



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CENTRAL OFFICE, P.O. BOX 899, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43216-0899

October 9, 2001

Dear Local Official:

Nationally, Ohio ranks fifth in highway-rail grade crossing crashes and tenth in fatalities. Last year fifteen people were killed and 39 people were injured at Ohio highway-grade crossings. This year eighteen people have died. In an effort to raise awareness and improve safety at Ohio's rail crossings, State Representative Steve Buehrer and I have announced an expansion of the rumble strip program.

More than 2700 rail crossings do not have gates or lights. Substitute House Bill 73, the transportation budget bill, required rumble strips to be installed at active railroad crossings without gates or lights that have a daily traffic count of 500 or more vehicles and at least six trains per day. That program is now being expanded to include any unprotected crossing. Under this expanded program, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will make \$1,500 per crossing available to local governments to install rumble strips or other safety devices at any crossing without gates or lights.

The State of Ohio spends \$15 million a year installing gates and lights at railroad crossings. But with more than 6100 public grade crossings and almost 5900 miles of track, many crossings remain that have only the crossbuck. Too many people ignore the dangers of railroad crossings and fail to stop. By raising awareness and implementing rumble strips and other safety measures, fatal injuries can be prevented.

Attached is a list of the crossings in your community and a funding request form. ODOT will grant \$1,500 per crossing to all local jurisdictions requesting the installation of rumble strips. Communities may request an alternative safety measure if rumble strips are not appropriate and use the \$1,500 toward that alternative. Other safety measures include lighting of the crossing, raised pavement markers, and flashing lights on railroad warning signs.

Additional information can be obtained from your local ODOT district planning administrator or at www.dot.state.oh.us/local/railsafety.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon B. Proctor".

Director

Enclosures

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST FOR FUNDING
RAILROAD CROSSING RUMBLE STRIPS PROGRAM**

CROSSING : County _____ AAR _____
Local Entity _____
Road _____

The _____ agrees to install and maintain rumble strips at this crossing. Please send a check for \$1500 to (include address) _____

ODOT will be notified in writing when the installation is complete.

Rumble strips are not suitable for this location. The _____ agree to install and maintain the following at this crossing:

- Illumination/Lighting of Crossing
 - Solar Powered
 - Electric
- Raised Pavement Markers
- Flashing Light on Advance Railroad Warning Sign
 - Solar Powered
 - Electric
- Other. Please explain _____

Please send a check for \$1500 to _____

ODOT will be notified in writing when the installation is complete.

The person executing this Request for Funding in a representative capacity hereby warrants that he/she has been duly authorized by his/her principal to make this request on such principal's behalf.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 200__.

By: _____
Signature of person authorized to sign contracts

Print name

Title: _____

Please return this to:

**Carla L. Cefaratti, Deputy Director
Division of Local Programs
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223**