

**RESOLUTION NO. R26-83**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, OPPOSING THE REQUEST OF THE RIO GRANDE PACIFIC CORPORATION ON BEHALF OF THE NEBRASKA CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY ON TRACKS OWNED BY THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD FOR CLOSURE OF THE RAILROAD CROSSING ON 63RD AVENUE LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF HOWARD BOULEVARD/US HWY 81 TO THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, has received correspondence from the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation on behalf of the Nebraska Central Railroad Company (NCRC) to the Nebraska Department of Transportation recommending the railroad crossing closure of 63rd Avenue located on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Hwy 81; and,

WHEREAS, the NCRC leases and operates the railroad line at said location on railroad tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad; and

WHEREAS, the community is growing in the region, the corporate limits are located on both sides of said crossing, and railroad crossings are limited in the region with the next closest crossing at about one mile; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure would sever community neighborhoods, create unnecessary burden on the vehicular and pedestrian traffic, increase travel times of the public and school buses, impact operations for current and future businesses, and increase vehicle emissions due to the three-mile permanent detour; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure is not in compliance with the City's Comprehensive Plan, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Master Trail Plan; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure would cause emergency life safety response times to increase outside of the National Fire Protection Agency standards and Insurance Services Office benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure would result in a loss of an emergency route from a Loup River federal levee failure or flood event as included in the City of Columbus, Platte County, and Lower Loup Natural Resource District Emergency Operations Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, to oppose the request of the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation on behalf of the Nebraska Central Railroad Company request for closure of the railroad crossing on 63rd Avenue located on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Hwy 81.

This resolution shall repeal all resolutions or portions thereof in conflict herewith.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY