



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING  
400 NORTH STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

February 27, 2023

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO OUR FILE  
A-2022-3036924

**Via Eservice and Email Only**  
**TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD**

Application of the Department of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for approval to alter fifteen public at-grade crossings by the installation of new active traffic control devices and new crossing surfaces where various state and local routes cross the track(s) of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad in Coal, Ralpho, Shamokin and Upper Augusta Townships, Snyderstown Borough and the Cities of Sunbury and Shamokin, Northumberland County all in accordance with the Federal Grade Crossing Program and the allocation of costs incident thereto.

To Whom It May Concern:

By application filed with the Commission on November 23, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is seeking Commission approval to alter fifteen (15) public at grade crossings at the following locations in Northumberland County:

a. Where 4th Street, South Awl Street, South 10th Street, Lenker Avenue and Haas Avenue cross the tracks of SEDA-COG, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 735 M), (DOT# 591 734 F), (DOT# 591 733 Y), (DOT# 591 732 S), and (DOT# 591 731 K) in the City of Sunbury.

b. Where Mill Road crosses the tracks of SEDA-COG, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 726 N) in Upper Augusta Township.

c. Where State Route 4005 crosses the tracks of SEDA-COG, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 722 L) in Snyderstown Borough.

d. Where State Routes 2007, 2010, 487 & 2016 cross the tracks of SEDA-COG, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 720 X) (DOT# 534 828 D), DOT# 534 829 K) and (DOT# 534 831L) in Shamokin Township.

e. Where State Route 4012 and Overlook Boulevard cross the tracks of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 908 949 M) and (DOT# 534 834 G) in Ralpho Township.

f. Where Johns Estate Road crosses the tracks of SEDA-COG, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 534 836 V) in Coal Township.

g. Where Shamokin Street crosses the tracks of SEDA-COG, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 848 T) in the City of Shamokin.

The average daily traffic and corresponding municipality for the fifteen (15) crossings are as follows:

Highway	DOT No.	Est. ADT	% Trucks	Municipality
a) 4th Street	591 735M	410	5%	City of Sunbury
b) S. Awl Street	591 734F	410	6%	City of Sunbury
c) S. 10th Street	591 733Y	600	7%	City of Sunbury
d) Lenker Avenue	591 732S	410	3%	City of Sunbury
e) Haas Avenue	591 731K	410	3%	City of Sunbury
f) Mill Road	591 726N	175	3%	Upper Augusta Twp
g) State Route 4005	591 722L	722	5%	Snydertown Borough
h) State Route 2007	591 720X	118	4%	Shamokin Township
i) State Route 2010	534 828D	276	6%	Shamokin Township
j) State Route 487	534 829K	8729	7%	Shamokin Township
k) State Route 2016	534 831L	282	4%	Shamokin Township
l) Overlook Boulevard	534 834G	175	1%	Ralpho Township
m) Johns Estate Road	534 836V	410	1%	Coal Township
n) Shamokin Street	591 848T	410	7%	City of Shamokin
o) State Route 4012	908 949M	842	12%	Ralpho Township

The proposed scope of work for each crossing is as follows:

a) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing asphalt crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where 4th Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 591 735 M) in the City of Sunbury.

b) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices where S. Awl Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 591 734 F) in the City of Sunbury.

c) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices where S. 10th Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 591 733 Y) in the City of Sunbury.

d) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing timber and asphalt crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where Lenker Avenue crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 591 732 S) in the City of Sunbury.

e) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing concrete panel crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where Haas Avenue crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 591 731 K) in the City of Sunbury.

f) Install active warning devices where Mill Road crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT # 591 726 N) in Upper Augusta Township.

g) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing concrete panel crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where State Route 4005 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT # 591 722 L) in Snyderstown Borough.

h) Install active warning devices where State Route 2007 (Short Road) crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 591 720 X) in Shamokin Township.

i) Install active warning devices and replace the existing timber and asphalt crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where State Route 2010 (Shamrock Road) crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 534 828 D) in Shamokin Township.

j) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices where State Route 487 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 534 829 K) in Shamokin Township.

k) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace existing asphalt crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where State Route 2016 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 534 831 L) in Shamokin Township.

l) Install active warning devices where Overlook Boulevard crosses, at-grade, the two tracks of SEDA-COG (DOT# 534 834 G) in Ralpho Township.

m) Install active warning devices and replace the existing asphalt and timber crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where Johns Estate Road crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 534 836 V) in Coal Township.

n) Replace the existing asphalt crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where Shamokin Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG, (DOT# 591 848 T) in the City of Shamokin.

o) Install active warning devices where State Route 4012 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA-COG (DOT# 908 949 M) in Ralpho Township.

Upon receipt of the application, a field investigation and conference was arranged by a Commission staff engineer and held at the site of the crossings on January 23, 2023, and January 26, 2023, with representatives of PennDOT, SEDA-COG, Shamokin Valley Railroad, the City of Sunbury, Upper Augusta Township, Shamokin Township, Ralpho Township, Coal Township and The City of Shamokin in attendance.

At the field conference, it was noted that the subject roads are two (2) lane highways. The subject crossing surfaces consists of a variety of asphalt, full-depth timber or concrete high type surfaces. It was noted that some approach warning signs may be missing at a number of these municipal road crossings. Providing, maintaining and replacing these signs (when lost or stolen) is the responsibility of the party responsible for maintenance of the approach roadway. The Department has offered to provide approach warning signs to the City of Sunbury for the City of Sunbury to install at their subject crossings.

SEDA-COG, at the sole cost and expense of the PennDOT, will be directed to perform the above-mentioned work. PennDOT will be directed to install and maintain stop lines, maintain the approaches to the crossings throughout the entire width of the roadway to provide a smooth and satisfactory transition to the crossing surface, maintain pavement markings; and install and maintain railroad advance warning signs on the listed crossings involving State Routes. The respective municipality in which the non-state route (local) crossings resides in will be directed to install and maintain stop lines, maintain the approaches to the crossings throughout the entire width of the roadway to provide a smooth and satisfactory transition to the crossing surface, maintain pavement markings; and install and maintain railroad advance warning signs. SEDA-COG will be directed to maintain its facilities at the crossings and maintain the crossing surfaces in a smooth and satisfactory condition.

The parties in attendance at the field conference have agreed that the alteration of the grade crossing could be carried out as proposed and no objections were raised. PennDOT has served a copy of the current application to all parties in interest. None of the parties in interest have responded with any objection to the subject application.

The Commission has exclusive jurisdiction in crossing alterations and is the final arbiter of any fees associated with a crossing application. Any conditions, including fees associated with a crossing application, must be approved by the Commission.

The Commission hereby establishes its jurisdictional limits at the subject crossings as the area within the confines of the railroad right-of-way and the highway right-of-way.

The project will be 100% funded from Federal Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program disbursed through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The estimated total cost for this alteration is \$4,700,000.

SEDA-COG will prepare a situation plan and circuitry plan for the project. PennDOT and the Commission will receive a copy of the circuitry for review and approval. All parties of record will receive a copy of the situation plan for review and for the Commission to review and approve.

Any non-carrier public utility companies affected by this improvement project will be directed to initially bear the cost for any alteration or relocation of their facilities. Our Secretarial Letter will provide the non-carrier public utility companies with the opportunity to determine at a later date whether they will seek reimbursement for their project costs and if a hearing is needed to resolve any remaining issues.

Upon full consideration of the matters involved and inasmuch as none of the parties offered any objection to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation proposed project, we find that a Secretarial Letter can be issued approving the application without a formal hearing.

The Commission issues this Secretarial Letter in accordance with Section 2702 of the Public Utility Code and finds that the alteration of the crossings is necessary and proper for the service, accommodation, convenience and safety of the public.

The application of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is approved as herein directed:

1. The caption of the subject proceeding is hereby revised as shown herein.
2. The fifteen (15) public crossings where various state and local routes cross the track(s) of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad in Coal, Ralpho, Shamokin, and Upper Augusta Townships, Snyderstown Borough, and the Cities of Sunbury and Shamokin, Northumberland County be altered as follows:

a) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing asphalt crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where 4th Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 735 M).

b) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices where S. Awl Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 734 F).

c) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices where S. 10th Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 733Y).

d) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing timber and asphalt crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where Lenker Avenue crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 732 S).

e) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing concrete panel crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where Haas Avenue crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT # 591 731 K).

f) Install active warning devices where Mill Road crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 726 N).

g) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing concrete panel crossing surface with a new concrete tub surface where State Route 4005 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 722 L).

h) Install active warning devices where State Route 2007 (Short Road) crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 591 720 X).

i) Install active warning devices and replace the existing timber and asphalt crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where State Route 2010 (Shamrock Road) crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad at segment 0090 offset 1953 DOT# 534 828 D.

j) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices where State Route 487 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 534 829 K).

k) Replace the existing antiquated active warning devices with new active warning devices and replace the existing asphalt crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where State Route 2016 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad (DOT# 534 831 L ).

l) Install active warning devices where Overlook Boulevard crosses, at-grade, the two tracks of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad DOT# 534 834 G in Ralpho Township.

m) Install active warning devices and replace existing asphalt and timber crossing surface with a new, full depth, timber crossing surface where Johns Estate Road crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad. DOT # 534 836 V in Coal Township.

n) Replace existing asphalt crossing surface with new concrete tub surface where Shamokin Street crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad DOT# 591 848 T in the City of Shamokin.

o) Install active warning devices where State Route 4012 crosses, at-grade, the single track of SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, Operated by Shamokin Valley Railroad at segment 0250 offset 1013 DOT# 908 949 M in Ralpho Township.

3. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's sole cost and expense and prior to the start of construction, submit to all parties of record for review and to this Commission for review and approval, the situation plans for the subject crossings.

4. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's sole cost and expense and prior to the start of construction, submit to this Commission for review and approval, the circuitry plans for the subject crossings.

5. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary to alter the subject crossings by the installation of the following items listed in Paragraph 2 of this letter in accordance with Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter.

6. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary to establish and maintain any traffic control that may be necessary to properly and safely accommodate vehicular, pedestrian and railroad traffic during the time the crossings are being altered.

7. Shamokin Valley Railroad, at its initial cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work relating to its facilities which may be required as incidental to the performance of the proposed work and furnish any watchmen, flagmen, inspectors and/or engineering services that may be deemed necessary to protect the railroad's operations or facilities during the time the facilities are being installed.

8. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least seven (7) days prior to the start of work, notify all parties in interest of the actual date on which work will begin.

9. All work necessary to complete this construction shall be done in a manner satisfactory to this Commission on or before December 31, 2024, and that on or before said date, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation report in writing to the Commission the date of actual completion of the work.

10. Any relocation of, changes in and/or removal of any adjacent structures, equipment or any other facilities of any public utility other than SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, located within the limits of the highway, within the Commission's jurisdiction, be made by said public utility at its initial cost and expense, and in such a manner as will not interfere with the construction of the improvement, and said relocated or altered facilities thereafter be maintained by said public utility, at its sole cost and expense.

11. All parties involved herein cooperate fully with each other so that during the time the work is being performed vehicular, pedestrian and railroad traffic will not be endangered or unnecessarily inconvenienced and said requirements of each of the parties will be provided for and accommodated insofar as possible.

12. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of work, notify all parties in interest of the actual date on which work will begin.

13. SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, pay all compensation for damages, if any, due to owners of property taken, injured or destroyed by reason of the construction of the improvement in accordance with this letter.

14. All costs which are to be reimbursed by the Department of Transportation consistent with this Secretarial Letter, shall be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of 23 CFR Parts 140 and 646. The aforesaid Federal reimbursement shall not supersede, delay or, in any manner, postpone the effect of any paragraph contained in this or any related Secretarial Letter or Order.

15. Upon completion of construction, SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain its railroad facilities at the subject crossings, including the warning devices and all appurtenant equipment and to maintain at all times in a smooth and satisfactory condition, the railroad crossing surface to the edge of high type concrete surfaces for subject crossings with high type surfaces, to the outer edge of full depth timber for crossings with full depth timber, or to a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the outermost rails for subject crossings with timber and asphalt surfaces, all in accordance with Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the respective municipality in which the crossing resides in at least ten (10) business days advance notice when performing any work that may affect their facilities as directed by this paragraph (contact Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for crossings involving State Routes and the respective municipality in which the crossing resides in for the local crossings).

16. Upon completion of the alteration of the subject crossings, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossings, up to the high-type concrete surface for subject crossings with high type surfaces, to the outer edge of full depth timber for crossings with full depth timber, or to a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the outermost rails for subject crossings with timber and asphalt surfaces, maintain all highway-rail grade crossing advance warning signs, and in addition, install and maintain stop lines, advance warning signs and pavement markings, as required, on the approaches thereto all in accordance with Part 8 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least ten (10) days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph applicable to the following crossings: DOT 591 722 L (SR 4005), DOT 591 720 X (State Route 2007), DOT 534 828 D (State Route 2010), DOT 534 829 K (State Route 487), DOT 989 949 M (State Route 4012) and DOT 534 831 L (State Route 2016).

17. Upon completion of the alteration of the subject crossings, the City of Sunbury, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing, up to the high-type concrete surface for subject crossings with high type surfaces, to the outer edge of full depth timber for crossings with full depth timber, or to a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the outermost rails for subject crossings with timber and asphalt surfaces, maintain all highway-rail grade crossing advance warning signs, and in addition, install and maintain stop lines, advance warning signs and pavement markings, as required, on the approaches thereto all in accordance with Part 8 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least ten (10) days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph applicable to the following crossings: DOT 591 735 M (4th Street), DOT 591 734 F (South Awl Street), DOT 591 733Y (South 10th Street), DOT 591 732 S (Lenker Avenue) and DOT 591 731K (Haas Avenue).

18 Upon completion of the alteration of the subject crossings, Upper Augusta Township, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing, to a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the outermost rails, maintain all highway-rail grade crossing advance warning signs, and in addition, install and maintain stop lines, advance warning signs and pavement markings, as required, on the approaches thereto all in accordance with Part 8 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least ten (10) days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph applicable to the following crossing: DOT 591 726 N (Mill Road).

19. Upon completion of the alteration of the subject crossings, Ralpho Township, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing, up to a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the outermost rails, maintain all highway-rail grade crossing advance warning signs, and in addition, install and maintain stop lines, advance warning signs and pavement markings, as required, on the approaches thereto all in accordance with Part 8 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least ten (10) days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph applicable to the following crossing: DOT 534 834G (Overlook Boulevard).

20. Upon completion of the alteration of the subject crossings, Coal Township, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing, to the edge of the full depth timber crossing surface, maintain all highway-rail grade crossing advance warning signs, and in addition, install and maintain stop lines, advance warning signs and pavement markings, as required, on the approaches thereto all in accordance with Part 8 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least ten (10) days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph applicable to the following crossing: DOT 534 836 V (Johns Estate Road).

21. Upon completion of the alteration of the subject crossings, the City of Shamokin, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing, up to the high-type concrete surface, maintain all highway-rail grade crossing advance warning signs, and in addition, install and maintain stop lines, advance warning signs and pavement markings, as required, on the approaches thereto all in accordance with Part 8 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, at least ten (10) days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph applicable to the following crossing: DOT 591 848 T (Shamokin Street).

22. Upon completion of the work herein directed, and upon written request from any party of record, this proceeding be scheduled for a hearing at a time and place to be determined by the Commission, for the purpose of taking testimony upon the final allocation of any remaining costs incurred by the non-carrier utility companies and other matters relevant to this proceeding.

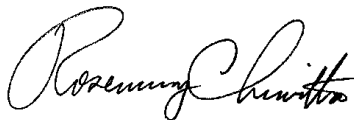
The Parties are reminded that failure to comply with this or any Order or Secretarial Letter in this proceeding may result in an enforcement action seeking civil penalties and/or other sanctions pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 3301.

The Commission has waived certain regulatory service provisions as directed by the Commission's Order at M-2021-3028321. Currently, while the Commission's physical facilities are open for business, some of the operational restraints occasioned by the pandemic remain. It is evident that the pandemic and its changing nature require certain procedural flexibility for the public, the regulated community, and the Commission. Toward this end, the Commission will continue to permit electronic service by the Commission on all parties, regardless of whether a particular party has agreed to electronic service. An exception to this general waiver is where the Public Utility Code requires service by specified means, e.g., Section 702. Additionally, service on Commission staff in proceedings pending before it, whether staff is a party or otherwise, shall be exclusively electronic unless the parties agree otherwise. Filings must be submitted by e-filing with the Secretary of the Commission by opening an e-filing account through the Commission's website and accepting eservice at <https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/efiling/>. If your filing contains confidential material, you are required to file by overnight delivery to ensure the timely filing of your submission.

If you are dissatisfied with the resolution of this matter, you may, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.31 and 5.44, file a Petition for Reconsideration from Staff Action (Petition) with the Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this letter. The Petition shall be submitted by e-filing said petition within twenty (20) days, or if no timely request is made, the action will be deemed to be a final action of the Commission.

The Petition MUST include: (1) a written statement (divided into numbered paragraphs) outlining the reasons for the request; (2) the case docket number (it is provided for you at the top right-hand corner of this letter); (3) the party on whose behalf the petition is made; (4) a Certificate of Service on the other parties of record; and (5) a Verification with original signature in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.36.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rosemary Chiavetta".

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary