



Patrick E. Kitching
Mayor

Village Of Alsip

February 20, 2017

Dear Alsip Resident:

I heard that some of you have concerns with the railroad crossing at 115th street just west of Cicero Ave. I, living in the area, am impacted by the numerous trains and long waits over the course of 60+ years. Not to mention my time as a Fire Fighter Engineer and also Mayor I am sorrowed that over the years this crossing has been the site of numerous accidents including fatalities.

It is for these reasons that I am very passionate, as you are, and continually pushing the Federal Government and Rail Roads to move a grade separation forward on their project list. There are numerous assumptions in government and I want to inform you that the Village of Alsip has little control over moving these projects along. We, the Village, do not put forth funding or labor to complete federal projects. I will add though that any time I can I highlight the need for a grade separation here and as recent as January 18th 2017, I nudged the federal government at a meeting asking them to pay attention to this area and relaying the need for change here.

Let's talk about grade separations:

A grade separation is when you separate the cars from the tracks (think of 111th street underpass). A grade separation is very expensive for the Federal Government as they have to acquire property and pay for materials and labor. The Federal Government has a specific rail program called CREATE. This program is estimated to cost \$3.8 billion dollars of which about \$1.2 billion has been committed to projects (to date). The public sector has provided the majority of this funding, in particular the US DOT and IDOT (federal and state department of transportation). Project CREATE is more than 10 years old at this point, and many projects have been implemented. A rough estimate for our grade separation at 115th would be millions.

Should you want further information please visit the site below:

http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/updates/policy/-/asset_publisher/U9jFxa68cnNA/content/create-program-status-check

Respectfully,

Mayor Patrick Kitching