

# Successful Safety Corridors that Result in Quiet Zones

Ohio Rail Development Commission



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# Overview

- \* What is a Quiet Zone?
  - \* A series of railroad grade crossing at which trains are prohibited from sounding their horns (unless it is an emergency or there is an obstruction)
  - \* Decreases noise levels for nearby communities
  - \* Increased safety measures compensate for absence of the horns



**MIND THE QUIET**



# Implementation Process

The public authority must provide a Notice of Intent to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) before submitting an application for FRA approval of a quiet zone





# ORDC's involvement

## How to engage with ORDC

- \* Close redundant crossings
- \* Share in cost for warning devices
- \* Obtain congressional Set-Aside

## Partnerships on safety improvements

- \* Springfield
- \* North Ridgeville
- \* Vermilion



# Supplemental Safety Measures

- \* Non-traversable curb with median barriers
- \* Constant Warning Time
- \* Power off indicator (POI)
- \* Wayside Horn System
  - \* stimulates the sound and pattern of a train horn
  - \* directed at oncoming motorists rather than widely broadcast

# Case Studies

Springfield :: North Ridgeville :: Vermilion



# Springfield

## Funding sources:

- \* Federal
- \* Norfolk Southern Corporation
- \* City of Springfield
- \* MPO

## Agreements:

- \* City Manager authorized to enter into grant agreement with:
  - \* The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC)
  - \* Norfolk Southern Corporation
  - \* The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

## Actual work:

- \* 23 total crossings
  - \* 5 crossings closures
  - \* 12 crossings equipped with wayside horns and other supplemental safety measures
  - \* 4 crossings with for 4-quadrant gate systems
  - \* 2 crossings with 2-quadrant gates with supplemental safety measures
  - \* All crossings have constant warning time circuitry

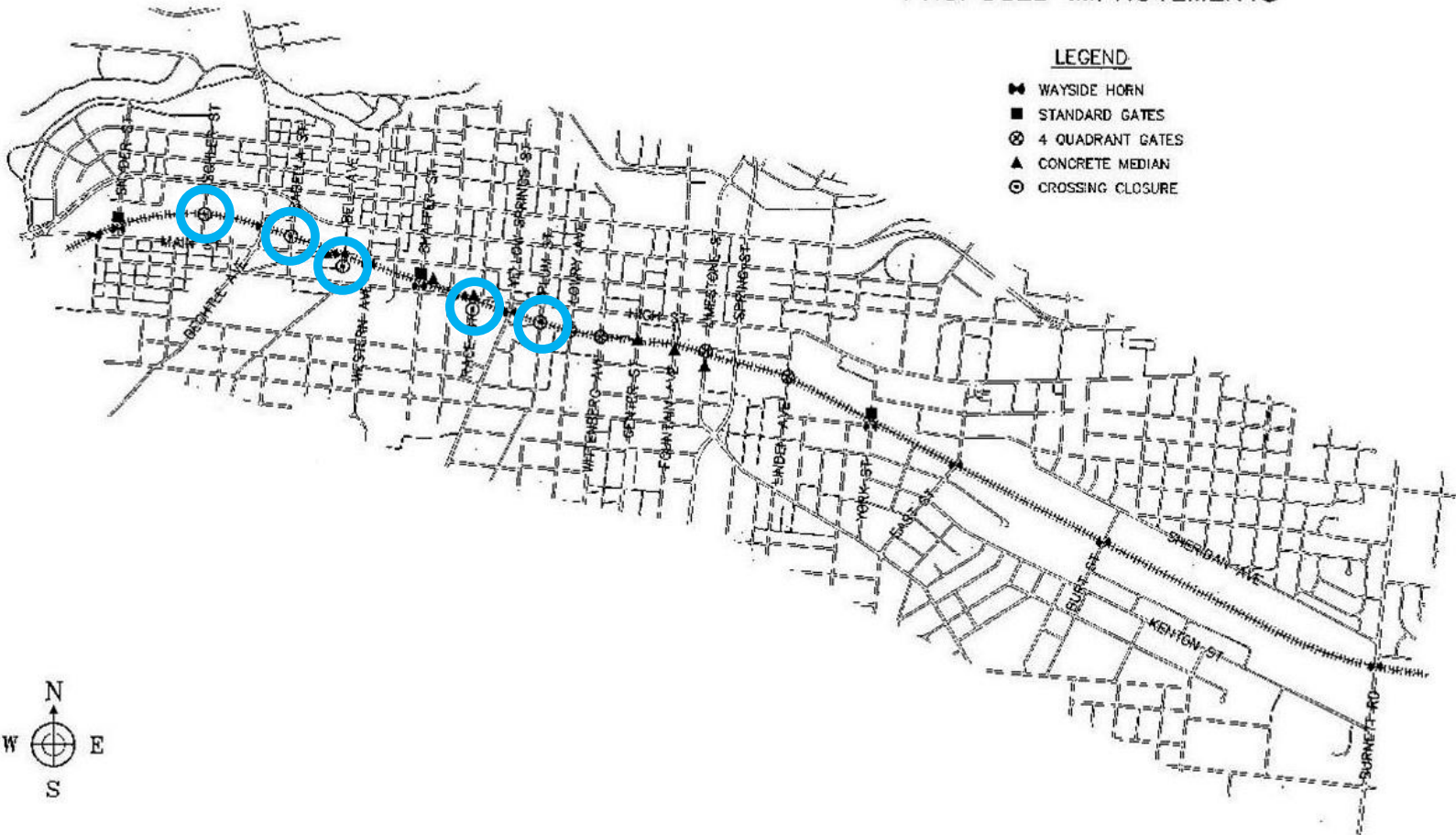


# Springfield Crossings Closures

## RAILROAD CORRIDOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

### LEGEND

- ◆ WAYSIDE HORN
- STANDARD GATES
- ⊗ 4 QUADRANT GATES
- ▲ CONCRETE MEDIAN
- ⊙ CROSSING CLOSURE





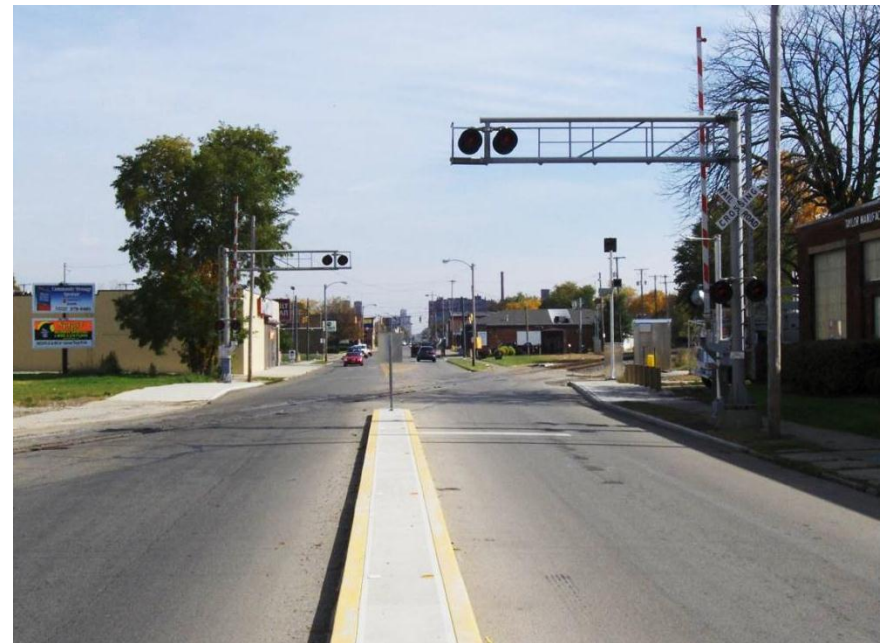
# Completed Springfield Corridor

Granted a Quiet Zone July 2009

Fountain Avenue DOT 523 485T



W. Main Street DOT 523 501A





# North Ridgeville

## **Funding sources:** approx. \$2.5 million

- \* \$800,000 (32.35%): federal stimulus
- \* \$800,000 (32.35%): Congressional Set-Aside
- \* \$500,000 (20.20%): ORDC
- \* \$200,000 (8.10%): City of North Ridgeville
- \* \$173,500 (7.00%): Norfolk Southern Corporation

## **Agreements:**

- \* City Council authorized mayor to enter into an agreement with:
  - \* ORDC
  - \* Norfolk Southern Corporation
  - \* ODOT
  - \* PUCO

## **Actual work:**

- \* City's responsibilities
  - \* Roadway improvements, street markings, and signage at each of the four crossings
  - \* Installation of vehicle detection systems and signaling device for train crews
  - \* Apply to the FRA for official quiet zone designation
- \* Norfolk Southern responsible for any work inside the railroad's right-of-way
  - \* Engineering work
  - \* Circuitry upgrades



# North Ridgeville: Current Status

- \* Railroad warning device preliminary engineering (PE) is completed
- \* City's bid process for roadway and vehicle detection systems is completed
- \* ORDC to authorize railroad construction October, 2011
- \* Construction will take place 2012



# Vermilion

**Funding sources:** approx. \$1.5 million

- \* Congressional Set-Aside
- \* ORDC
- \* City of Vermilion
- \* Norfolk Southern Corporation

## **Agreements:**

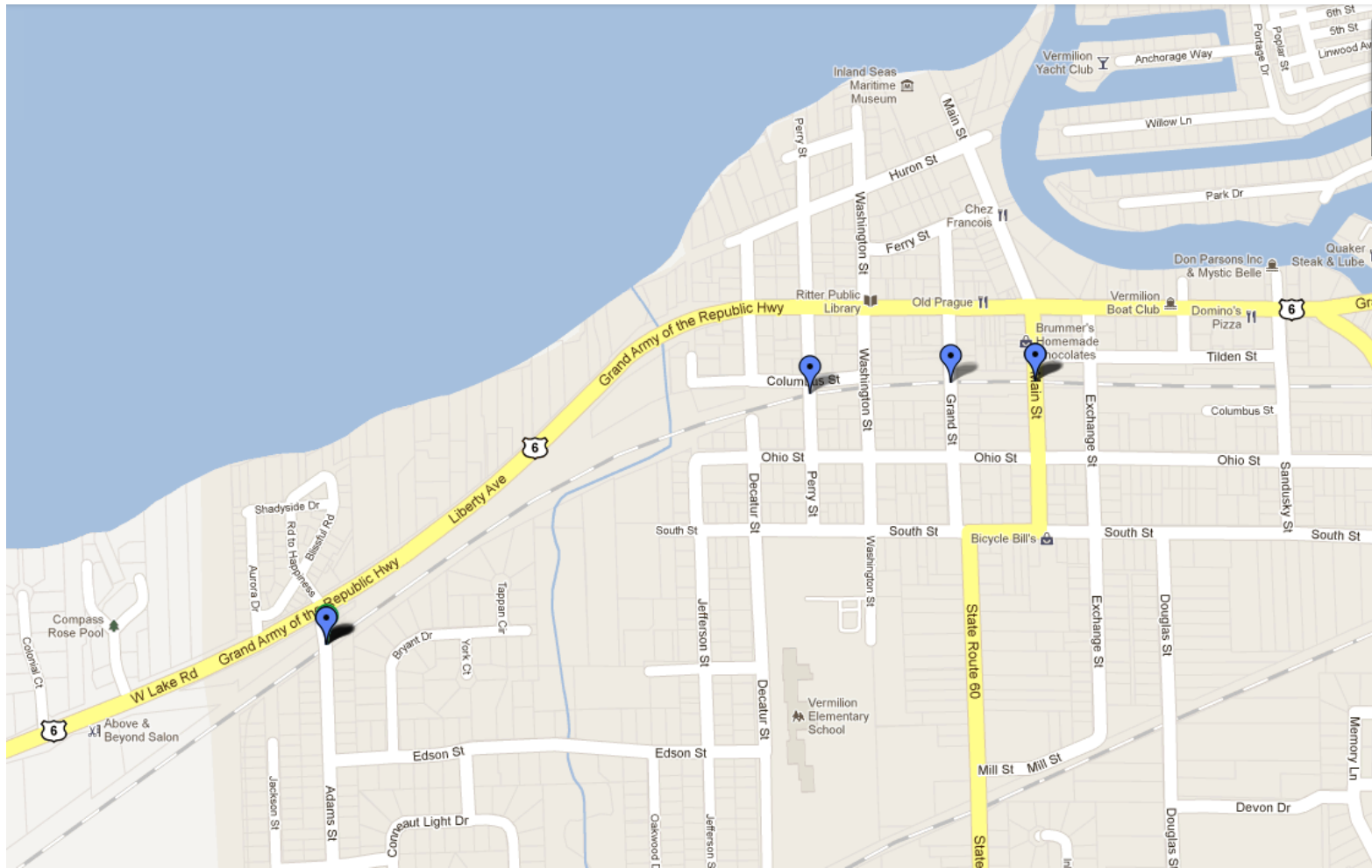
- \* City Council authorized mayor to enter into an agreement with:
  - \* ORDC
  - \* Norfolk Southern Corporation
  - \* ODOT
  - \* PUCO

## **Actual work:**

- \* Two four-quadrant gate installations including vehicle detection systems
- \* One standard light & gate installation with median barriers



# Vermilion





# Vermilion: Current Status

- \* NS warning device installations are completed
- \* Roadway improvements completed
- \* Vehicle detection systems to be installed October, 2011
- \* City to file Quiet Zone Notice Of Intent November, 2011



# If your Community is interested...

- \* Determine corridor of interest
- \* Obtain current ADT for all crossings
- \* Contact ORDC for assistance
  - \* Communication with railroad
  - \* Identification of potential closures (critical)
  - \* Project negotiation



# Contact



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