



# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Town Council

**From:** Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long-Range Planning

**Date:** October 18, 2011

**Re:** "Quiet Zone" along Pan American Railways Line

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Staff updated possible proposed Quiet Zone (QZ) designs at Falmouth's four crossings and reviewed these with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). It appears that a Quiet Zone can be obtained for an estimated construction cost of \$70,000-127,000 and that a formal approval process with FRA is not required.

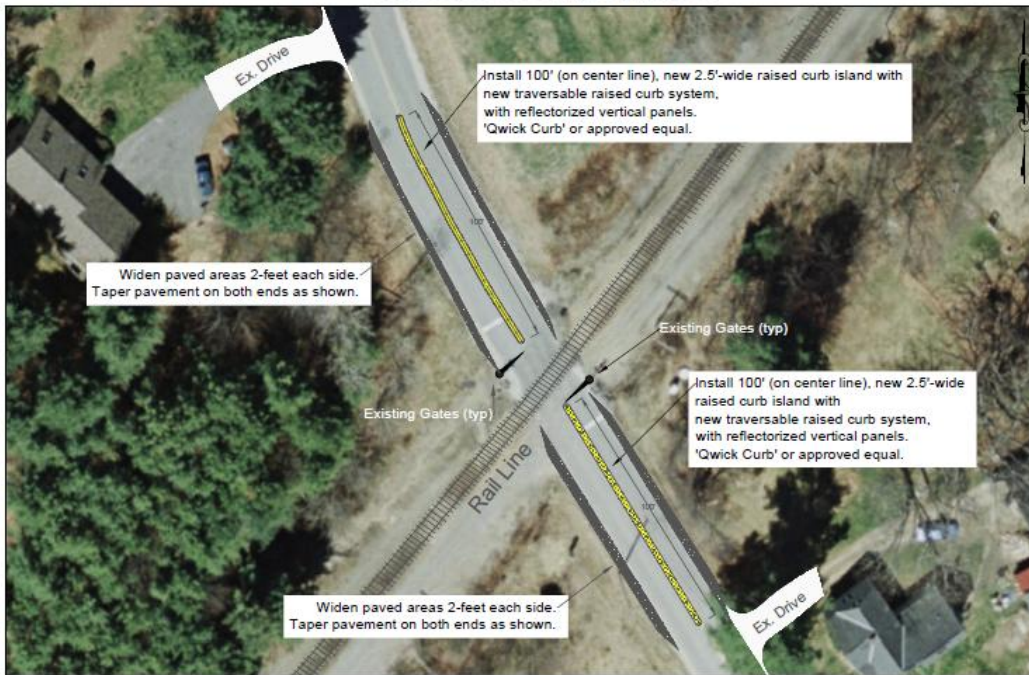
## UPDATED CROSSING DESIGNS

1. Staff explored "channelization" safety improvements at all four crossings.
2. In the new channelization design, we are now looking at a 2.5ft traversable median with 45 degree granite curb. The delineator package would then be mounted on the median. This work also mandates a slight road widening. We believe this is an improved design that will hold up better in adverse conditions and during winter maintenance (snowplowing) operations.
3. This design appears to be a simple case for Field and Woodville road crossings. It has been modified at the other two crossings.
4. Improvements at the Field and Woodville road crossings would be mandatory for a Falmouth Quiet Zone involving all four crossings.
5. Improvements at the Blackstrap and Falmouth road crossings would provide additional safety and be at the discretion of the Town.

## UPDATED COSTS ESTIMATES

Crossings	Cost Estimate	Required for QZ?
Blackstrap	\$27,000	Optional
Falmouth	\$30,000	Optional
Field	\$35,000	Mandatory
Woodville	\$35,000	Mandatory
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70,000-127,000</b>	

## Town of Falmouth - Field Road Railroad Crossing Upgrades

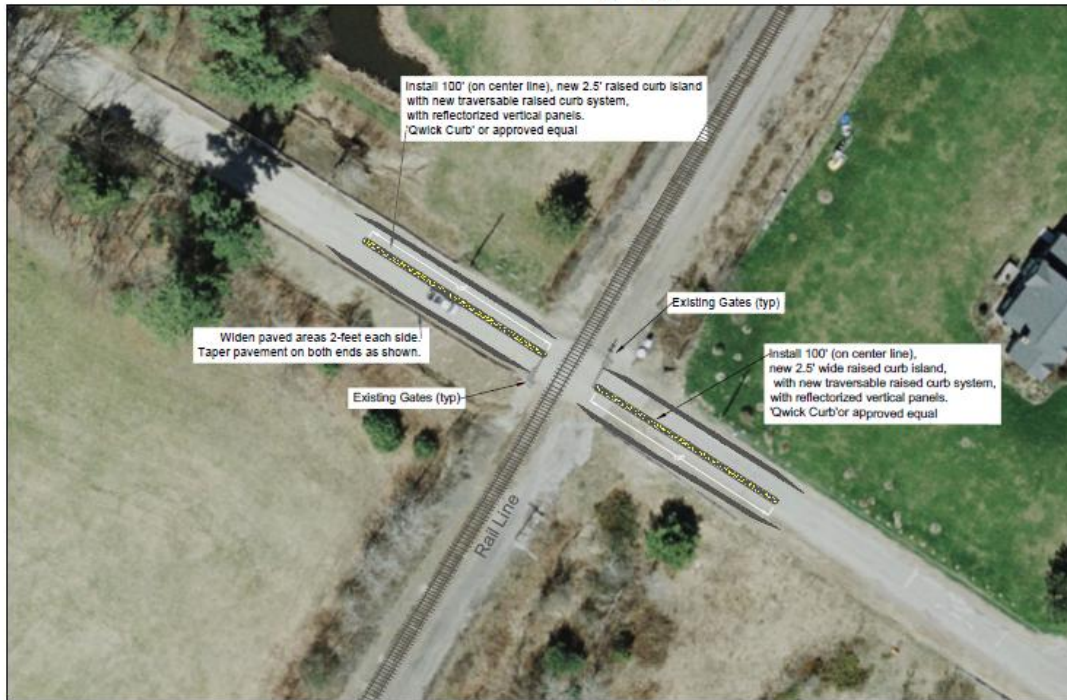


Scale: 1"=40'

Option 1 (channelization)  
Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$35,000

Town of Falmouth  
Parks and Public Works Department

## Town of Falmouth - Woodville Road Railroad Crossing Upgrades



Scale: 1"=50'

Option 1 (channelization)  
Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$35,000

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Parks and Public Works Department



## Town of Falmouth - Blackstrap Road Railroad Crossing Upgrades

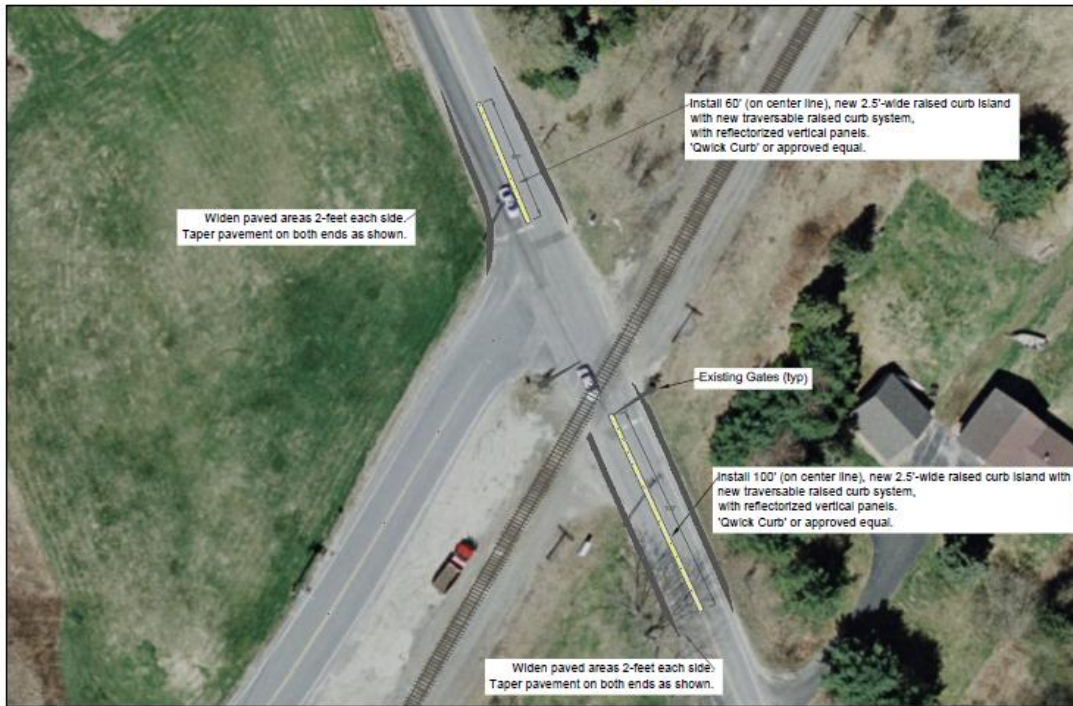


Scale: 1"=50'

Option 2 (Channelization)  
Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$27,000

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Parks and Public Works Department

## Town of Falmouth - Falmouth Road Railroad Crossing Upgrades



Scale: 1"=50'

Option 3 (Channelization)  
Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$30,000

Town of Falmouth  
Parks and Public Works Department

## TIMELINE

- Oct 5: PPW staff completes concept designs and cost estimates for all four crossings
- Oct 5: Town Manager informs Cumberland Town Manager about Falmouth updates and plans to move forward with Council discussion.
- Oct 13: Staff to run concept designs and questions by FRA for comment and input
- Oct 18: Staff to develop Council e-agenda package including question to Council – “do you want to pursue QZ or not?”
- Oct 24: Council preliminary (informal) action to proceed (or not)
- Nov 14: Council order to transfer funds from Undesignated Fund Balance to be used for construction/improvements designed by PPW.
- Winter 2012: Complete required paperwork (notices, application, etc.)
- Spring/Summer 2012: FRA approval (or whatever is needed from FRA), [Construction](#)