

Rail Corridor Study

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION NO.2

What This Study Is

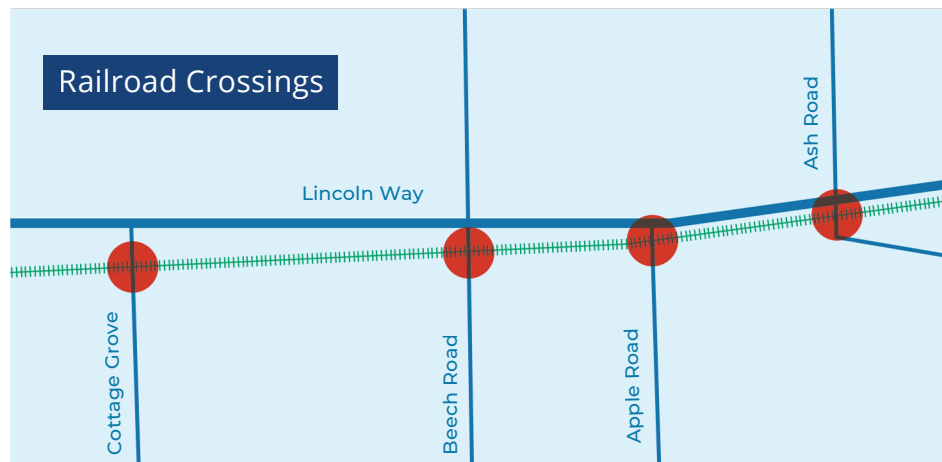
The purpose of the Rail Corridor Study is to look at ways to improve safety and traffic flow at railroad crossings on Cottage Grove Avenue, Beech Road, Apple Road, and Ash Road in eastern St. Joseph County and western Elkhart County.

Study Goals

- Improve safety at railroad crossings
- Reduce traffic delays
- Improve emergency response reliability
- Make travel easier for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians

How This Study Is Different

A previous study (2025) looked at one crossing and focused on large-scale solutions. This study looks at all key crossings together, considers a wider range of options, and focuses on solutions that balance safety, access, reliability, and community impact.



Tonight's Purpose

- **What we are doing tonight:** we will be sharing what we heard in June, comparing it with early traffic and environmental findings, and asking whether it matches your experience.
- **What we are not doing tonight:** we will not be choosing alternatives.
- **What your input does next:** it helps the team develop potential alternatives.

What We Heard in Phase 1

Comment themes

• Blocked trains / congestion	20
• Roadway safety / operations	20
• Preferred locations / routes	15
• Emergency response / public safety	14
• Crossing controls / gates / striping	12
• Railroad operations / coordination	9
• Environmental / park / utilities	8
• Noise / quiet zone	7
• Residential cut-throughs / speeding	5

Areas of concern

• Ash Road / Ash crossing	27
• Apple / Washington / Lincoln Way	22
• Beech Road	14
• CR 20 / CR 100 corridor	11
• Cottage Grove Avenue	8
• Bittersweet / Harrison concept	5
• Chestnut Street	2

Traffic Operations, Mobility, and Safety

60+

Trains per day
through
corridor

3 to 4

Trains observed
in a typical peak
hour

5

Active at-grade
railroad
crossings

3

Fatal roadway
crashes in that
period

413

Crashes during five-year
study period*

*Rear-end crashes were the most
common type

57

Train-related crashes at study
crossings since 1975*

*22 of which resulted in a fatality or
serious injury

Environmental and Cultural Considerations

High-level risk considerations identified:

1

Baugo Creek and Surrounding Floodway

2

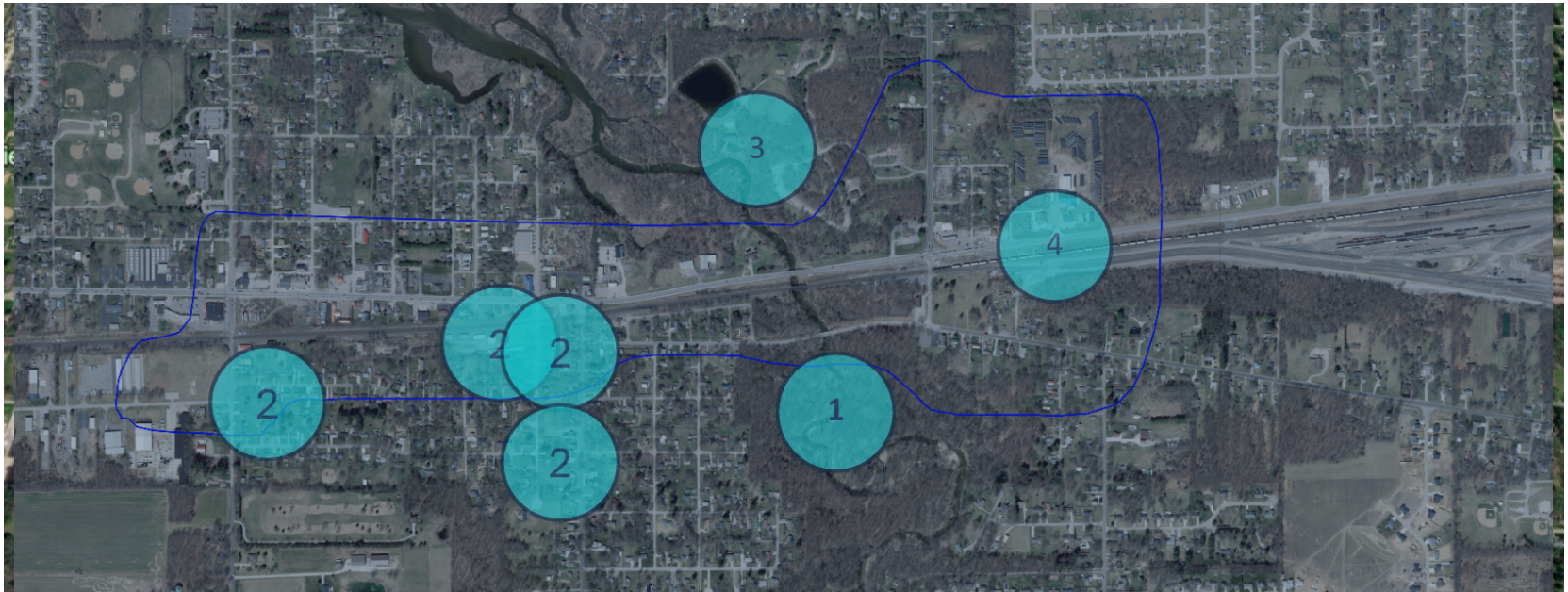
Harrison and Maude Moran House, Osceola
Methodist Church, Wilber Crull House, and
Train Depot

3

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park

4

Rail Yard



More Info? Questions? Comments? engage.macog.com/rail-corridor-study



What Will Shape Potential Alternatives

Community Impacts

Neighborhood disruption, property needs, schools, emergency response, and quality of life must be considered.

Environmental Resources

Parks, creeks, floodways, wetlands, and cultural resources may require additional review.

Funding & Implementation

Major improvements take time and require design, permitting, funding, and approvals.

Public Input

Input must be documented clearly and used transparently as the study moves forward.

Railroad Operations

Train activity, crossing controls, and railroad review affect what can be implemented.

Roadway Operations

Traffic backups, sight distance, turn lanes, and side-street access shape feasible designs.

Opportunities to Participate



Project Partners

