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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360)664-1257 or (360)664-1100  
Fax: (360)586-1150  
Web: [www.wutc.wa.gov](http://www.wutc.wa.gov)  
E-mail: [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)

## GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission), through its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF), funds projects that eliminate or mitigate public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way in Washington State. Any public, private, or non-profit entity may submit an application to the commission for GCPF monies.

**Please complete and submit the following information as part of the application process:**

### **Applicant Information**

Applicant Name:	Todd Ableman, Public Works Director
Organization:	City of Cheney, Washington
Address:	112 Anderson Road, Cheney, WA. 99004
Phone:	509-498-9293
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:tableman@cityofcheney.org">tableman@cityofcheney.org</a>
Fax:	509-498-9331 or 509-498-9249

Please list all other companies, organizations or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the contact name, address and phone number for each.

### **Project Information**

1. *Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed. Include:*
  - *Any information about accidents or incidents at the site.*
  - *Photographs, drawings or other materials that supports the application.*

The City of Cheney, WA, is dissected by two Class 1 railroads, BNSF Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad. An area within the city at its southern boundary has been zoned for multi-family housing and most recently the first phase 190 + unit apartment complex has been constructed and is occupied south of multiple railroad tracks. The majority of the apartment tenants are college students that attend Eastern Washington University which is located just 6 blocks to the north across the railroad tracks. Between the apartment complex and the University are four tracks--a BNSF Railway mainline, with approximately 30 – 35 trains operating at 35 mph through Cheney, the BNSF connection to the PRCC RR, a commercial spur line and in a separate but parallel right-of-way 700 ft. south, the Union Pacific Railway mainline which operates approximately 10 trains per day at 45 mph through Cheney.

## Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

The apartment complex is located on Cheney-Spangle Road. Cheney-Spangle Road is a two-lane roadway with shoulders. With the addition of the apartments, college students and other tenants walk along the Cheney-Spangle Road and across railroad crossings along the shoulders of the roadway. Students have been observed walking around the fully activated cross arms into the path of a train nearing the crossing. When it snows, pedestrians tend to walk down the middle of the street, in traffic while crossing the railroad track.

There was an incident in September, 2008, where a college student was sitting on the rail of the BNSF mainline, while a BNSF train was approaching. The train was placed into an emergency stop, but the student moved out of the way prior to the arrival of the train. The student was apparently not hurt.

There are plans for construction of more housing units south of the railroad tracks. This has created an additional safety concern for the citizens of Cheney and the student population attending Eastern Washington University.

There are a number of restaurant/bar establishments along 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Cheney, immediately north of the railroad tracks. It has been observed during certain times of the day and night people trespass onto railroad property after leaving one of the city's restaurants/bars, walking across the ballast section of the railroad tracks and not at the designated Cheney-Spokane Road crossing.

2. *Provide a detailed description of the proposed project and explain how it will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. Include any drawings or construction plans for the proposed project.*

Attached are pictures of the Cheney-Spokane Road crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad and of the BNSF Railway Company. Union Pacific has a single mainline track and the BNSF has a single mainline, a siding track, and a spur track for a total of three tracks. The roadway is a two lane configuration with approximately 5' shoulders. It is proposed to add sidewalks to Cheney-Spangle Road and a connection to a bicycle/pedestrian trail 10 feet in width that continues south of the city limits into the County connecting to the Fish Lake/Columbia Plateau Trail. It looks possible that the existing BNSF crossing surfaces can accommodate the addition of sidewalks without the widening of the existing crossing surfaces but the UPRR crossing will require widening.

The City is evaluating the most advantageous location for the construction of fencing along the right-of-way lines of each railroad, reducing if not eliminating the chances for pedestrians to trespass across BNSF and UPRR property and only cross the rail lines at the Cheney-Spangle Road grade crossing.

The City believes that it would also be beneficial to the City and to the University Community for an educational program "Operation Lifesaver" be made available upon request and taken to the apartment complex and the University.

## Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

3. *Provide cost estimates. Include:*

Sidewalks on both sides of the roadway beginning south of the BNSF right-of-way crossing the 3 BNSF rail lines and connecting to existing sidewalk south of First Street is a total of 500 feet centerline measurement or 1000 lineal feet of sidewalk. The total cost to construct the sidewalk is estimated to be \$14,000. Fencing of the north side of the BNSF RR property, from Cheney-Spangle Road west beyond "G" Street and east across College Avenue will total 800 lineal feet of fence. The total cost is estimated for providing and installing fence is \$8,000. Combined cost of fence and sidewalk is \$22,000.

- *Names of parties contributing to the project and the amount each is contributing.*

City of Cheney, WA.—The City will prepare and present a proposal to the BNSF Railway Company requesting their cooperation in sharing cost for the installation of fencing and meet with them and the UP Railway to coordinate and implement safety improvements for these at-grade rail crossings.

4. *Provide the name of the party responsible for long-term maintenance.*

City of Cheney will maintain the fencing and sidewalks

5. *Provide an estimated timeline of project, if approved.*

If project is approved, the project will proceed to construction as a part of a project to construct roadway improvements to Cheney-Spangle Road that is scheduled for late summer, 2009.

6. *Provide a description of how the project's success would be measured.*

Once constructed the City would monitor pedestrian activity between Eastern Washington University, the downtown district, and the apartment complex located south of the multiple rail crossings. Monitoring would be done on a weekly basis and recorded monthly.

7. *Provide any other information the applicant believes would be useful to the commission in considering the project.*

8. *If the project involves any construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way, complete the attached Railroad Commitment form. This includes fencing, gates or other structures located near enough to the tracks to be on the railroad right-of-way, modification to a grade crossing or any other project that involves railroad property or rights-of-way.*

## Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

This project may involve construction or modification to the right-of-way and at-grade crossing of the Cheney-Plaza Road, located at railroad milepost 16.40, WUTC # 1B16.40, DOT # 065-970L . Location of fencing and railroad participation to be determined as we move forward with the proposal.

### **Submitting the Application**

After completing the GCPF application, please send the original to:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

A signed application may be filed electronically at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov). When filing electronically, please specify "Grade Crossing Protective Fund" in the subject line.

### **Assistance**

For questions or assistance, please contact:

- Kathy Hunter at (360)664-1257 or by e-mail at [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov).
- David Pratt at (360)664-1100 or by e-mail at [dpratt@utc.wa.gov](mailto:dpratt@utc.wa.gov).

Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

**Railroad Commitment**

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the GCPF application described as (enter a brief description):

**Railroad Support Expected**

We have reviewed the application and are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the applicant in this matter. We agree to allow construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way as described in the application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Railroad Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Railroad Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Cheney  
609 Second Street  
Cheney, WA 99004

**CITY OF CHENEY, WASHINGTON  
RESOLUTION D-613**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A RAILROAD  
SAFETY GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2009 CHENEY-SPANGLE  
ROAD PROJECT**

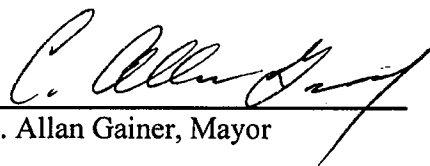
**WHEREAS**, a call for Railroad Safety Grant applications for railroad crossings; and

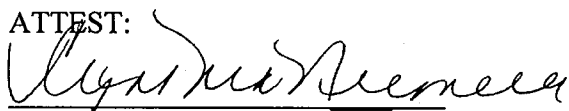
**WHEREAS**, the City of Cheney wishes to submit a Railroad Safety Grant application to partially fund railroad crossing safety improvements on Cheney-Spangle Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed work at the BNSF Railroad Crossing and the UP Railroad Crossing will be paid for with the Grant funding which will be combined with current ARRA grant monies as part of the Cheney-Spangle Road Project.

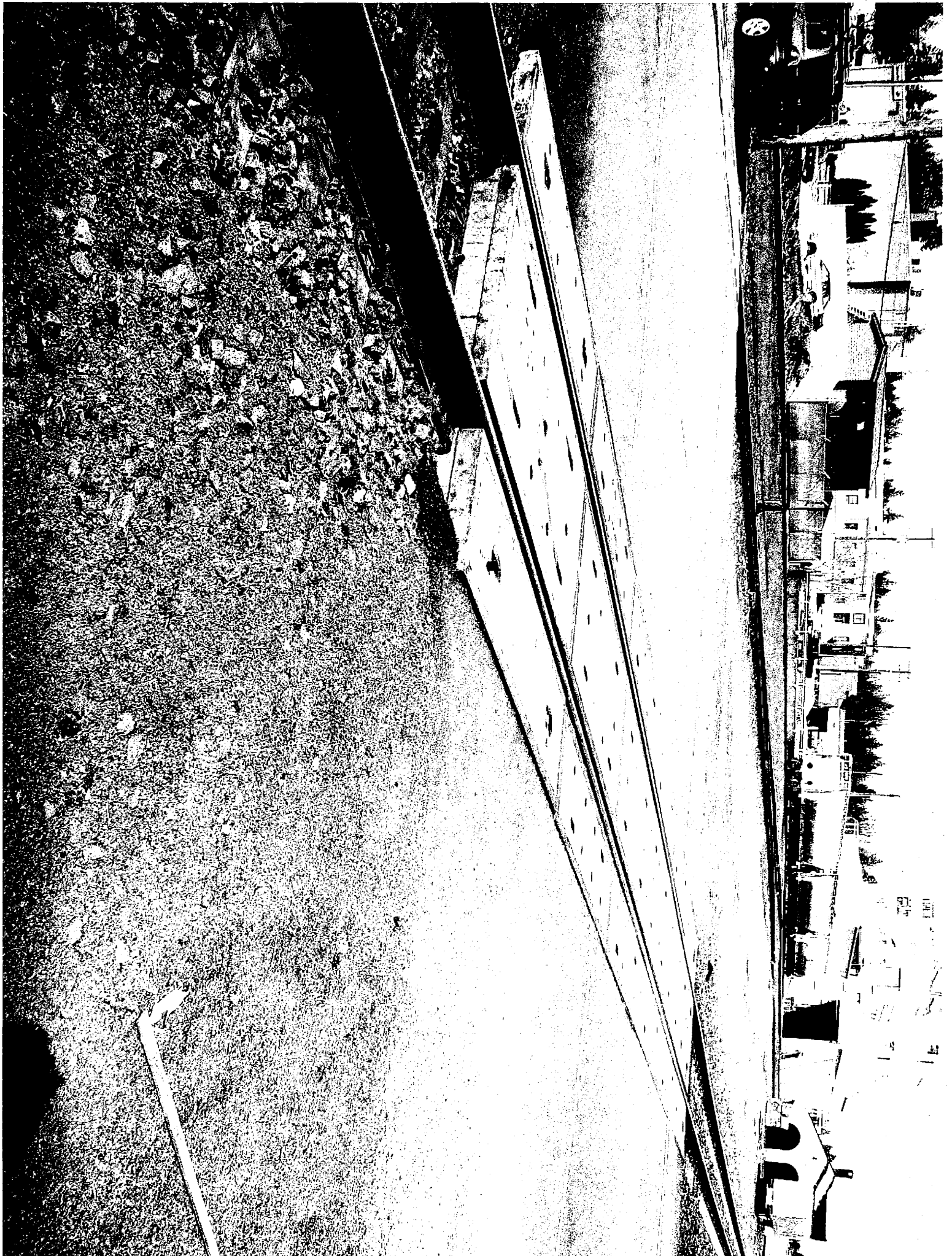
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Cheney to authorize the Mayor to submit a Railroad Safety Grant application for the 2009 Cheney-Spangle Road Project.

ADOPTED, on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009 by the Cheney City Council at their regularly scheduled meeting at the Cheney Council Chambers, 609 Second Street, Cheney, WA 99004.

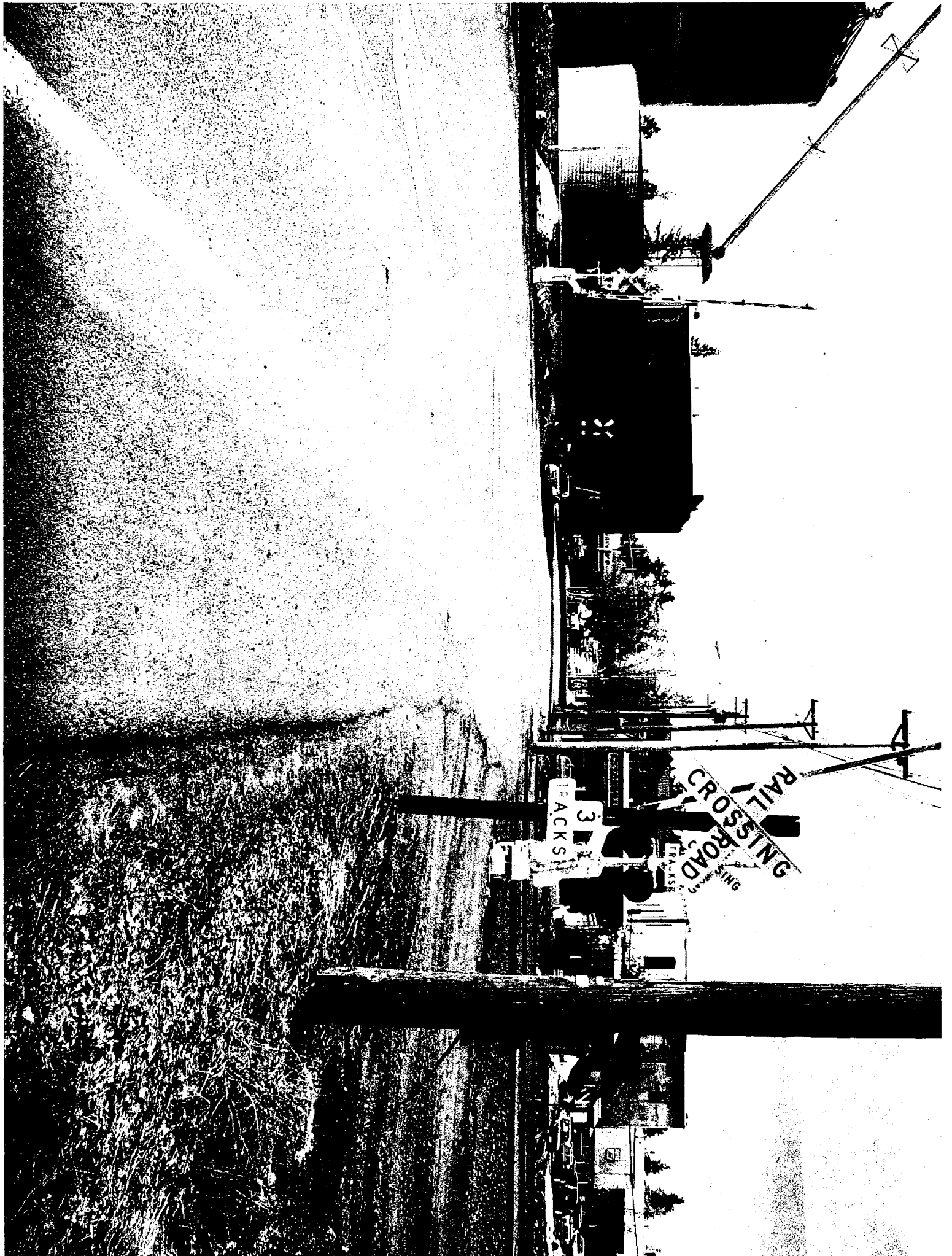
  
C. Allan Gainer, Mayor

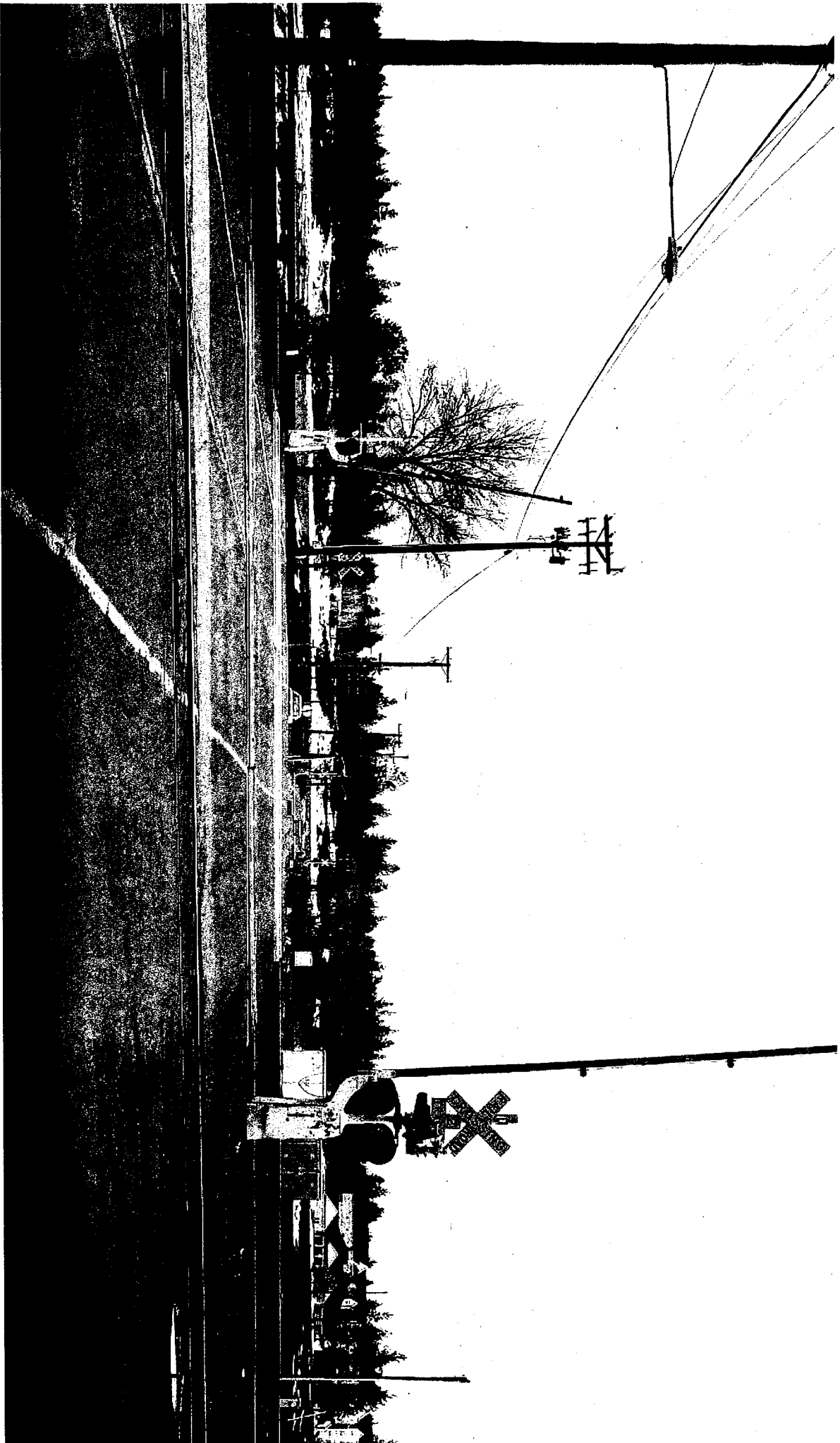
ATTEST:  
  
Cynthia L. Niemeier, City Clerk













RAILROAD  
CROSSING

SPEED  
LIMIT  
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