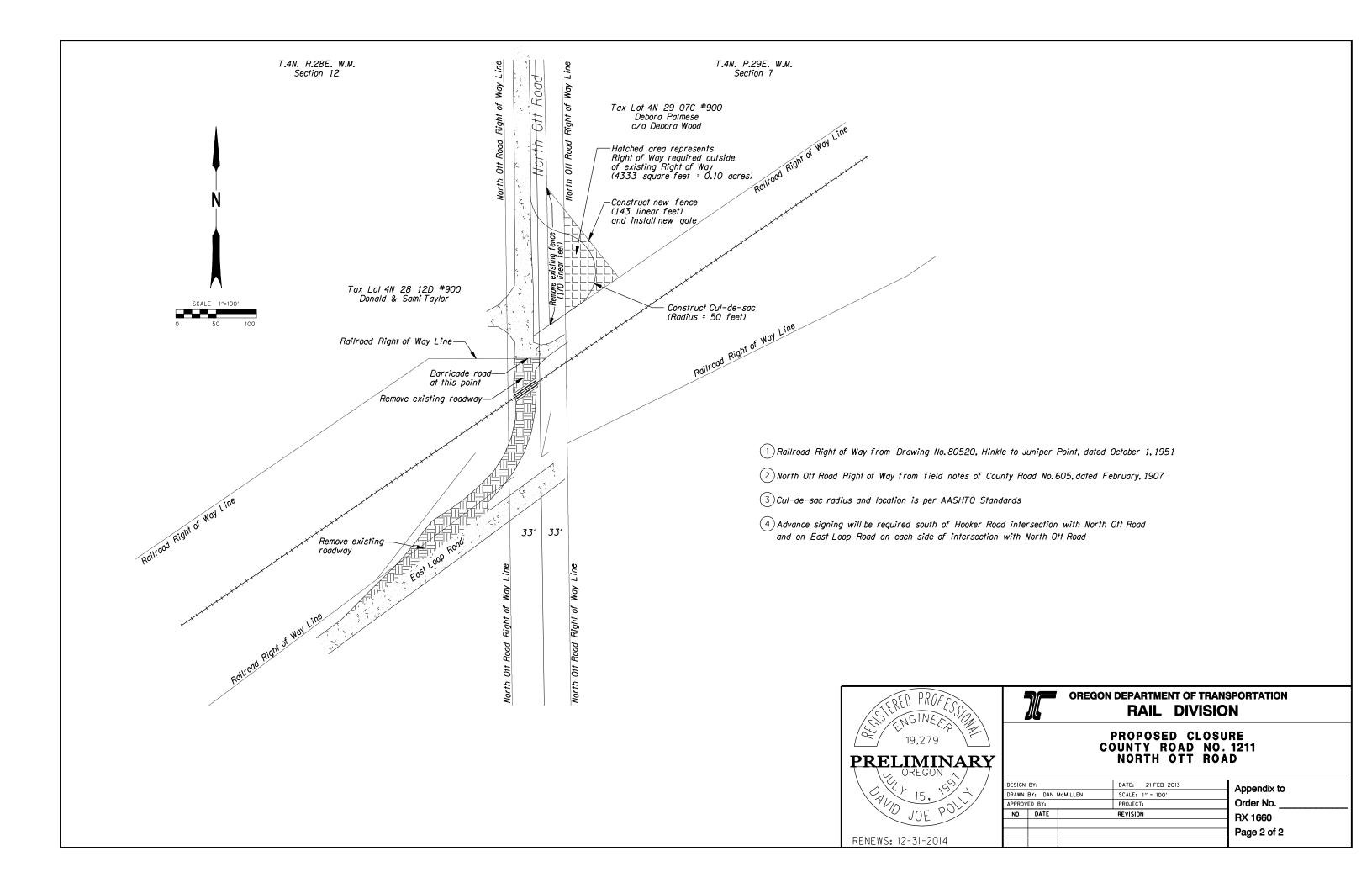
approximately 0.10 acre of right of way from Deborah Palmer, who owns Tax Lot #900 on Map 4N 29 07C. Fences and gates would be rebuilt on the new right of way lines.

Impacts

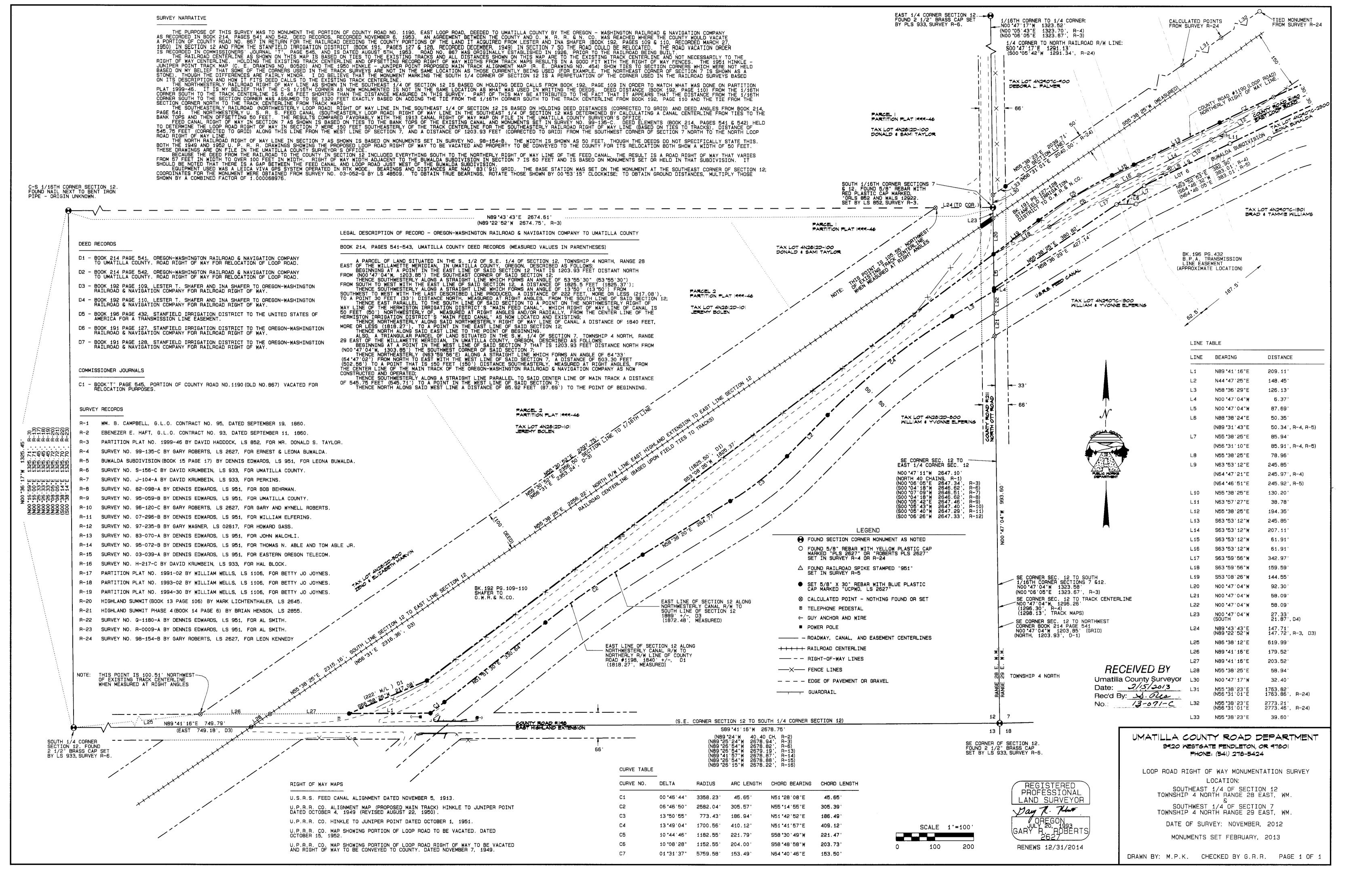
The most positive impact is obviously the improved safety of the traveling public. The most negative impact is that the people who must access Loop Road from Ott Road will now need to use Hooker Road and Townsend Road if headed west or Diagonal Road and Canal Road if headed east. Distance from the railroad crossing west to the Highland Avenue/Townsend Road intersection is currently 0.6 mile; if the road is closed, distance using the above described route will be 2.2 miles. Distance from the crossing east to the Loop Road/Canal Road intersection is currently 1.2 miles; if the road is closed, distance using the above described route will be 3.8 miles.

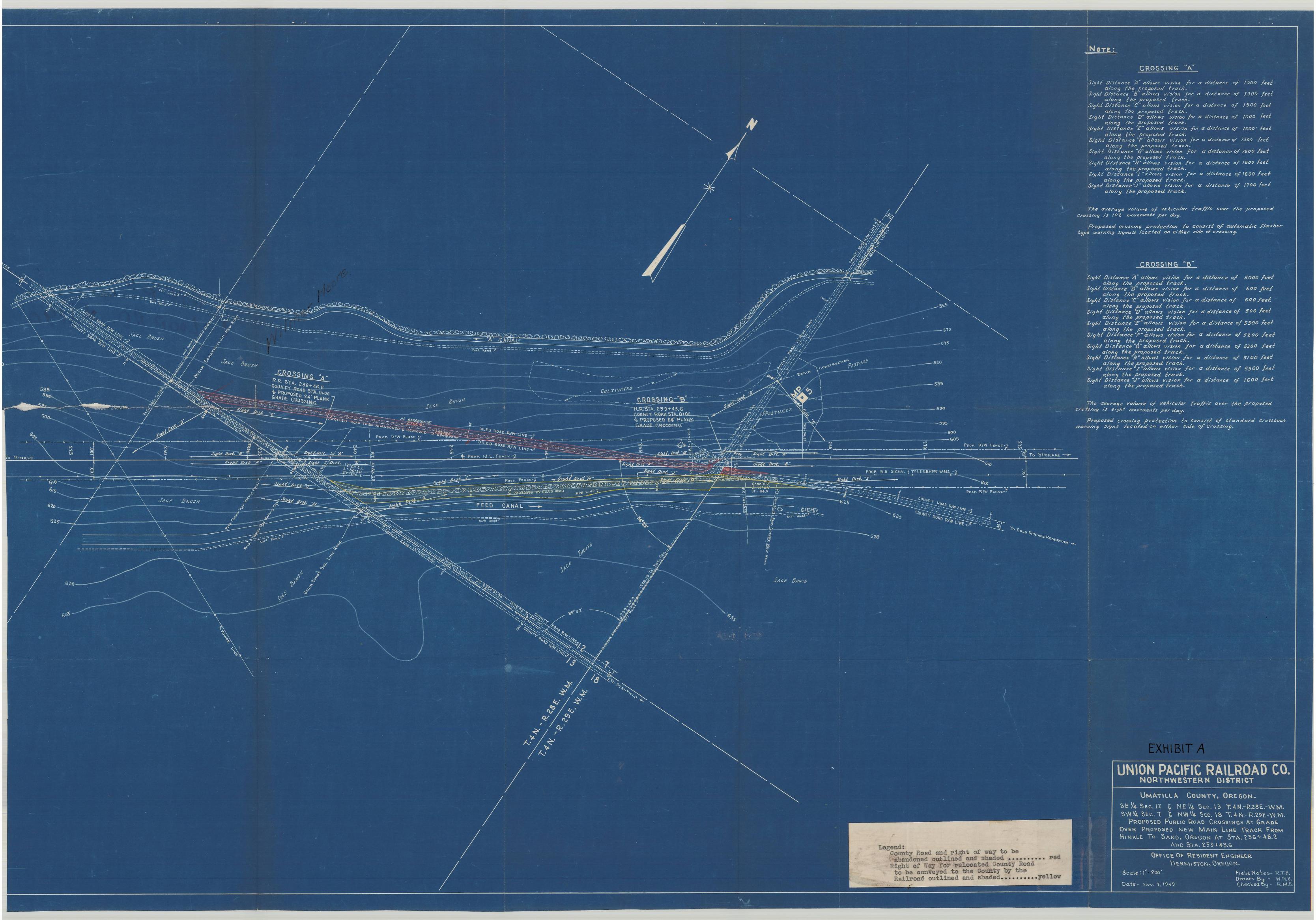
Recommendation

The Public Works Department recommends that the safety improvements be undertaken as described.









O.D.O.T CROSSING NO. 2AH-190.10 U. S. D.O.T. CROSSING NO. 809058X UMATILLA COUNTY ROAD NO. 1203 CANAL ROAD



History

Canal Road (County Road No. 1203) was originally established in 1907 as County Road No. 6065. It began at what is now East Highland Extension (County Road No. 1198) and ended at East Punkin Center Road (County Road No. 1250). In 1907 the U. P. R. R. Hinkle to Juniper Point track did not exist. The Railroad was deeded the property for their track in this area in 1949 and 1950. Their track maps show Canal Road in use at the time.

Problems With the Crossing

Currently the only traffic devices in place are warning signs and stop signs at the tracks. There have been at least two recent accidents at the crossing. One involved a road grader and a train resulting in a fatality. Another involved a potato truck and a train. Many people have been observed ignoring the stop signs, even though sight distance up and down the tracks is poor.

Proposed Remedy

The proposal is to install crossing signals and arms, including guardrail protection and some roadway widening (see attached drawing and photograph). No right of way acquisition will be necessary, as all improvements will be within county road or railroad right of way.

Impacts

The most positive impact is obviously the improved safety of the traveling public. No negative impacts are anticipated.

Recommendation

The Public Works Department recommends that the safety improvements be undertaken as described.

