



January 20, 2022

Laurie Connors, Director
Town of Millbury
127 Elm St.
Millbury, MA 01527

Mrs. Connors,

The Town of Millbury's partial funding request on January 11, 2022 for the railroad crossing upgrade required to complete the proposed Rice Pond Village development was carefully considered. However, the Providence and Worcester Railroad (P&W) will respectfully be unable to provide any funding for this project at this time. The Rice Road crossing currently meets standard requirements for the existing conditions and the P&W is unable to spend its' limited funding on replacing railroad assets that have not yet reached the end of their lifecycle. The following are the seven main considerations taken when determining the necessity to install active warning devices:

- Volume of vehicular traffic
- Volume of railroad traffic
- Speed of vehicular traffic
- Speed of railroad traffic
- Volume of pedestrian traffic
- Collision record
- Sight distance restrictions

The only variable with this project is the addition of 46 units and the widening of Rice Road, which will significantly increase the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic along with vehicular speed at this crossing, causing the current warning assembly to be out of compliance. It is not the financial responsibility of the P&W to upgrade existing satisfactory railroad assets to align with increased standards necessary to support the modifications being made to the surrounding properties that do not directly involve the railroad.

The P&W receives many more requests to participate in funding endeavors than our relatively limited resources will permit. This leads to difficult decisions in establishing priorities and means that a number of important activities, such as yours, cannot be supported at this time. We are appreciative of the information forwarded to us and of the time and effort put forth.

Respectfully,

Katelyn Krysiak

Katelyn Krysiak
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