



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

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

January 9, 2026

A-2025-3057388

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD

Application of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for approval to alter the public crossing (DOT 869 979 V) by replacing the existing warning devices, adding gates, and installing a new high-type crossing surface where State Route 0051 (Constitution Boulevard) crosses, at grade, a single track of Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad in Darlington Township, Beaver County; all in accordance with the Federal Grade Crossing Program and the allocation of costs incident thereto.

To Whom It May Concern:

This matter is before us, by reason of an application filed on September 10, 2025, by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Department) seeking Commission approval to alter the public crossing (DOT 869 979 V) where State Route 0051 (Constitution Boulevard) crosses, at grade, a single track of Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad (YSRR) in Darlington Township, Beaver County; all in accordance with the Federal Grade Crossing Program and the allocation of costs incident thereto.

Upon receipt of the application, a field investigation and conference was arranged by a Commission staff engineer and held on November 6, 2025, at the site of the crossing. Representatives of the Department, YSRR, CDL-Electric, First Energy/West Penn Power, Darlington Township and Beaver County were in attendance. Peoples Natural Gas Company, Windstream, Columbia Gas of PA, Inc., Comcast and Verizon Communications were notified of the time and place of the meeting but did not attend.

At the field conference, it was noted that State Route 0051 (Constitution Boulevard) is a bidirectional four-lane divided concrete roadway with concrete shoulders and a grass median posted with a 55-mile per hour speed limit with no sidewalks. The subject crossing is posted as exempt. The subject crossing is equipped with manually operated cantilevered flashing-light warning signals with a pair of flashing-lights over the left and right travel lanes, a pair of flashing-lights on the post facing the right travel lane in each direction with additional lights on each cantilever facing the opposite direction nearest to the opposing travel lane, an exempt sign (R15-3P) and a bell. The approach roadways to the crossing have advance grade crossing warning signs (W10-1), advance warning exempt signs (W10-1aP), pavement markings and stop lines. The existing crossing consists of a concrete panel crossing surface in fair condition.

The YSRR stated that only two trains per year use this crossing. When they do utilize this crossing, the railroad operates with stop and flag procedures. The train comes to a stop before attempting to cross the roadway and the train crew activates the railroad flashing-light warning signals. Railroad personnel stop and flag traffic, and then the train proceeds across the subject crossing.

At the field conference, the Department described the proposed work. YSRR, at the Department's sole cost and expense, will (1) upgrade the two existing cantilevers with automatically operated 12-inch diameter LED flashing-light warning signals, (2) install new circuitry, (3) install new gates and bells, (4) install new pre-wired signal cabinet and equipment, (5) maintain the "EXEMPT" plaques (R-15-3P) on the cantilever mast under the crossbuck on both highway approaches; (6) remove the existing concrete panel crossing surface, (7) install a new asphalt and rail seal crossing surface for the full width of the roadway and shoulders providing a smooth transition; and (8) furnish all material and do all work necessary to establish and maintain any detours or traffic controls at the subject crossing that may be required to properly and safely accommodate highway and pedestrian traffic during the time the crossing is being altered.

YSRR agreed to maintain its warning facilities at the subject crossing including the automatically operated cantilevered flashing-light warning signals, gates and bells, and all appurtenant equipment, and to maintain at all times in a smooth and satisfactory condition the asphalt and rail seal crossing surface including the paving between the rails and for a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the outermost rails. YSRR agreed to continue to operate their trains at the subject crossing using stop and flag procedures. YSRR will stop their train on the approach to the subject crossing, wait for full activation of the railroad flashing-light warning signals and gates, then use stop and flag procedures to advance the train across the subject crossing.

The Department agreed to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing to points twenty-four (24) inches beyond each outside rail and, in addition, maintain the grade crossing advance warning signs (W10-1), advance warning exempt signs (W10-1aP), pavement markings and stop lines on the approaches thereto.

On November 17, 2025, the Department submitted to all parties of record, situation and circuitry plans entitled "YOUNGSTOWN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD – YSRR - DOT # 869 997 V GPS: 40.803820, -80.444050 MILEPOST# 34.30," consisting of thirteen (13) sheets. The Department provided a letter stating that a copy of the plans were served on the parties listed in the Certificate of Service to the Application by electronic mail. None of the parties have advised this Commission that it objects to approval of the situation and circuitry plans.

The Commission hereby establishes its jurisdiction limits at the subject crossing as the area within the confines of the railroad right-of-way and the highway right-of-way along State Route 0051 (Constitution Boulevard).

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 Department will provide funding through the Federal Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program with an estimated project cost of \$470,541.00.

Upon full consideration of the matters involved and inasmuch as no objection has been filed with the Commission, we find that a Secretarial Letter can be issued approving the application without 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 subject crossing is necessary and proper for the service, accommodation, convenience or safety of the public.

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

1. The caption of the subject proceeding is hereby revised as shown herein.
2. The public crossing (DOT 869 979 V) where State Route 0051 (Constitution Boulevard) crosses, at grade, a single track of Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad in Darlington Township, Beaver County, be altered as herein directed.
3. All work is to be performed in accordance with the situation and circuitry plans entitled "YOUNGSTOWN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD – YSRR -DOT # 869 997 V GPS: 40.803820, -80.444050 MILEPOST# 34.30," consisting of thirteen (13) sheets, filed with the Commission on November 17, 2025; which plans are made part hereof and are hereby approved except insofar as they may relate to the division of work, deletion of work, or the allocation of costs and expenses incident to the installation of the project.
4. Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad, at the sole cost and expense of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, furnish all material and perform all work necessary to alter the subject crossing by (1) upgrading the two existing cantilevers with automatically operated 12-inch diameter LED flashing-light warning signals, (2) installing new circuitry, (3) installing new gates and bells, (4) installing new pre-wired signal cabinet and equipment, all in accordance with the approved plans, Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter.
5. Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad, at its initial cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary to alter the subject crossing by removing the existing concrete panel crossing surface and installing a new rail seal and asphalt crossing surface for the full width of the roadway and shoulders and providing a smooth and satisfactory transition; all in accordance with the roadway construction specifications of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the approved plan and this Secretarial Letter.

6. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will reimburse Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad up to 20% of the total costs of the project toward construction of the new crossing surface in accordance with Paragraph Number 5 of this Secretarial Letter. Those total project costs, excluding the crossing surface work, include all design, construction (materials and labor), construction inspection and traffic control necessary for the installation of the warning devices.

7. Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad, at the sole cost and expense of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, furnish all material and do all work necessary to establish and maintain any detours or traffic controls at the subject crossing that may be required to properly and safely accommodate highway and pedestrian traffic during the time the crossing is being altered.

8. Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad, at the sole cost and expense of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, furnish all material and perform all work necessary to 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.

9. Any relocation of, changes in and/or removal of any adjacent structures, equipment or other facilities of any non-carrier public utility company or municipal authority located within the limits of the Commission's jurisdiction, which may be required as incidental to the execution of the proposed project, be made by said public utility or municipal authority, at its initial cost and expense and in such manner as will not interfere with construction of the project and such relocated or altered facilities thereafter be maintained by said public utility or municipal authority at its sole cost and expense.

10. Any relocation of, changes in and/or removal of any adjacent structures, equipment or other facilities of any non-carrier public utility company or municipal authority located in private right-of-way within the limits of the Commission's jurisdiction, which may be required as incidental to the execution of the crossing project, be made by said public utility or municipal authority and in such manner as will not interfere with the project and such relocated or altered facilities thereafter be maintained by said public utility or municipal authority 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 so that the requirements of each of the parties will be provided for and accommodated insofar as possible.

12. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notify all parties of record at least ten (10) days prior to performing any work in accordance with this Secretarial Letter.

13. All work necessary to complete the alteration of the subject crossing be done in a manner satisfactory to this Commission on or before December 31, 2027, and that on or before said date, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation report the date of actual completion of the work.

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 C.F.R. 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. Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad, pay all compensation for damages due to the owners of any property taken, injured or destroyed by reason of the alteration of the subject crossing for any work they perform in accordance with this Secretarial Letter.

16. This Secretarial Letter is without prejudice to the right of any party to recover all or part of any costs incurred by said party in compliance with the provisions of this Secretarial Letter, in accordance with any lawful agreement between it and any other party.

17. Youngstown & Southeastern Railroad Company, Inc. and/or any railroad utilizing the subject line, provide that each and every movement of each locomotive, car or train across the track at the subject crossing be properly attached to and propelled or retarded by a locomotive, and that a member of the railroad equipped with a red flag during daylight hours and a lighted fusee during the hours of darkness, be positioned on the ground each and every movement of each locomotive, car or train across the highway at the crossing, to properly warn the traveling public of the approach of such locomotive, car or train.

18. Upon completion of construction of the project, Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary thereafter to maintain its railroad facilities at the crossing, including the automatically operated cantilevered LED flashing-light warning signals, gates, bells, exempt signs (R15-3P), signal cabinet and equipment, and maintain at all times in a smooth and satisfactory condition the railroad crossing surface located between the rails and for a distance of twenty-four (24) inches beyond the rails; and provide Darlington Township and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at least ten (10) business days advance notice when performing any work that may affect their facilities, as directed by this paragraph; all in accordance with Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the approved plans and this Secretarial Letter.

19. Upon completion of construction of the project, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and do all work necessary to maintain the highway approaches to the subject crossing to points twenty-four (24) inches beyond each outside rail and, in addition, maintain the grade crossing advance warning signs (W10-1), advance warning exempt signs (W10-1aP), pavement markings and stop lines on the approaches thereto, and provide Darlington Township and the Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad at least ten (10) business days advance notice when performing any work that may affect their facilities, as directed by this paragraph, all in accordance with Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter.

20. Upon completion of the construction of the proposed project, each non-carrier public utility company and municipal authority, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary thereafter to maintain its respective facilities, existing or altered, located within the limits of the improvement.

21. 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 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.

All formal documents must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission. Documents must be eFiled, mailed or hand delivered. All filings should be addressed to the Secretary, PA Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120. The Commission will not accept documents delivered by fax or by e-mail. Parties are encouraged to file formal documents by eFiling with the Secretary of the Commission by opening an eFiling account through the Commission's website (the account is free of charge) 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. There are certain filings that cannot be eFiled, such as filings containing confidential or proprietary material. These must be submitted to the Secretary by overnight delivery, priority or certified mail to allow tracking of your filing.

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 eFiled with the Secretary of the Commission or sent to: Secretary, PA Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and must be filed 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.

Sincerely,



Matthew L. Homsher
Secretary