

# Town of Macedon Highway Department



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Re: Quaker Road Crossing

Monday, October 17, 2022

Residents,

The Quaker Road railroad crossing, which is owned by CSX Transportation, Inc., is being permanently closed at the direction of the New York State Department of Transportation, as requested by CSX, not the Town.

In or around 2017, the NYSDOT and CSX notified the Town that the crossing had been deemed a "dangerous crossing" due to its accident history, and that eventually, CSX would petition NYSDOT for it to be closed permanently. Originally, they wanted the Town to oversee a project to effectuate the closure and remediate any impact of it (e.g. build cul-de-sacs at the closure points), to be financed primarily from federally earmarked funds to be awarded to the Town. However, this proposal would have required the Town to take on liability and additional incidental costs at taxpayer expense, even though CSX, not the Town, was liable for the crossing. Through negotiations, the Town eventually convinced the NYSDOT to agree that in the event the closure was ordered, the NYSDOT would be responsible for the project, without any expense to the Town.

On March 2, 2020, CSX filed a petition with the NYSDOT requesting the permanent closure of the railroad crossing. A public hearing before a NYSDOT administrative law judge was held on April 6, 2021 at the Town Hall, with the Town appearing with counsel as an interested party, along with several impacted residents who were given notice of the hearing by the NYSDOT. During the hearing, the Town Attorney presented the Town's concerns and objections to CSX's petition, including issues related to the impact on nearby residents and local traffic. Ultimately, as was expected all along, on January 5, 2022, the NYSDOT ALJ issued an order directing permanent closure, subject to various conditions.

By the terms of the order, CSX is required to "block access to the crossing by installing concrete barricades" and remove "the crossing surface, flashing-light signals, gates and any other warning devices." As of Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, CSX installed a Guide Rail Barricade signifying an end for thru traffic going between State Route 350/31F and Canandaigua Road. "Dead End" signs have also been put in place, warning traffic of the closure at the tracks. Now that the barricades are up, CSX will begin removing the crossing surface and active warning devices. Meanwhile, the NYSDOT will begin Phase I of its project, which will be financed by federal funds, to implement the additional remedial measures, including the construction of cul-de-sacs.

If you wish to learn more, relevant records, including the video of the NYSDOT public hearing and order of permanent closure, are available at the Town Clerk's office for public inspection. Please be sure to check out macedontown.net for information regarding further developments.

Thank You,

*Chris Countryman*

Town of Macedon  
Superintendent of Highways