

Hammond Local Trax Norfolk Southern Railroad Grade Separation Project

Public Hearing | April 26, 2023

60%

impacted by stopped trains at least once per day

83%

somewhat strong or very strong that the City of Hammond needs to address the issue

75%

somewhat or strongly in favor of a new bridge

63%

somewhat or strongly in favor of a new bridge at the New Terrain Alignment location

Survey questions to over 600 residents within the boundary of 165th Street, Kennedy Avenue, Grand Avenue, and I-80/I-94

Need

- Vehicular and pedestrian exposure to trains at at-grade railroad crossings
- Stopped trains blocking numerous at-grade crossings
- Better EMS response times due to stopped trains

Purpose

- Provide reliable transportation access across the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR)
- Improve safety at the at-grade railroad crossings
- Reduce vehicular, pedestrian, and EMS delays as a result of the at-grade railroad crossings in the Hessville area

Stopped Trains and EMS Response Times

City of Hammond Fire Station Study noted that Station 8 needs to service both sides of the railroad crossing.

nearly 20 minutes
current EMS response times from Station 8 with stopped trains

6 minutes
response time with a new overpass

a new overpass will add **5,701 citizens** to the Station 8 response area

Public Involvement Activities To Date

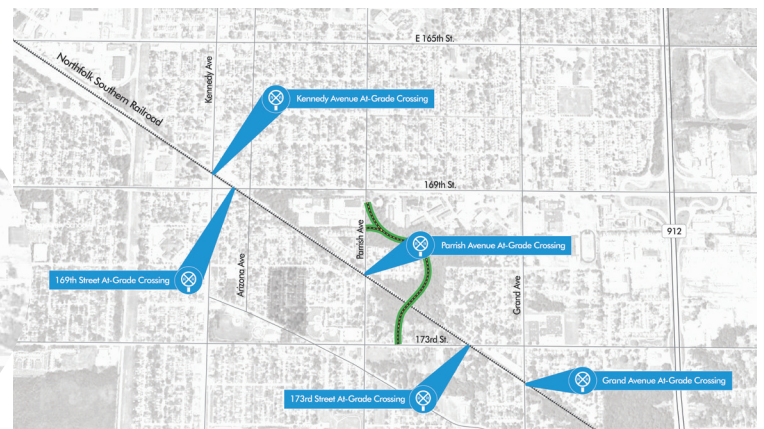
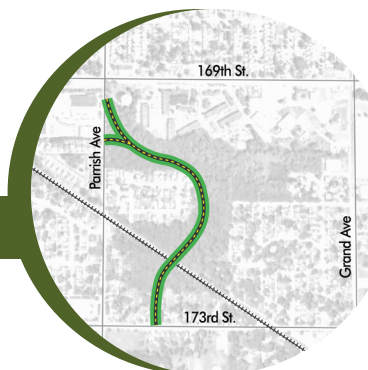
- **Notices of Entry to Property Owners** - April 2019 & Nov. 2021
- **Hammond Mayor's Night Out** - Dec. 8, 2021 & Jan. 4, 2023
- **Neighborhood Survey** - Nov. 2021
- **FHWA Finding No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties or Sites** - Legal notice in Northwest Indiana Times on Jan. 24, 2022
- **Public Hearing Advertisements** - Legal notice mailed to adjacent property owners/other stakeholders, social media posts from INDOT/City of Hammond, legal notice in the Northwest Indiana Times on April 11, 2023, and April 18, 2023
- **Spanish Speaking Outreach** - Legal notice published in Spanish, project handout available in Spanish, Spanish translator available at hearing

Factors When Comparing Alternatives

- Business Impacts
- Residential Impacts
- Visual Impacts
- Construction Costs
- Proximity to EMS and Schools
- Traffic Volumes
- Tree Removal Impacts
- Wetlands Impacts
- Other Sensitive Environmental Impacts

Locations for Consideration

- Kennedy Avenue
- 169th Street
- Parrish Avenue
- Parrish Avenue Underpass
- 173rd Street
- Grand Avenue
- New Terrain Alignment



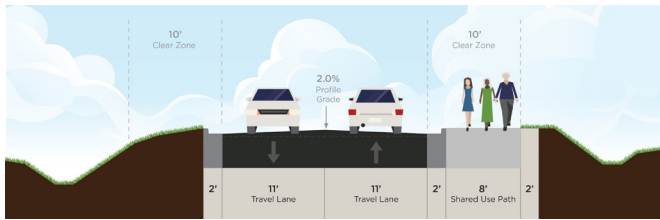
Preferred Alternative Details - New Terrain Alignment



Lowest amount of residential relocations
 Lowest amount of business relocations
 No cemetery impacts
 Limited access impacts to dense residential area
 Median construction costs
 Median proximity to neighborhood public schools
 No negative impacts to wetlands and streams, floodways, and historical properties



Highest amount of impacts to trees



Construction Sequencing

Phase 1

build new terrain portions with minimal impact to traveling public

Phase 2

build new intersection with 173rd Street
 lane shifts needed along 173rd Street

Phase 3

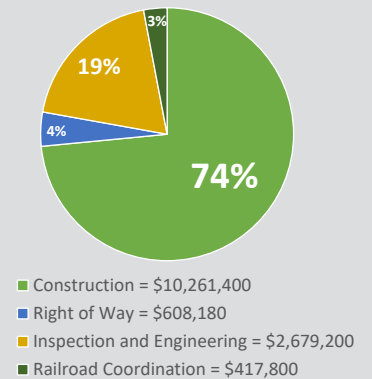
close and detour Parrish Avenue to build tie-in with new Governors Parkway
 detour would use 169th Street to Grand Avenue to 173rd Street

Permanent railroad crossing closures at Parrish Avenue & Arizona Avenue

Mitigation Efforts on Environmental Impact

- Minimize impacts to migratory birds and endangered bats by only removing trees during the winter months
- Mitigate tree losses by contributing \$228,238 in funds for 24 acres of new trees working with the Student Conservation Association/CommuniTree program
- Plant trees in the project limits to provide visual screening
- Participate in Hammond's compensation program to relocate within city limits
- Reverify the presence or absence of wetlands in certain areas of the project at the request of IDEM and others

Project Cost



Submit Your Comment

Deadline: May 26, 2023

Download the public comment form at laporte.indot.in.gov.

You can also view environmental documents, meeting exhibits, presentation, maps, and project plans.



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