

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – *Wednesday; September 17, 2025*

CITY OF FAIRFIELD AND BUTLER COUNTY SEEKING PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON PLANS TO DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE SAFETY AT TWO RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Virtual public open house provides project information and opportunity to provide feedback.

Fairfield, OH – The City of Fairfield, in partnership with the Butler County Transportation Improvement District today announced the launch of www.SymmesRoadRailOverpass.com, a new online tool to share project information and receive public feedback about safety improvements being considered at two railroad crossings in Fairfield.

The Symmes Road Railroad Crossing Elimination Project involves the potential elimination of two at-grade railroad crossings at Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road. An at-grade crossing is where the road used by vehicles and pedestrians intersects directly with the railroad crossing. The proposed project would build an overpass at Symmes Road and close North Gilmore Road in order to separate the roadway from the railroad crossings.

Project Benefits

The Symmes Road Railroad Crossing Elimination Project would:

- Improve safety and connectivity for vehicles and pedestrians
- Reduce congestion
- Provide more reliable transportation operations
- Enhance economic development opportunities; and
- Support a better quality of life.

“This project is a tremendous opportunity for our community,” said Ben Mann, Public Works Director for the City of Fairfield. “The Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road crossings ranked in the top 10% most hazardous crossings nationwide, and the Symmes Road crossing ranked in the top 7% of the most frequently blocked crossings in Ohio,” Mann continued. “Crashes have occurred at these crossings, resulting in fatalities and serious injuries. Traffic interruptions caused by trains are frequent, resulting in lengthy commutes and delayed emergency response times.”

New online resource provides information and opportunity for public feedback.

www.SymmesRoadRailOverpass.com will offer the public the opportunity to review project information, view project alternatives, and provide feedback on the various options to improve safety and connectivity in the area.

The website will allow site visitors to review detailed information about each alternative under consideration, as well as maps related to each option. In addition, they will be asked to share their feedback on various improvements being considered at both Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road.

Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road crossings are part of a regional improvement plan to improve railroad safety

“Symmes Road is an important east-west corridor for the movement of people, goods, and services through the region,” said Dan Corey, Executive Director of the Butler County Transportation Improvement District. “We are excited to support this project because of its regional importance and relationship to other rail crossing improvements in the area,” Corey continued.

Corey added that Symmes Road crosses the major industrial districts of Fairfield and Hamilton and connects them to I-75 and State Route 4, and that the corridor is critical for workforce access, with approximately 36,000 people employed within three miles of the Symmes Road rail crossing.

The website will remain open to the public, but for feedback to be included in the environmental record, comments must be received by 11:59 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, 2025.

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About the Butler County Transportation Improvement District

The Butler County Transportation Improvement District (BCTID) works across political boundaries to provide creative opportunities for expediting transportation improvements, promoting economic development, and enhancing the quality of life in Butler County. The BCTID was established in 1993 by the Butler County Board of County Commissioners, and includes Liberty Township, West Chester Township, Fairfield Township, the City of Fairfield, and the City of Hamilton. For more information, visit www.bctid.org.

About the City of Fairfield

The City of Fairfield is a vibrant community that features a diversity of land uses, including residential, commercial, office, public, parks and recreation, and industrial. Fairfield covers 22 square miles in Southwest Ohio, just north of Cincinnati with 44,000 residents and more than 1,200 corporate, retail, service and light industrial establishments. For more information, visit www.fairfield-city.org.