



NS Railroad Grade Crossing Safety Upgrade Summit County, City of Macedonia

Project Name (ID Number): NS Railroad Grade Crossing Safety Upgrade, Summit County, City of Macedonia (23605)

Community (County/City): Summit County, City of Macedonia

Project Description: This project will improve grade crossing safety at railroad crossings in the State of Ohio. The communities of Hudson, Macedonia and Northfield Center requested Federal Stimulus Funds to pursue a quiet zone initiative at Twinsburg Road. This project will install state-of-the-art warning devices and median barriers. The ORDC sees this improvement as a valid, warranted safety improvement. The existing warning devices are antiquated and do not reflect current constant warning time technology.

Project Sponsor: Ohio Rail Development Commission

Community Economic Distress Factors: (county jobless rate, annual average income): The median household income for Summit County is \$36,264 per year. The unemployment rate is 5.8%.

Economic Development Potential: Each day more than 74 trains pass through Macedonia, Hudson and Northfield Center on the NS railroad line. Each train can take up to 300 truckloads of freight off local congested highways. That means up to 22,200 truckloads of freight passes through the Twinsburg Rd. NS corridor daily. Any interruption to rail service would have an extremely adverse impact on the local economy. The Twinsburg Rd. crossing has not had a circuitry upgrade for many years. The proposed project will bring the crossing up to FRA standards required for a quiet zone and make the crossing 2.5 times safer than it is at present. Our proposal represents an investment in technology to safe guard the Twinsburg Rd crossing for future rail traffic growth and economic development. Finally, the creation of a quiet zone will have a positive impact on the property values in neighborhoods near the grade crossing.

Jobs to be Created/Retained: This project brings economic stimulus to the community by creating five (5) construction jobs for the duration of the project at \$25-\$35/hour. In addition, this project will require engineering and administrative services from both NS and at the local level.

Multi-modal Connectivity/Innovation Factor: The Twinsburg Rd. quiet zone project is innovative because it was developed in a cooperative effort by 3 communities; Macedonia, Hudson and Northfield Center. Each community provided a share of the funding necessary for the initial stage of the project: preliminary engineering (completed in September 2008). A project budget has been prepared with significantly lower projected costs than similar projects, achieved through the use of an innovative median divider as a supplemental safety measure and upgrading the circuitry without replacing the existing gates.

Work to Begin: Immediately after encumbering of funds, which will be 60 days after availability.

Estimated Completion: 8-12 months

Stimulus Investment: \$168,323

Total Project Cost: \$168,323

Matching Investment: The ORDC supports this local driven project and will assist the communities if necessary to see the project to completion.