



Memorandum

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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TO: Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works
Michael Czaplewski, First District
Martin Weigel, Second District
Daniel Roadt, Fourth District
James Sengstock, Fifth District

FROM: Michael Lewis, City Engineer

DATE: January 29, 2009

RE: **Communication from City Engineer Regarding the Proposed Bike Trail and Closing the S. 57th Street Railroad Crossing**

We have been going around and around with Union Pacific regarding crossing their tracks just west of the I-894/45 (see attached map). Finally, we have cost estimates for the two options. The first estimate is for raising the tracks to accommodate an ADA crossing:

Raise Tracks = \$159,571
Install 3 Crossing Surfaces = \$135,000
Total = \$357,000

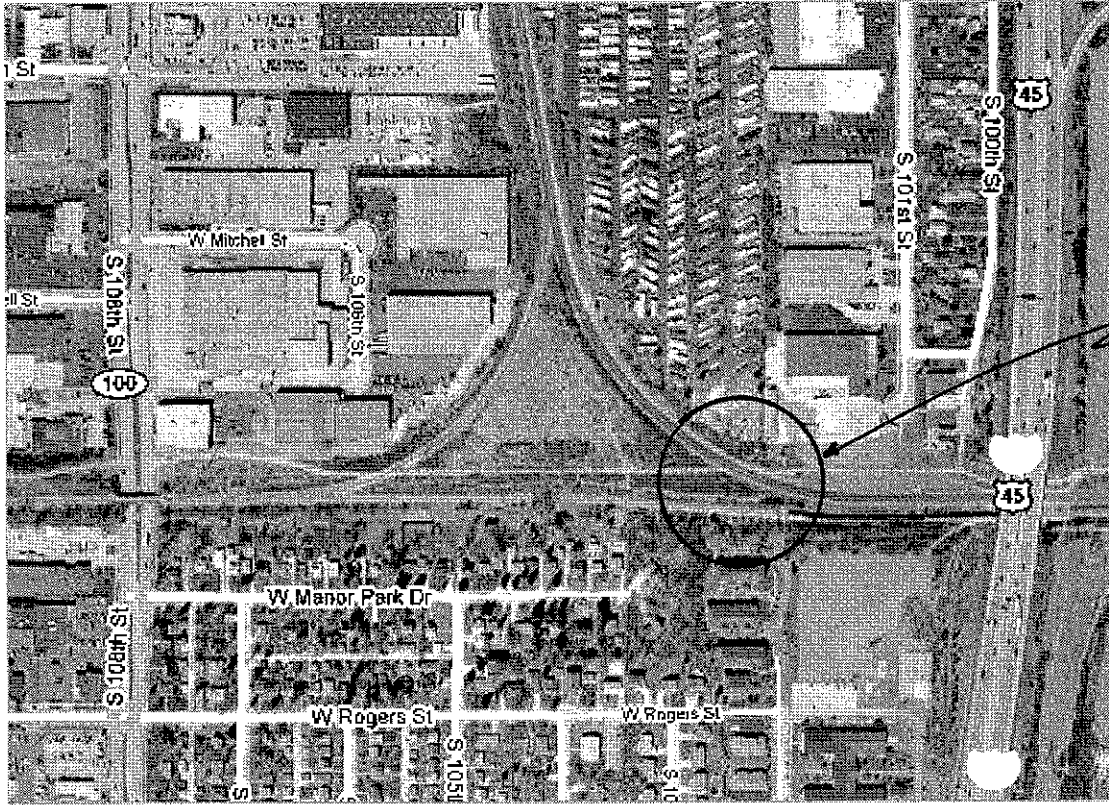
The second estimate is for installing a tunnel:

Replace Tracks = \$191,400
Install 1 Crossing Surface = \$45,000
Construct Tunnel = \$980,400
Total = \$1,216,800

WisDOT is requesting our concurrence in proceeding to the next step, which is to schedule an official hearing with the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR). We would request the at-grade crossing due to the significant cost savings, but part of the deal is to close the S. 57 Street railroad crossing.

The S. 57 Street railroad crossing only handles 300 or so vehicles a day. Keep in mind that we are always one accident away from either permanently closing this crossing or installing expensive safety facilities in order to keep the no whistle zone.

We are asking for approval of this deal.



Location
of crossing.
At grade
\$357,000
Tunnel
\$1,217,000