



Accountability - Dedication
Honesty - Integrity - Respect

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2026

TO: Tara Vasicek, City Administrator

FROM: Richard J. Bogus, City Engineer

RE: Resolution of opposition for Closure of 63rd Avenue Railroad Crossing on the west side of Howard Boulevard

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval of the Resolution in opposition to the request of the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation (RGPC) on behalf of the Nebraska Central Railroad Company (NCRC) on tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) for closure of the railroad crossing on 63rd Avenue located on the west side of Howard Boulevard (US Hwy No. 81).

DISCUSSION:

Whereas,

- The community is growing in region of the 63rd Avenue, as proof of recent subdivisions
 - Platte County Board of Supervisors are on record by Resolution to keep the crossing open
 - Existing corporate limits are located on both sides of the railroad tracks
 - Access crossings options in the region of the railroad tracks are already limited
 - The closest crossing in either direction of 63rd Avenue is about one mile
 - Closure is not in compliance with the City Comprehensive Plan which includes the Long-Range Transportation Plan
 - Increase travel times of the public and school buses, causing negative safety impacts to the public
 - Increased vehicle air emissions due to the three-mile permanent detour
 - Increase travel use travel costs for the user
 - Emergency life safety vehicle response times will increase and be outside of the National Fire Protection Agency standards and Insurance Services Office benchmarks.
 - Loss of an emergency access from a Loup River federal levee failure or flood event, as included and stated in the City of Columbus, Platte County and Lower Loup Natural Resource District Emergency Operations Plan
 - Closure severs a portion of the community neighborhood
 - Existing and planned business major impactions and operations on the south side. Gehring Construction & Ready Mix owns, operates, and is expanding south and east of this intersection. Loss of crossing would be financially severe.
 - Affects property valuations on the south side
 - Severs the City's Master Trail Plan in this region. Existing trails are in place set up to utilize this crossing, due to the lack of crossing in the area.
 - Creates an unnecessary burden on the vehicular and pedestrian public
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- There will most likely be residential and business opposition and questions of fairness and reduced quality of life
- The 63rd Avenue crossing was there before the NCRC decided to use it as staging for the UPRR Columbus Yard.
- The NCRC and UPRR are aware of this from past meetings on this option from ongoing 63rd Avenue and Howard Boulevard traffic signalization meetings

Therefore, the City's objection to the RGPC request on behalf of the NCRC to the NDOT to close the 63rd Avenue crossing located on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Hwy No. 81

FISCAL IMPACT:

Impact to Street and Utility Divisions operation budgets if the intersection is closed.

ALTERNATIVE:

Do not approve.

SIGNATURE:

By: Richard J. Boger

Approved By: [Signature]



63 Avenue, west side of Howard Blvd/US Hwy 81

KWMG-FM Columbus

Harris's Colum

Image © 2026 Airbus

Imagery Date: 5/1/2026 41°27'10.27" N 97°24'20.55" W elev 1463