

Henry County Railroad Safety Task Force
Thursday, January 30, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

The Henry County Railroad Safety Task Force met Thursday, January 30, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., at the County Commissioners Office. The following is the list of people in attendance and their respected agency names:

Name	Email	Agency
Timthy Schumm	tschumm@henrycountyengineer.com	County Engineer
Bob Hastedt	bhastedt@henrycountyohio.com	County Commissioner
Scott Buddelmeyer	boodie@embarqmail.com	Henry County South EMS
Patrick McColley	pmccolley@henrycountyengineer.com	County Engineer's Office
Nick Rettig	hencopc@bright.net	Planning Director
Nick Nye	lepc@henrycountyohio.com	LEPC
Tracy Busch	ema@henrycountyohio.com	Henry County EMA
Mike Meyer	mmeyer@phpatriots.com	Patrick Henry Schools
Mike Bodenbender	mbodenbender@henrycountysheriff.com	Henry County Sheriff
Glenn Miller	glenn.miller@henrycountyohio.com	County Commissioner
Jeff Brubaker	hamlermayor@gmail.com	Mayor, Village of Hamler
Randall Schumacher	randall.schumacher@puc.state.oh.us	PUCO
Jill Henry	jill.henry@puc.state.oh.us	PUCO
Louis Streicher	lousx2@centurylink.net	Village of Holgate and South EMS

The following matters were discussed:

- Everyone signed in
- Introduced Randall Schumacher, Supervisor, Rail Division, PUCO
- Introduced Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division, PUCO
- Told the group that the County Commissioner's approved a resolution reorganizing the taskforce
- Reviewed with everybody the task force and it's past accomplishment and why it was formed
- Randall Schumacher explained the PUCO's role as it relates to the railroad industry
- Jill Henry explained funding programs
 - *Supplemental assistance program*
 - \$5,000 per crossing. Must be a passive crossing (no lights or gates)
 - Can be used for signs, paint, rumble strips, lighted signs, lighting, etc.
 - Pretty easy to get
 - *Local Highway Authorities grade evaluation crossing form*
 - Requests an evaluation for lights and gates on a crossing
 - Railroad pays 10%
 - State assists with 25% to 65% of the remaining 90% of cost
 - Local road authority picks up the rest

- *State picks up on average 55% of the remaining 90% of the costs*
- *Average project is about \$200,000*
- *Ohio Rail Development Commission is willing to consider cost sharing in the project's cost based on the crossings risk rank*
- The following crossings in Henry County will or have recently received lights and gates
 - Maple Street, Deshler
 - Haley Avenue, Woodlawn Avenue, and Oakwood Avenue in Napoleon
 - Bartlow Township Road E (recent fatality)
- Discussed Hamler's past lights and gates problems
 - *Lights would go on and gates will go down and no train will be approaching*
 - *Individuals are stuck behind gates until they raise*
- Discussed trains blocking multiple intersections in Holgate and other places along the CSX for long periods of time, which has disrupted emergency services and bus service
- Discussed school bus problems with trains stopped causing buses to be late to school
- Discussed the great partners the Pioneer Railroad has been. Especially compared to the previous rail owners (the Maumee Western)
- Discussed increase train traffic along the CSX due to the opening of the North Baltimore rail facility
- The PUCO advised the group that law enforcement can write tickets for trains blocking crossings
- For emergencies call the PUCO at (614)466-1150
- Railroad conductors can get in trouble if they are not operating according to their approved FRA operations manual
- Will try to get someone from CSX at the next meeting and try to get the CSX's local operations procedural manual for this area
- Nathan Niner is the inspector for this area, he will be our contact for the PUCO
- Meeting minutes can be obtained online under the railroad crossing tab at www.henrycountyengineer.com
- Commissioner Hastedt and Patrick will arrange the next meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick McColley, P.E.
Chief Deputy County Engineer