



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

December 31, 2014

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Chair
House Transportation Finance Committee
471 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Linda Runbeck, GOP Lead
House Transportation Policy Committee
295 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Michael Beard, GOP Lead
House Transportation Finance Committee
207 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee
111 Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Ron Erhardt, Chair
House Transportation Policy Committee
543 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John C. Pederson
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee
27 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Study on Grade Crossing and Rail Safety for Oil and other Hazardous Materials

Dear Legislators:

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, I am submitting the final report on the Improvements to Highway-Rail Grade Crossings and Rail Safety.

The draft report submitted in October included information about how MnDOT calculated the risk assessments for crossings on oil routes, a list of the 100 highest risk crossings in the state, and preliminary recommendations for safety improvements based on Federal Railroad Administration criteria and additional information collected by MnDOT staff.

In order to make recommendations about safety improvements to grade crossings, it was essential that MnDOT work with each community affected to understand if our preliminary safety improvement recommendations adequately met the communities' needs. This final report contains the safety improvement recommendations with preliminary concurrence from each of the communities in which an improvement has been suggested.

Thank you for partnering with MnDOT to begin to address this critical issue.

Please contact me with any questions you may have, or you may contact Dave Christianson at 651 366-3017 or dave.christianson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner

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