

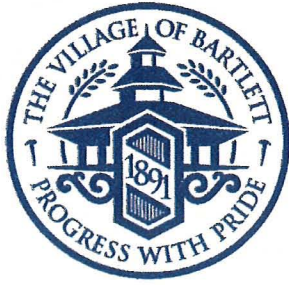
**VILLAGE OF BARTLETT**

**COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**APRIL 21, 2015**

Spaulding Road Quiet Zone Update





# Agenda Item Executive Summary

Item Name      Spaulding Road Quiet Zone      Committee or Board      Committee

### BUDGET IMPACT

Amount:	Budgeted
List what fund	

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Village of Bartlett entered into an agreement with the Canadian National Railway Company on December 12, 2012. The Village's agreement with CN provides \$1,000,000 in noise mitigation funding.

The Village's priority is to establish a quiet zone at the Spaulding Road Metra Milwaukee West line crossing. According to the US Department of Transportation Crossing Inventory, the Spaulding Road Metra crossing has 86 daily trains. The crossing is located in close proximity to the homes in the Spring Lake Estate, Castle Creek and Amber Grove Subdivisions.

The Village started working on sound mitigation at this crossing with railroads, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) in June of 2013. The purpose of this memo is to bring the Village Board up to date on those efforts. The current plan is to widen Spaulding Road and install barrier medians on both sides of the tracks and relocate two commercial driveways to meet the required standards to apply for a Quiet Zone at the Spaulding Road crossing.

### ATTACHMENTS (PLEASE LIST)

Spaulding Road Crossing exhibit

### ACTION REQUESTED

For Discussion Only  \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Motion:

Staff:      Paula Schumacher      Date:      April 14, 2015  
                  Assistant Village Administrator

# Memorandum

**To:** Valerie L. Salmons, Village Administrator  
**From:** Paula Schumacher, Assistant Village Administrator  
**Date:** 4/15/2015  
**Re:** Spaulding Road. Quiet Zone Summary April 10, 2015

## HISTORY

Canadian National Railway Company's purchase of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway (EJ&E) was officially approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) on December 24, 2008. The Village of Bartlett entered into a voluntary mitigation agreement (VMA) with the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) on December 12, 2012. The Village's VMA with CN provides \$1,000,000 in noise mitigation funding. The funding can be utilized for the collective properties within Bartlett designated as adjacent impacted properties. All noise mitigation projects or work on adjacent impacted properties must be done within 2,500 feet of property owned by the Grand Trunk Company (GTC), a wholly owned U.S. subsidiary and owner of the U.S. rail operating subsidiaries of CN. The noise mitigation funding is to be utilized within three years; however, a one-year extension can be granted if the village has made progress, but has not completed any projects or improvements to properties. The Village received payment of the \$1,000,000 in noise mitigation funding on January 22, 2013.

The Village's priority is to establish a quiet zone at the Spaulding Road Metra Milwaukee West line crossing. According to the US Department of Transportation Crossing Inventory, the Spaulding Road Metra crossing has 86 daily trains. The crossing is located in close proximity to the homes in the Spring Lake Estate, Castle Creek and Amber Grove Subdivisions.

The Village started working on sound mitigation at this crossing with railroads, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) in June of 2013. In working with METRA, the ICC and the FRA it was initially determined that this particular crossing is not a good candidate for a quiet zone. The required safety measures to achieve a quiet zone are cost prohibitive due to the multiple tracks and road intersections and proximity to commercial driveways, and signal coordination requirements. The next sound mitigation option for the Spaulding Road crossing would be sound barriers. To determine the best locations for such barriers and to quantify the relative level of impact, staff has asked Acoustic Associates Ltd, to update a sound study they did of the area in 2009. The results of this sound study showed that there would be some limited benefit achieved from sound barriers at Spring Lake Estates, but to be effective they would have to run the length of subdivision and be as tall at 15-20 feet.

Staff then went back and looked at the possibility of relocating the commercial driveways to simplify the safety measures required at the crossing to achieve a quiet zone. This

option was evaluated by the FRA, ICC and railroad representatives and it was considered a viable option to pursue. The surveying work for the relocated driveways have been completed and the necessary exhibits created.

### **RECENT ACTION**

Most recently, a meeting with Village staff, representatives from Metra and Canadian Pacific Railroad, the Federal Railroad Agency and the Illinois Commerce Commission was held on February 13, 2015. At that meeting a concept plan and engineers exhibit was presented outlining the basic improvements the Village is proposing to implement as part of the quiet zone. The proposed improvements call for a barrier median east of the Metra tracks and west of the CP spur line. New access driveways to Global Auto and Tovar Snow Plowing. The FRA has requested that the village review the potential to completely close the Global Auto existing driveway. The Village met with the representative from Global Auto on April 18, 2015 to propose this option. We have had a response from the property owner and he agrees in concept to closing the existing driveway entrance. Staff is currently negotiating a lease agreement with the owner to facilitate the closing and the construction of the new driveway access.

### **FUTURE STEPS**

The Village will also need to submit a petition to the FRA for a waiver of the requirement for a constant warning time circuitry at the CP spur rail crossing. The review by the FRA can take 6-8 months. The ICC would recommend the installation of gates and warning lights for the west approach of Spaulding Road at the CP spur crossing. There are currently no gates for the eastbound traffic at this crossing. The ICC has made a request for a cost estimate from CP railroad for the work as well as a design plan. This design plan will become part of the waiver application submitted by the Village to the FRA. While this plan will be part of our waiver application, there is no cost expected to the Village as it is an ICC request.

The ICC would also like the Village to review the widening of Spaulding Road in the vicinity of the tracks to reduce or eliminate the alignment skew as part of the quiet zone improvements. The Village researched the existing right of way and possible utility conflicts on the north side of Spaulding Road. Engineers have put together an exhibit for that improvement.

The next steps for the Village are:

1. An agreement with Global Auto for the new access and property lease.
2. An agreement with Tovar Snow Plowing for the other access drive.
3. Widening to the roadway per the ICC's request.
4. Construct driveway access at Global Auto and Tovar Snow Plowing.
4. Using the plan the Railroads come up with for the signal modification requested by the ICC submit our waiver application to the FRA.
5. Implement Quiet Zone.

## **EXPENDITURES TO DATE**

The Village has spent to date \$14,125.13 of the funds that were part of the CN agreement for noise mitigation. The majority of the funds have been spent for professional services to complete and create plats of survey and easement and engineering exhibits relative to the project. The Village is currently working with CN on the one year extension of the agreement.



**CB** CHRISTOPHER B. BURKE ENGINEERING, LTD.  
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 Rosemont, Illinois 60018  
 (847) 823-0500

CLIENT:  
**VILLAGE OF BARTLETT**  
 228 S. MAIN STREET  
 BARTLETT, ILLINOIS 60103

NO.	DATE	NATURE OF REVISION	CHD.	MODEL
1				
FILE NAME: I:\BARTLETT\0645\Traffic\Fig\0645.dgn				

DESIGN: CJM  
 DWN: CJM  
 CHD: GMZ  
 SCALE: 30'  
 PLOT DATE: 3/23/2015  
 CAD USER: CUCCOLLOM

TITLE:  
**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT EXHIBIT  
 SPAULDING ROAD QUIET ZONE  
 BARTLETT, ILLINOIS**

PROJ. NO. 140645  
 DATE: 3/23/15  
 SHEET 1 OF 1  
 DRAWING NO.  
 EXH-1

