



CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

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MEMO

TO: Public Infrastructure Committee
FROM: Greg Minikel, PE, Engineering Division Manager
DATE: April 29, 2024
RE: Agreement with CN Railroad for Track Removal on N. 18th St. & Michigan Ave.

Members of the Public Infrastructure Committee:

The City has removed railroad tracks that were running through our local streets on several occasions over the years. These were removed because the crossings were very rough.

I believe that some of the oldest ones removed were on S. 21st St. by Clay Pit Road and on Spring St. by Burger Boat. These projects were done around the 2005 or so timeframe.

More recently we have removed tracks at the following locations:

1. Johnston Dr. in 2012. Track removal cost was \$1,200.
2. N. 21st & LaFollette in 2018. Track removal cost was \$2,000.
3. Menasha Ave. W. of N. 18th St. in 2018. Track removal cost was \$2,000.
4. Nagle Ave. in 2021. Track removal cost was \$2,000.
5. Magnolia Ave in 2021. Track removal cost was \$2,000.

None of these previous track removals required any formal written agreement with the Railroad. We simply sent them an e-mail and they wrote back with approval via e-mail. We set the tracks just off the Right-of-Way and the railroad personnel picked them up.

CN Railroad recently had a change in their Public Works Manager position and now they are requesting the City sign the agreements that are being presented to the Committee. The City Attorney has reviewed the agreements. He made some changes and the railroad accepted the changes. The agreement basically commits the City to pay for 50% of the installation of the tracks should they ever need to be installed again at these 2 locations. While no one can predict the future, we do not believe that these tracks would be needed again, at least not anytime soon.

Technically, the City is not responsible for these track removals. However, we found out over the years that the Railroad's response to rough crossings complaints were rarely acted upon. We could have submitted a request to the Office of the Commission of Railroads for them to fix the rough crossings, but that process also typically take several years.

Therefore, we are recommending the PI Committee approve the Railroad's Agreement for the removal of the existing unused tracks on N. 18th St. and Michigan Ave.