



State Representative Nate Shannon
Chair of the Transportation, Mobility, and Infrastructure Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48900-7514

Chair Shannon:

I write in support of funding for rail grade separation projects in Michigan, specifically HB 4152-4153. It is my understanding this is being considered by your Transportation, Mobility, and Infrastructure Committee. The City of Wixom has congested 3-track, at-grade, freight rail crossing that would benefit from the funding you are considering which could make an overpass possible.

The proposed grade separation is part of the regional \$101 million Beck Road Improvement Project. The project scope includes additional lane capacity, the rail overpass in Wixom, smart transportation technologies and additional safety paths through the corridor from Pontiac Trail in Wixom to the north to 9 Mile in Novi to the south. Novi and Wixom are partnering on this critical project.

The funding you are considering would allow Wixom to transform the current at-grade configuration into a separated 5-lane overpass crossing. In the road section where Beck Road crosses the privately-operated tracks, traffic has increased 200 percent since 1993 and vehicle accidents are 10 times the regional average. The overpass will improve safety and reduce congestion for the over 28,000 vehicles using the corridor daily to commute to work and access hospitals, retail centers, offices and schools. It will likewise improve safety for Lake State Railway Company and improve their ability to utilize the rail line and provide enhanced service to their partners.

The funding provided under HB 4152-4153 would improve the quality of life in Wixom and the greater region through positive impacts on public safety (hospital access), traffic safety (roadway accidents), economic development (making the corridor more attractive for businesses), etc. The City of Wixom encourages your support of the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steven Brown".

Steven Brown
City Manager