

# Allen Road Grade Separation Project



## Project Need

The Allen Road Grade Separation Project aims to remedy an issue that has long been recognized as a major burden for Wayne County residents, especially in the City of Woodhaven. Allen Road, within the City of Woodhaven, is one of Wayne County's busiest commercial and industrial corridors. Many local motorists are hindered by the frequent and lengthy delays caused by the train crossing. In addition to inconveniencing motorists, these delays disrupt timely access for emergency services, schools, and businesses.

To resolve this problem, the project will elevate the existing railroad crossing and lower Allen Road by 20 feet. This grade separation will allow for uninterrupted traffic flow, enabling motorists to pass freely under the new railroad bridge.

## Project Overview

Since 2020, the project team has worked to set the stage for major construction. Coordination with the Canadian National (CN) railroad and utilities began, along with the environmental permitting process. In 2021, roadway construction at the interchange of Van Horn Road and Allen Road was the first step in preparing the project area for grade separation. Since then, \$39 million in federal, state, and local funding has revived this project while the team has spent the past few years working through utility and permitting requirements.

## Project Design and Utility Status

With the design phase nearing completion, the team is currently focused on the permit process and utility relocations coordination. There are 20 different assets from 11 utility companies that will need to be relocated prior to construction of the railroad bridge and road work. Petroleum pipeline companies in the project area require additional agreements with Wayne County.

Once Wayne County receives the final proposals from each utility, the Wayne County Real Estate office will proceed with securing the additional property needed for the relocated utilities. The project can then proceed to the construction phase.

## Next Steps

Currently, the project team is coordinating utility relocations and completing agreements with the pipeline companies. Prior to utility relocations, railroad and environmental permits will need to be finalized.

Construction of the bridge is anticipated to commence in the summer of 2025 and anticipated completion is expected in the spring of 2027. As the project continues to progress it will be vital to secure additional funds to ensure that project milestones remain on schedule. Wayne County intends to use all available funding avenues to complete the project.

