



**STAFF REPORT
WEST ALLIS PLAN COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
6:00 PM**

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/user/westalliscitychannel>

9. Vacation and discontinuance of a portion of public right of way along S. 55th St. Between W. Mobile St. (North) and W. Mobile St. (South).

Overview and Zoning

The reason to vacate is to reduce the City's ongoing maintenance and liability expense for this section of public right of way on S. 55 St. With the S. 55 St. crossing being eliminated, the WisDOT will agree to bring the at grade rail crossing at W. Beloit Rd. up to current standards including the installation of new railroad signal equipment. This year, WisDOT is starting a reconstruction project from S. 60 St. to W. Lincoln Ave. The railroad signal equipment cannot accommodate the closely spaced crossings at Beloit, 60th, 57th, and 55th Streets. Therefore, the rail crossing at S. 55 St. has been slated to be closed.

The railroad property is the only abutting property and will be sent notice of the public hearing. State Statutes requires publishing a class 3 notice and personal service on abutting landowners at least 30 days before a public hearing or, if they can't be personally served, the notice needs to be mailed to them at least 30 days ahead of time. Any abutting owner can object to discontinuance by filing a written objection; it would then take a 2/3 vote by the council to override that objection.

On January 10, the item was introduced to the Common Council and council directed staff to proceed with public notice and a hearing. Staff is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to vacate the subject areas from city right-of-way and make them private (taxable) property.

The schedule for review as follows:

1/10/23 Council introduction at 7pm

2/22/23 Plan Commission meeting at 6pm

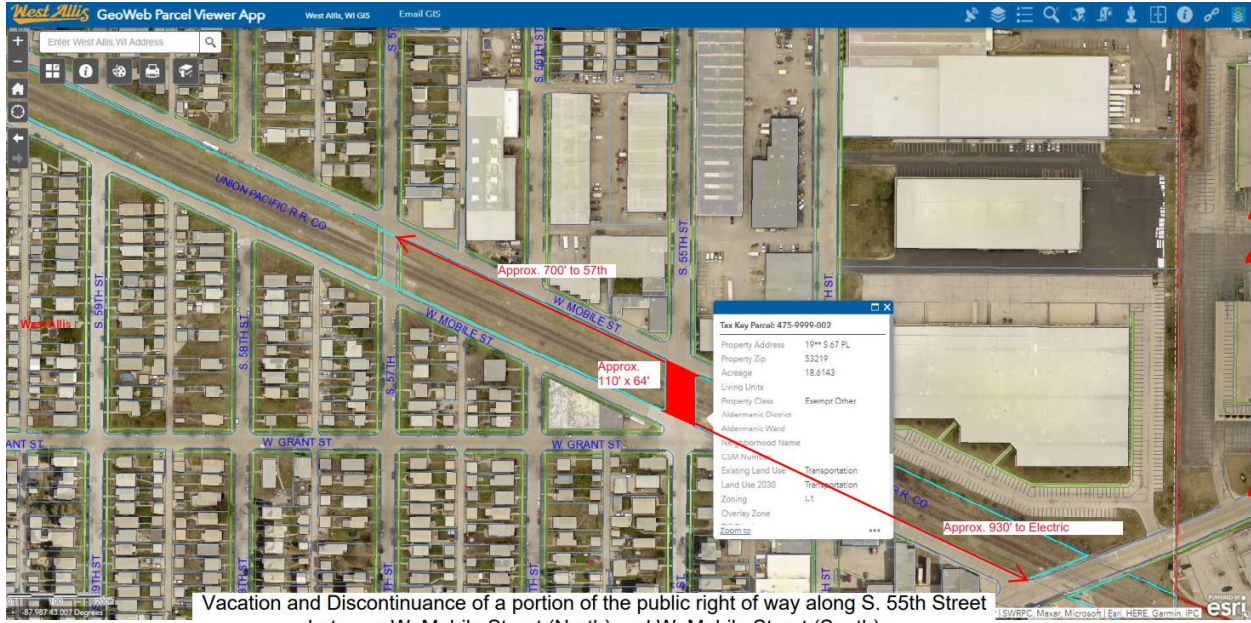
3/21/23 Council Public Hearing – decision/action date where it will pass or fail

Property land use along S. 55 St. summarized as follows:

North of tracks – light industrial businesses

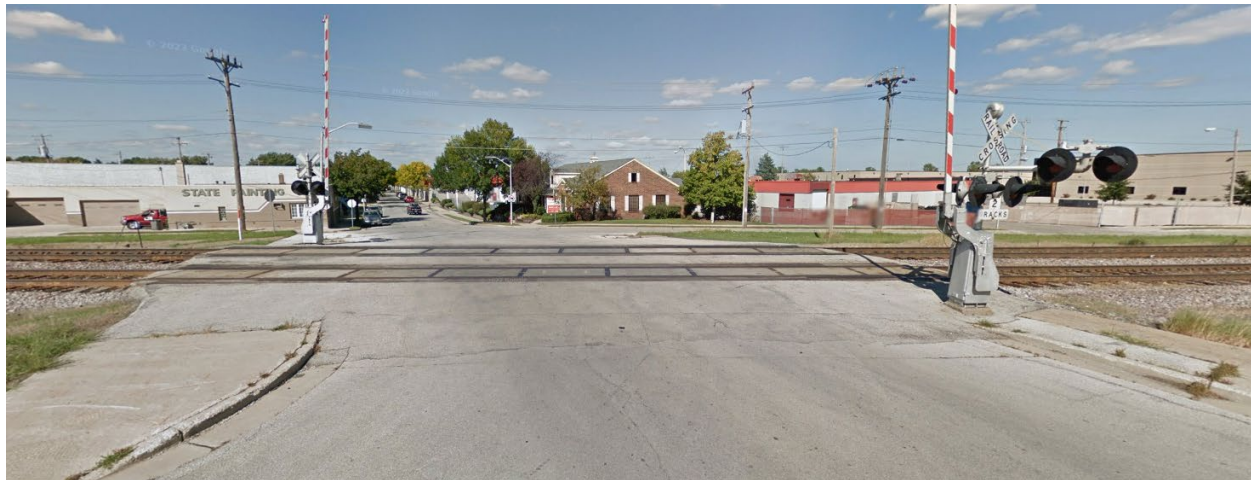
South of tracks – residential and mixed use

Closing the crossing will mean properties north and south of the rail crossing at S. 55 St. will need to travel parallel to the railroad along Mobile Street to access another crossing point (next closest opportunities are at either S. 57 St. to the west or Electric Ave. on the east.)



Vacation and Discontinuance of a portion of the public right of way along S. 55th Street between W. Mobile Street (North) and W. Mobile Street (South)

[Street View](#) S. 55 St. at grade crossing of the Union Pacific Rail Road



Recommendation: Common Council approval of the Vacation and discontinuance of a portion of public right-of-way near the intersection of S. 92nd St. and W. Cleveland Ave. subject to public notice and a public hearing in accordance with State Statutes.