



AGENDA ITEM #18

**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Village Board Meeting
3/13/2023**

Item Title: **Downtown Train Horn Quiet Zone**

Staff Contact: Jason Bielawski, Village Administrator

NEW BUSINESS

VILLAGE BOARD ACTION:

Provide direction to staff on petitioning the Illinois Commerce Commission to implement a 24-hour quiet zone at the three downtown crossings – Roselle, Prospect and Park.

Executive Summary:

In 2016, the Village obtained a 24-hour quiet zone at the Rodenburg Road crossing through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). In 2017, the Village Board authorized submitting an application to the FRA for a 24-hour quiet zone at the three crossings in the downtown. Currently there is a partial quiet zone between midnight and 5AM. The application included installing safety measures at the three crossings that would be paid for by the Village. In 2019, the attached letter from the FRA informed the Village that it does not have jurisdiction to consider the application and therefore could not approve it. Village staff spoke with Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) staff to understand a possible path forward for implementing a 24-hour quiet zone since it previously approved the Village’s partial quiet zone. After communication between ICC, Metra, Canadian Pacific, and the Village, ICC staff told Village staff that it should file a petition with the ICC to initiate a formal review process for implementing a 24-hour quiet zone. Ideally this process results in a stipulated agreement between all parties that spells out the responsibilities of each party to implement a 24-hour quiet zone. It is expected that the safety measures originally proposed with the Village’s application to the FRA in 2017 would need to be installed to implement a 24-hour quiet zone. The safety measures include installing traffic channelization devices at the three crossings, as depicted in the attached exhibits.

Implications:

Is this item budgeted? No; however, the Final Environmental Impact Statement from the Surface Transportation Board does recommend that Canadian Pacific fund the creation and implementation of quiet zones including the costs for installing safety measures.

Estimated cost: In 2019, the cost to design and install the traffic channelization devices was estimated to be about \$100,000.

Any other implications to be considered? A final decision from the Surface Transportation Board on the proposed merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern railways is expected within the next month which could result in up to 11 additional freight trains through the downtown crossings.

Strategic Priority:

Focused Redevelopment

Attachments:

FRA Letter

Proposed crossing safety measures



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

OCT 11 2019

Mr. Jeffrey O'Dell
Village Administrator
Village of Roselle
31 South Prospect Street
Roselle, IL 60172-2023

Re: THR-1030002 (U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Numbers 372194J, 372195R, and 372196X)

Dear Mr. O'Dell:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has reviewed the application submitted by the Village of Roselle, Illinois (Village), pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 222.39(b) (49 CFR § 222.39(b)). While reviewing the application, FRA staff noted that all three proposed quiet zone crossings (Roselle Road, Prospect Street, and Park Street) appear to be located within the "Chicago Region," as defined in 49 CFR § 222.9.

Section 222.9 defines the "Chicago Region" as the following six counties in the State of Illinois: Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, and Will. The Village appears to be located inside two of these counties, Cook County and DuPage County, and therefore within the "Chicago Region" for purposes of FRA's Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222).

As stated in 49 CFR § 222.3(c), FRA's Train Horn Rule does not apply to "any Chicago Region highway-rail grade crossing where the railroad was excused from sounding the locomotive horn by the Illinois Commerce Commission, and where the railroad did not sound the horn, as of December 18, 2003." FRA staff contacted the Illinois Commerce Commission, which verified that railroads were, in fact, excused from sounding the locomotive horn at all three proposed quiet zone crossings identified in the application between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Therefore, FRA understands the proposed quiet zone contains "Chicago Region" highway-rail grade crossings at which the ICC excused railroads from sounding the locomotive horn. Based on that understanding, FRA cannot approve the Village's application to establish a 24-hour quiet zone because FRA's Train Horn Rule does not apply to the proposed crossings.

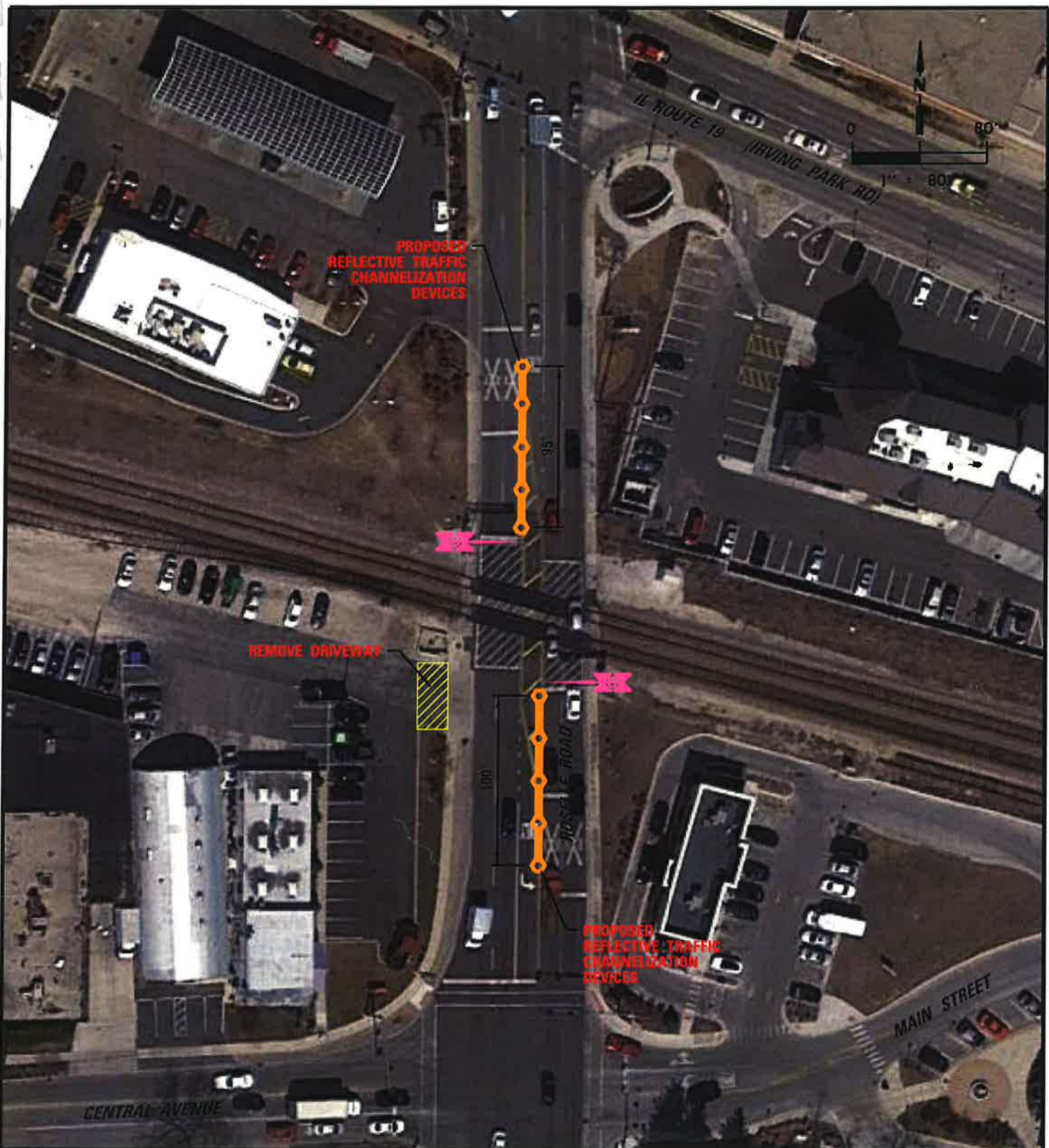
If you would like to further discuss this issue, please contact Mr. James Payne, Staff Director, FRA Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety and Trespass Prevention Programs. Mr. Payne can be reached at (202) 493-6005 or James.Payne@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Karl Alexy
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety
Chief Safety Officer

cc: Mr. Hilary Konczal, Metra Commuter Rail System
Mr. Jim Krieger, Canadian Pacific Railway
Mr. Anthony Quigley, Illinois Department of Transportation
Mr. Randall S. Blankenhorn, Illinois Department of Transportation
Mr. Michael Stead, Illinois Commerce Commission
Mr. Michael Tuman, DuPage County Division of Transportation



**ROSELLE ROAD
CROSSING**

LEGEND

PROPOSED REFLECTIVE TRAFFIC CHANNELIZATION DEVICES 

EXISTING CROSSING GATE 

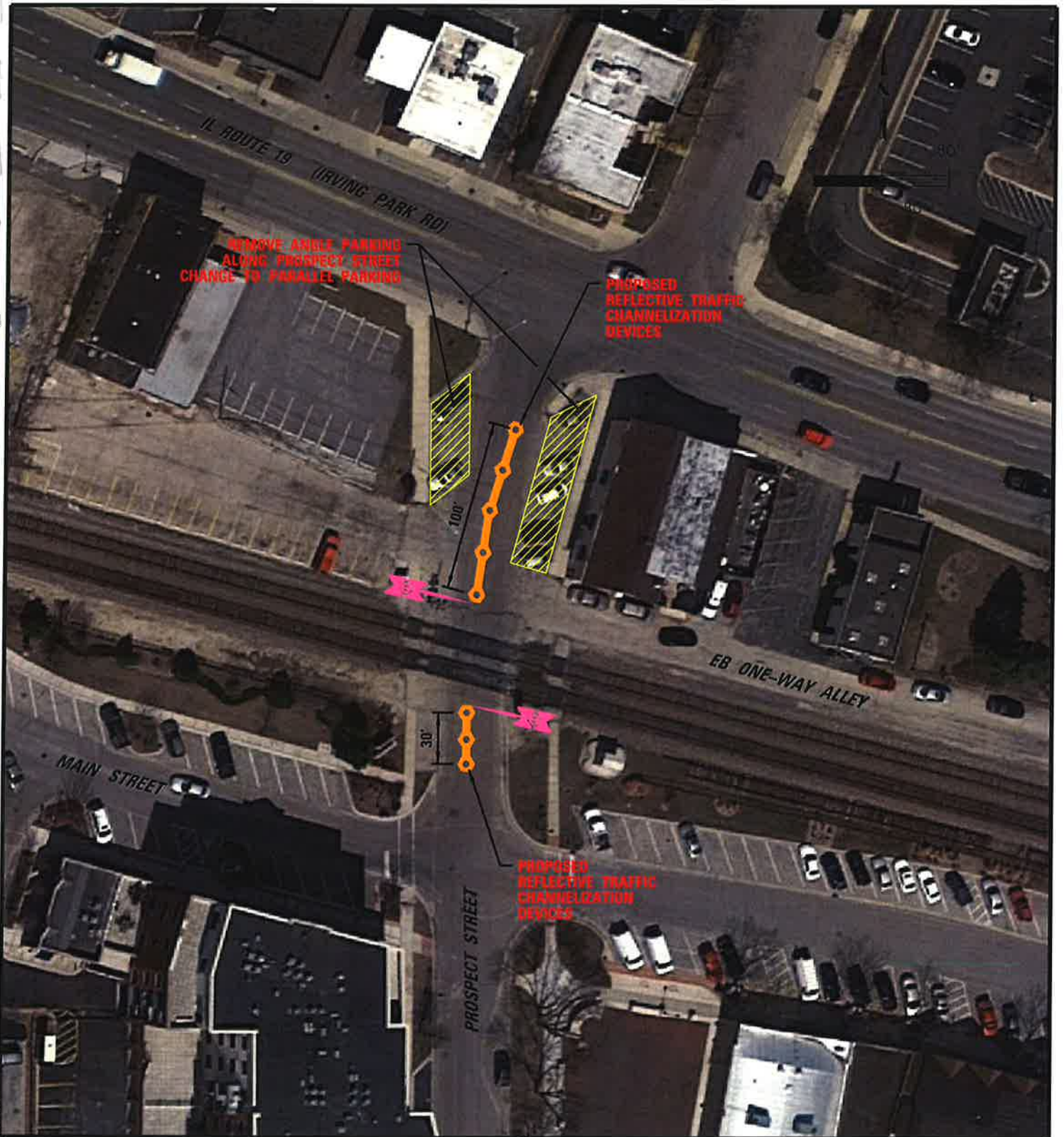


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**VILLAGE OF ROSELLE
QUIET ZONE**

CALC.		PROJECT NO.	140468
DWN.	FCP	SHEET	OF
CHRD.	BC	DRAWING NO.	
SCALE:	80'		
DATE:	12/2/2014		EXH-2

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**PROSPECT STREET
CROSSING**

LEGEND

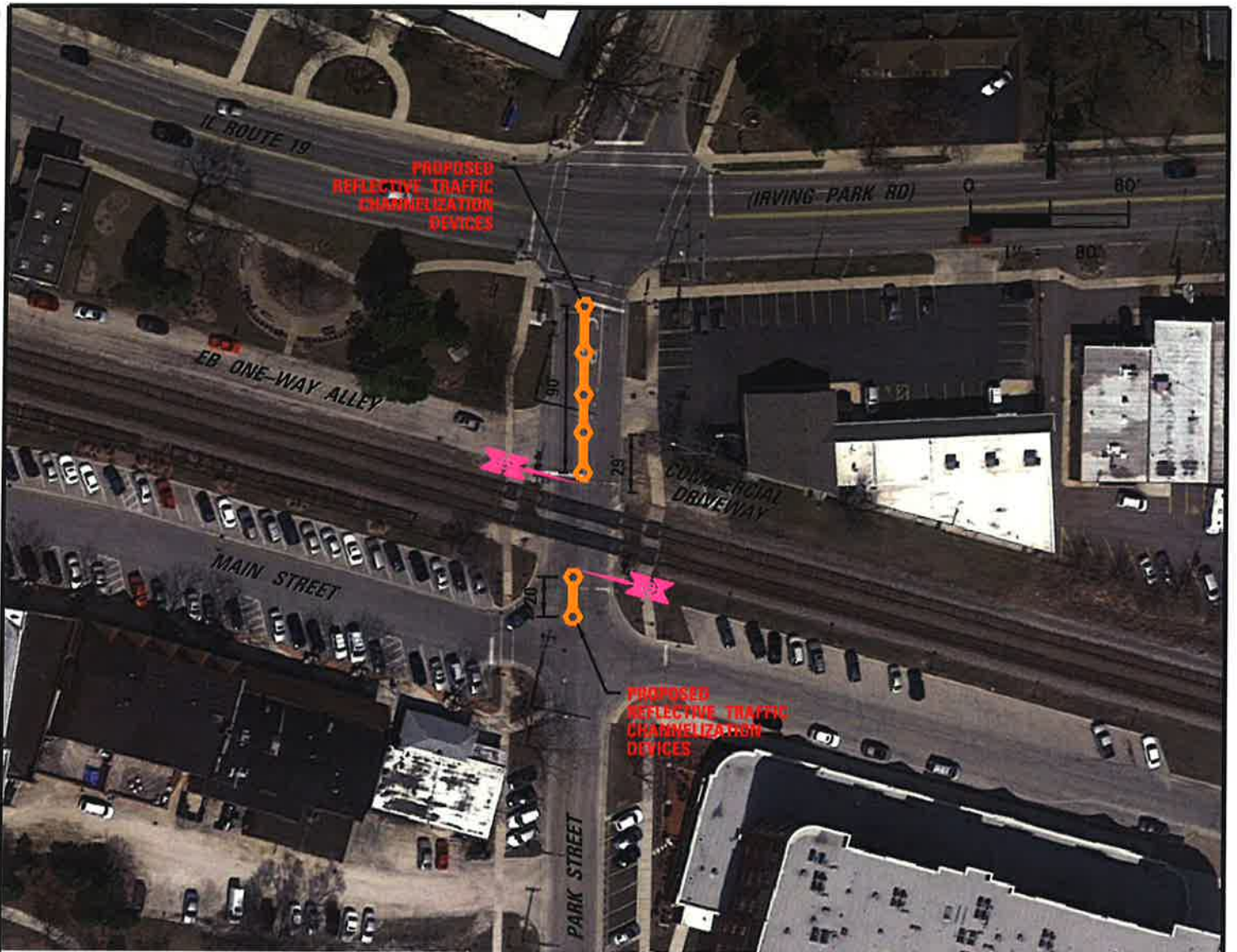
- PROPOSED REFLECTIVE TRAFFIC CHANNELIZATION DEVICES
- EXISTING CROSSING GATE



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**VILLAGE OF ROSELLE
QUIET ZONE**

CALC.		PROJECT NO.
DWN.	FCP	140468
CHKD.	BC	SHEET OF
SCALE:	80'	DRAWING NO.
DATE:	12/2/2014	EXH-3



**PARK STREET
CROSSING**

LEGEND

PROPOSED REFLECTIVE TRAFFIC CHANNELIZATION DEVICES



EXISTING CROSSING GATE



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**VILLAGE OF ROSELLE
QUIET ZONE**

CALC.	
DRAWN	FCP
CHKD.	BC
SCALE:	80'
DATE:	12/2/2014

PROJECT NO.	140468
SHEET OF	
DRAWING NO.	EXH-4

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