



*Town of Wallingford, Connecticut*  
*Department of Police Services*

DOUGLAS L. DORTENZIO  
CHIEF OF POLICE

135 NORTH MAIN STREET  
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT 06492-3711  
TELEPHONE (203) 294-2828

RECEIVED  
JUN 21 11 29 AM '96

June 20, 1996

TO: Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
FROM: Chief Douglas L. Dortenzio *DL*  
RE: Proposed Closing - Hosford Street At Grade Crossing

In the study of the captioned issue, the question of public safety access to the surrounding area has arisen.

From the perspective of this agency, the closing of the Hosford Street crossing does not pose a public safety dilemma. To the contrary, I believe it enhances public safety. The mere presence of an at grade crossing poses some inherent risks to the public and secondary concerns for the police department. The closing addresses both issues. More specifically, in the last three years, the police department has responded to forty service calls relating to perceived gate malfunctions at this crossing. The response to these calls consumes approximately thirty-five minutes per call, diverting police officers from other forms of service delivery.

Access to the surrounding area is similarly unaffected by the proposed closing. The presence of Parker Street a mere nine hundred feet to the south and North Plains Industrial Highway approximately nineteen hundred feet to the north provide sufficient alternative roadways.

It is my understanding that the proposed crossing will also permit the railroad to reassign or re-utilize some radio wave signaling devices to better enhance safety at the remaining crossings. For technical reasons relating to proximity of all our crossings, this is not otherwise possible.

For the variety of reasons cited above I foresee no impediments, from our perspective, to the closing of the Hosford Street crossing.

cc: Officer Richard Doll