



MEMO

March 16, 2016

To: District Engineers

From: William L. Hale, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Subject: Railroad Coordination and Certification

Beginning with the April 2016 letting, all projects will be required to have a Railroad Certification submitted with the Plans, Specification & Estimate (PS&E) paperwork. This certification will essentially certify that either no railroad work was required, railroad coordination has been completed, or that arrangements have been made to complete railroad work during construction.

For the railroad certification, a railroad is defined as all rail carriers, publicly-owned, including TxDOT owned, private, and common carriers, including line haul freight and passenger (commuter) railroads, switching and terminal railroads, and light rail systems such as rapid transit and trolleys.

Railroad coordination applies when:

- Railroad right of way (ROW) is within project limits
- Railroad crossing (advance warning sign within limits) is near the project limits or railroad parallels the project
- Traffic signal within project is or will be linked to railroad signal devices (railroad preemption)
- Project's Traffic Control Plan will influence a nearby railroad crossing (either with traffic control devices, detours or cause vehicles to queue on the railroad tracks during lane closures or operations of detours), even in the case of railroad crossing being exempted from the project limits

Railroad crossings that are within the limits or near the project limits do not require a diagnostic review be conducted or active warning devices to be installed. The following item is required at a minimum:

- Ensure existing striping and signing for the crossing meet or are brought up to the current standards per the MUTCD (advance warning signs, stop bars, railroad symbols, etc.). If a diagnostic review of the crossing is performed, then consider the requirements of 23 CFR 646.214(b).

OUR GOALS

MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM ▪ ADDRESS CONGESTION ▪ CONNECT TEXAS COMMUNITIES ▪ BEST IN CLASS STATE AGENCY

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Projects that have been coordinated with railroads will include a Railroad Scope of Work sheet in the plan set, which has been standard operating procedure. This sheet has information specific to railroad work for the project (such as location, specific railroad company, type of work, who is performing the work, etc.) See webpage - Plans, Specification & Estimates Requirements on Projects with Railroads at the following link:

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/requirements.html>

Types of Railroad Certifications

- 1) **No Railroad Work** – This certification applies when no work within or near the limits of railroad ROW is included on the project.

- 2) **Agreement Executed – Work Prior to Construction** – This certification applies to projects where the coordination and the agreement are executed; railroad work is completed before letting; and only flagging is to be done during construction.

- 3) **Agreement Executed – Work During Construction** – This certification applies to projects where the coordination and the agreement are executed; railroad work will be done during construction by either TxDOT's contractor or by railroad forces.

- 4) **Agreement not Executed – Work During Construction** – This certification applies to projects where the coordination is complete and the agreement is not executed before letting but will be executed without delays to the contractor. Railroad work will be done during construction by either TxDOT's contractor or by railroad forces.

In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures memorandum for delayed start provisions, dated February 11, 2016, the projects without an executed railroad agreement will require a management plan be submitted to Administration for approval to proceed to letting. In addition a triple zero special provision will be required in the PS&E.

If you have any questions concerning the railroad certification contact your DES Field Coordination Engineer Maria Burke (512) 416-2703 or Tom Beeman (512) 416-2673.

If you have questions concerning railroad coordination contact your District Railroad Coordinator. For other technical questions, contact the TRF- Rail Highway Section, Robert Travis (512) 416-2635 or Mark Johnson (512) 416-2277.

CC: Randy C. Hopmann, P.E., Director of District Operations
Mark A. Marek, P.E., Director of Engineering and Safety Operations
Gregg A. Freeby, P.E., Director, Bridge Division
Tracy Cain, P.E., Director, Construction Division
Rene Garcia, P.E., Director, Design Division
Carol Rawson, P.E., Director, Traffic Operations Division
Lauren Garduño, P.E., Interim Director, Transportation Planning/Programming Division

Attachments

County: County Name
CCSJ, etc.: cccc-ss-jjj
Highway: Highway Name

RAILROAD CERTIFICATION

Railroad coordination has been completed and a railroad agreement has been executed with the appropriate railroad(s).

Railroad work will be completed during construction. See Railroad Scope of Work Sheets in the PS&E for specific details.

_____ **P.E.**
District Engineer
xxxxxx District
Date: December 1, 2015

County: County Name
CCSJ, etc.: cccc-ss-jjj
Highway: Highway Name

RAILROAD CERTIFICATION

Railroad coordination is complete and railroad agreement(s) have been executed with the appropriate railroad(s).

Railroad work has been or will be completed prior to start of construction except flagging. See Railroad Scope of Work Sheets in the PS&E for specific details.

_____ **P.E.**
District Engineer
xxxxxx District
Date: December 1, 2015

County: County Name
CCSJ, etc.: cccc-ss-jjj
Highway: Highway Name

RAILROAD CERTIFICATION

Railroad coordination is complete but an agreement has not been executed with the appropriate railroad(s). An executed agreement will be completed (Choice one: before project letting, Project award or by anticipated time (3 months or a specific date)). *Note: An explanation describing why or how the project will not be delayed based on phasing or when RR work will be completed.*

Railroad work will be completed during construction. See Railroad Scope of Work Sheets in the PS&E for specific details.

District Engineer **P.E.**
xxxxxx District
Date: December 1, 2015

County: County Name
CCSJ, etc.: cccc-ss-jjj
Highway: Highway Name

RAILROAD CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that no railroad work was required for this project.

_____ **P.E.**
District Engineer
xxxxxx District
Date: December 1, 2015