LA CROSSE
AT-GRADE RAILROAD CROSSING

HAGAR STREET/AVON STREET AND
ST. CLOUD STREET/LIBERTY STREET CROSSINGS

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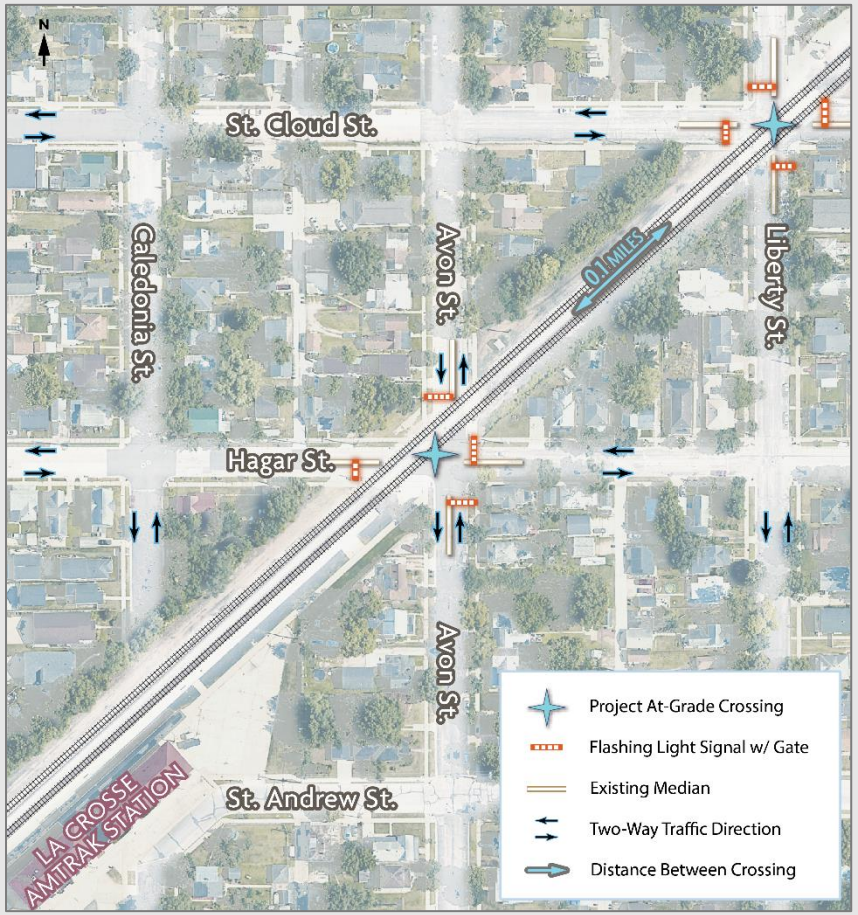
Board of Public Works, La Crosse, Wisconsin

JULY 1, 2024

PROJECT LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Roadway Characteristics

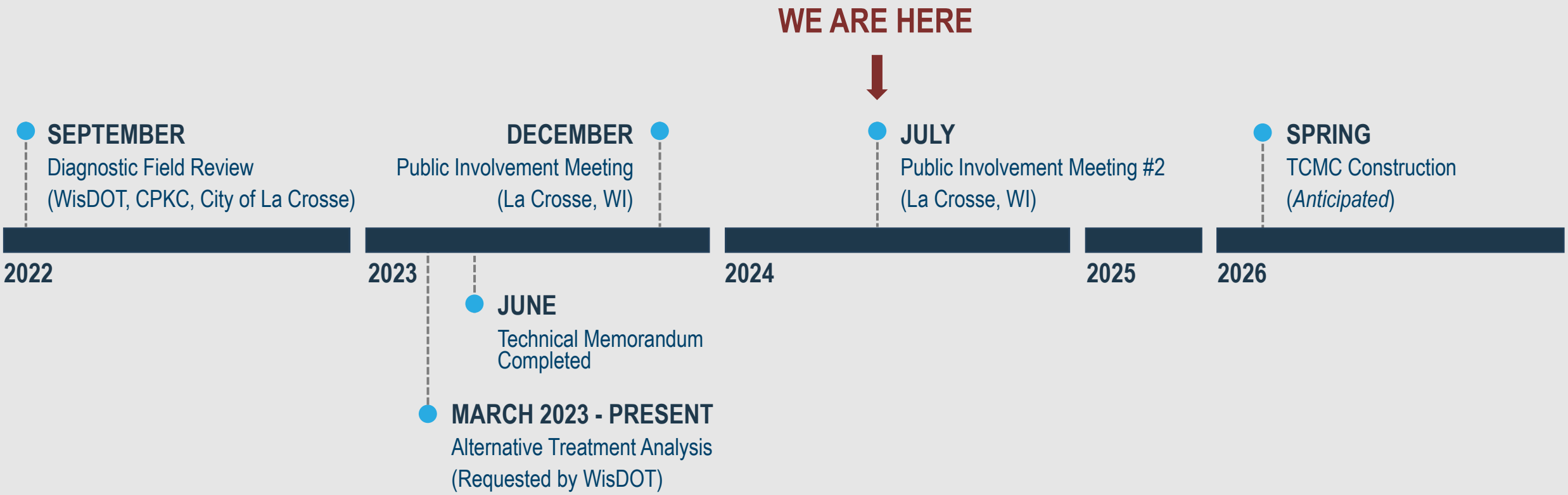
- Two-lane, uncontrolled intersection, bidirectional local street with parking on both sides.
- 25 mph posted speed limit.
- Railroad gate with flashing light signals in all approach lanes.
- No stop signs.
- Medians at all approaches – 4.5 ft wide, 60-100 ft. long



RELATIONSHIP TO TCMC INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT

- Restoration of a second mainline track through the project area.
- Improvements to the functionality of the rail yard.
- Station and platform improvements.

TIMELINE


WE ARE HERE
SEPTEMBER
Diagnostic Field Review
(WisDOT, CPKC, City of La Crosse)
DECEMBER
Public Involvement Meeting
(La Crosse, WI)
JULY
Public Involvement Meeting #2
(La Crosse, WI)
SPRING
TCMC Construction
(*Anticipated*)
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
JUNE
Technical Memorandum
Completed
MARCH 2023 - PRESENT
Alternative Treatment Analysis
(Requested by WisDOT)

DRAFT **PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED**

Purpose

Provide safe vehicular, bicyclist and pedestrian crossing at the two railroad crossings in La Crosse in conjunction with the Twin Cities – Milwaukee – Chicago (TCMC) Intercity Passenger Rail Project.

Need

The need of this study is to address **safety concerns** and **design deficiencies.**

SAFETY CONCERNS across both crossings:

- **26 crashes** between two vehicles (2018-2022)
- **10 crashes** involving trains (1979-2022)

DESIGN DEFICIENCIES across both crossings:

- **Diagonal Tracks** create unsafe gate configurations
- Lack of pedestrian and bicyclist **safety features**

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

✓	**All-way Stop Control**	Installation of stop signs and bars upstream of the crossing gates.
✓	**8-Gate System**	Crossing gates are placed on both sides of the intersection to prevent vehicles from driving around the gates.
✓	**Technology Improvements**	Technology is implemented to alert drivers of an active crossing, allowing them to seek an alternate route.
✓	**Close Grade Crossing**	Crossing is closed to vehicle traffic but still accessible by cyclists and pedestrians.
✗	**Extend Medians**	Extend the current medians at the crossing to discourage drivers from driving around gates.
✗	**One-way Alternatives**	Convert two-way streets to one-way pairs around the railroad crossings.

Technology improvements and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will be considered under all alternatives and further refined during final design.

ALTERNATIVE 1: ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL

All-way Stop Control is the baseline condition. The city of La Crosse has committed to all-way stop signs and bars upstream of the crossing gates.

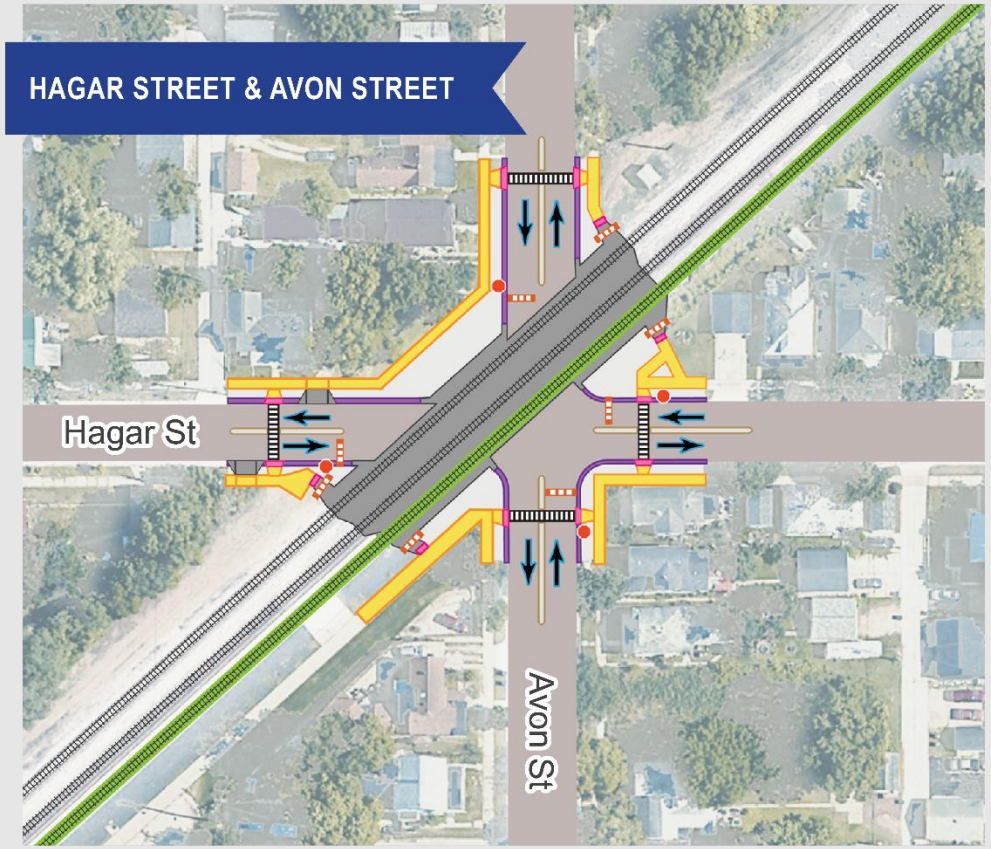
LEGEND Note: Fencing, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and technology improvements to be considered in future phases.

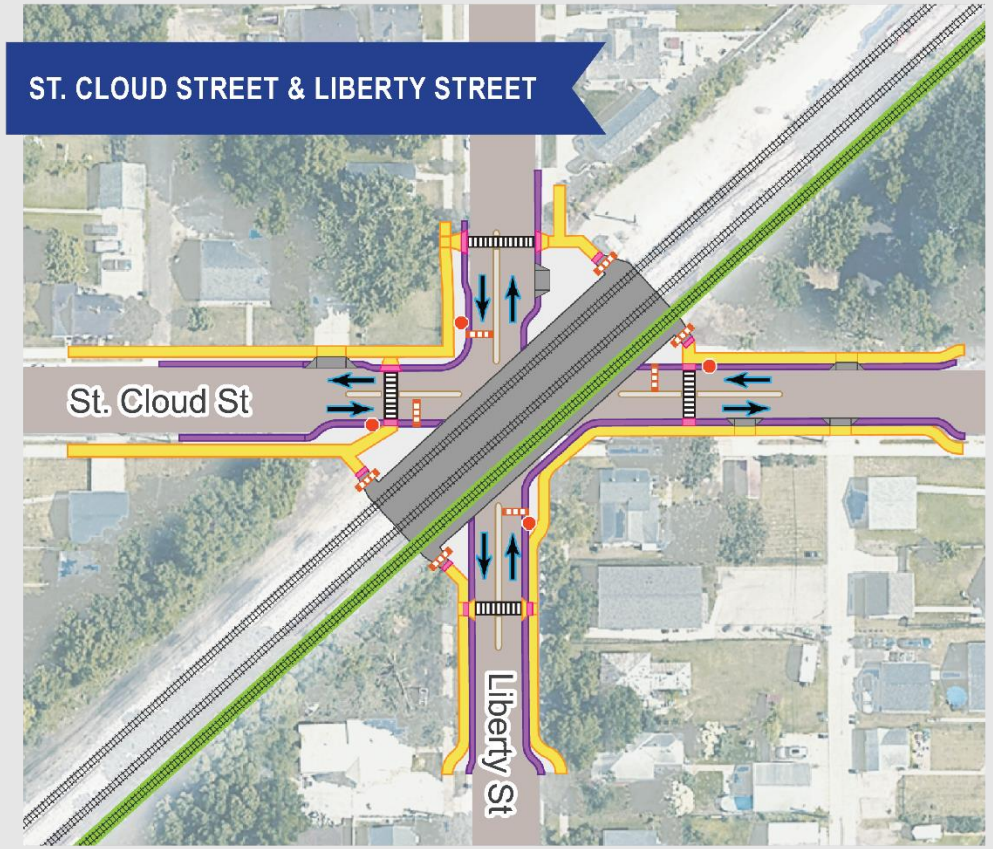
- SIDEWALK
- CURB
- CROSSWALK
- MEDIAN
- EXISTING TRACK
- NEW TRACK
- TRACK PANEL AREA
- CROSSING GATE
- STOP SIGN
- DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC
- DETECTABLE WARNING FIELD
- DRIVEWAY

N

0 40 80

SCALE IN FEET





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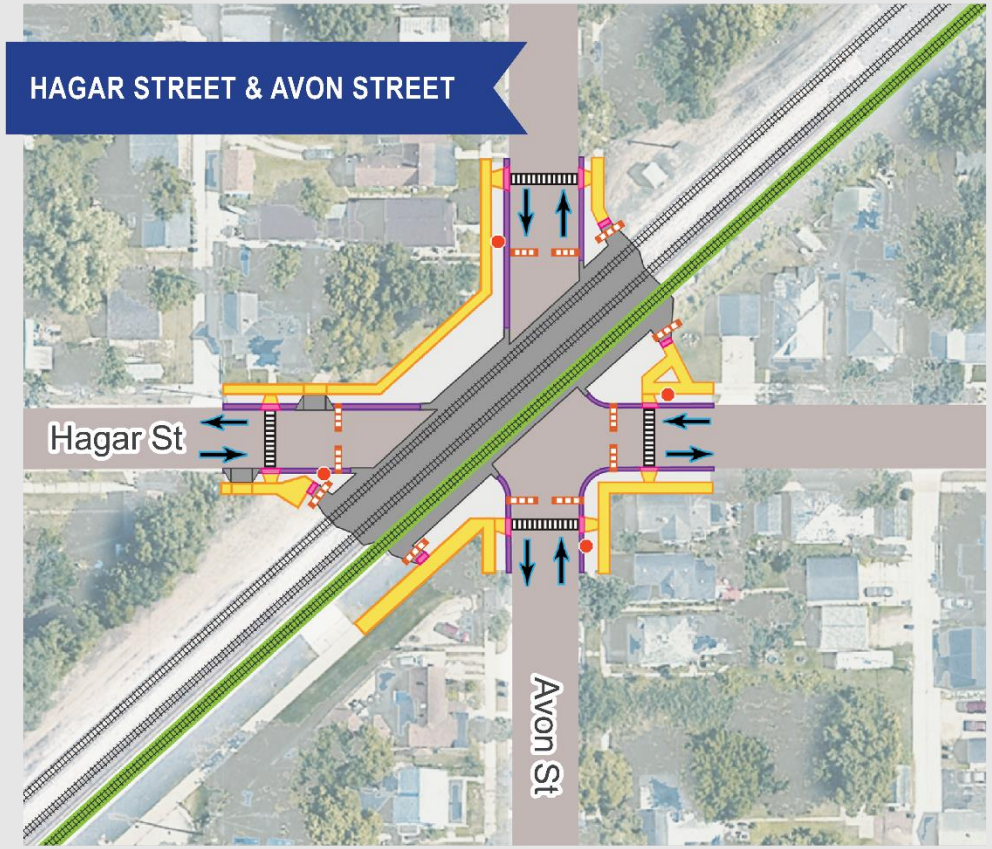
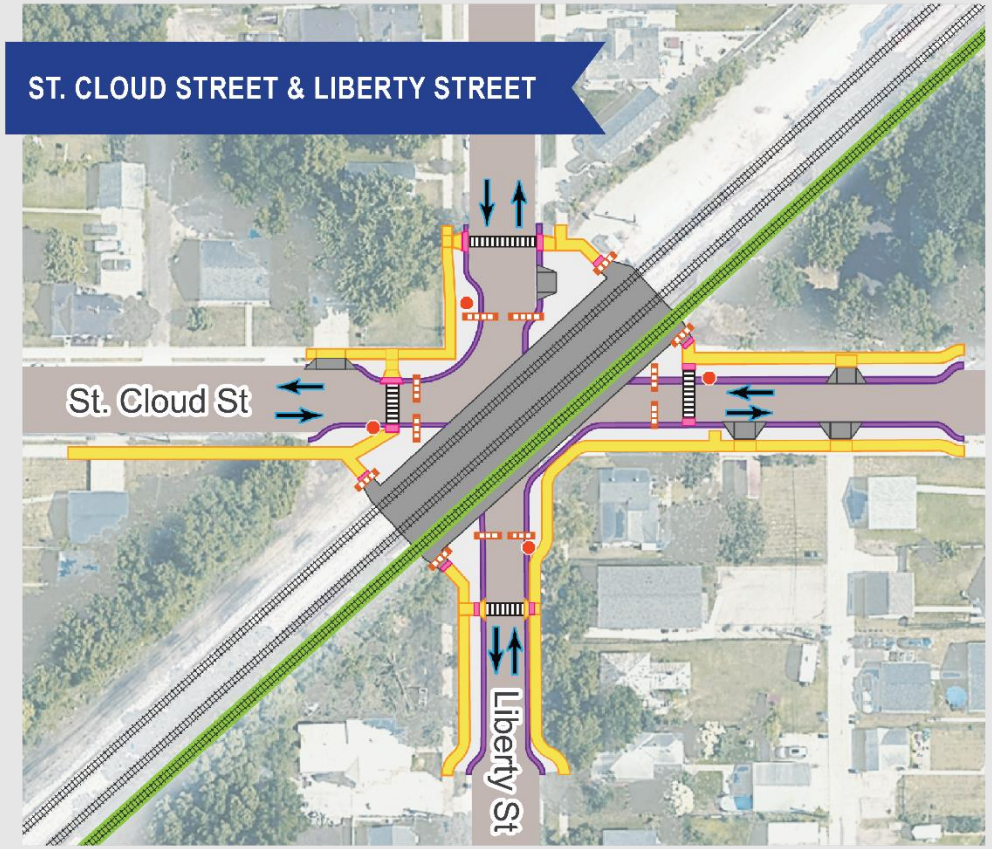
ALTERNATIVE 2: 8-GATE SYSTEM

This alternative would add exit gates to the far side of the crossing in the departure lane.





ALTERNATIVE 3: ONE 8-GATE AND ONE CLOSURE (1+1)

This alternative would add an 8-gate System to the Hagar Street and Avon Street crossing and close the St. Cloud Street and Liberty Street crossing to vehicle traffic.

LEGEND Note: Fencing, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and technology improvements to be considered in future phases.

- SIDEWALK
- CURB
- CROSSWALK
- DRIVEWAY
- EXISTING TRACK
- NEW TRACK
- TRACK PANEL AREA
- CROSSING GATE
- STOP SIGN
- DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC
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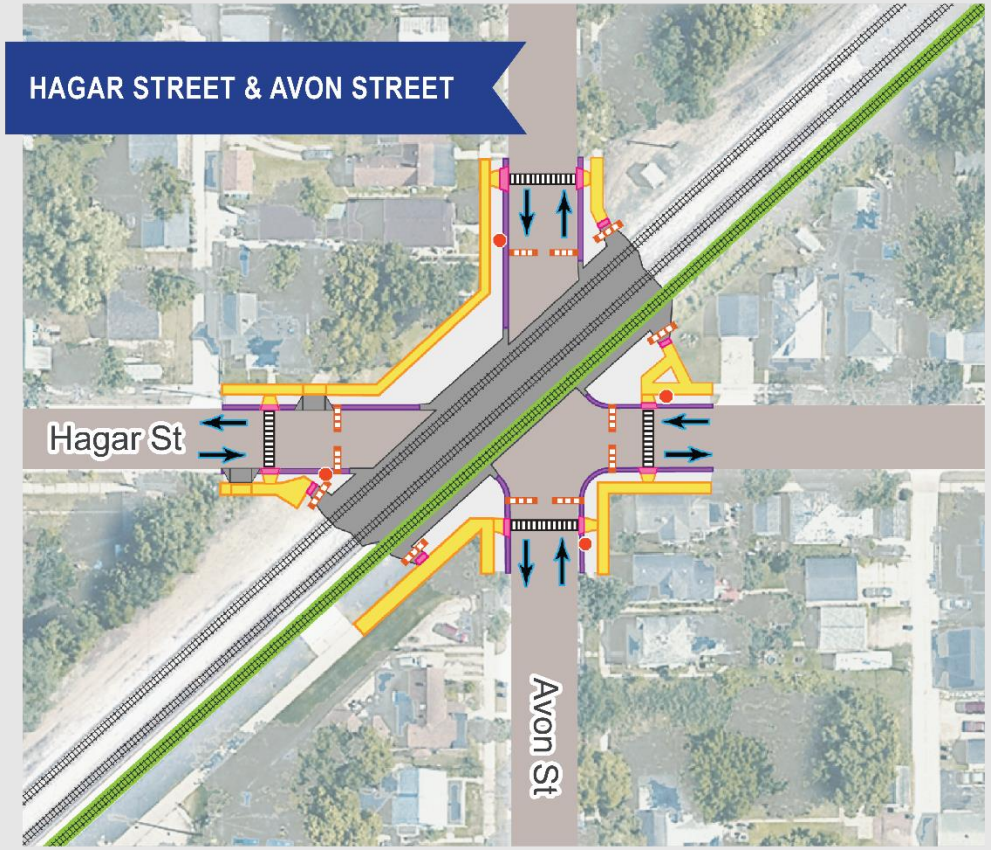
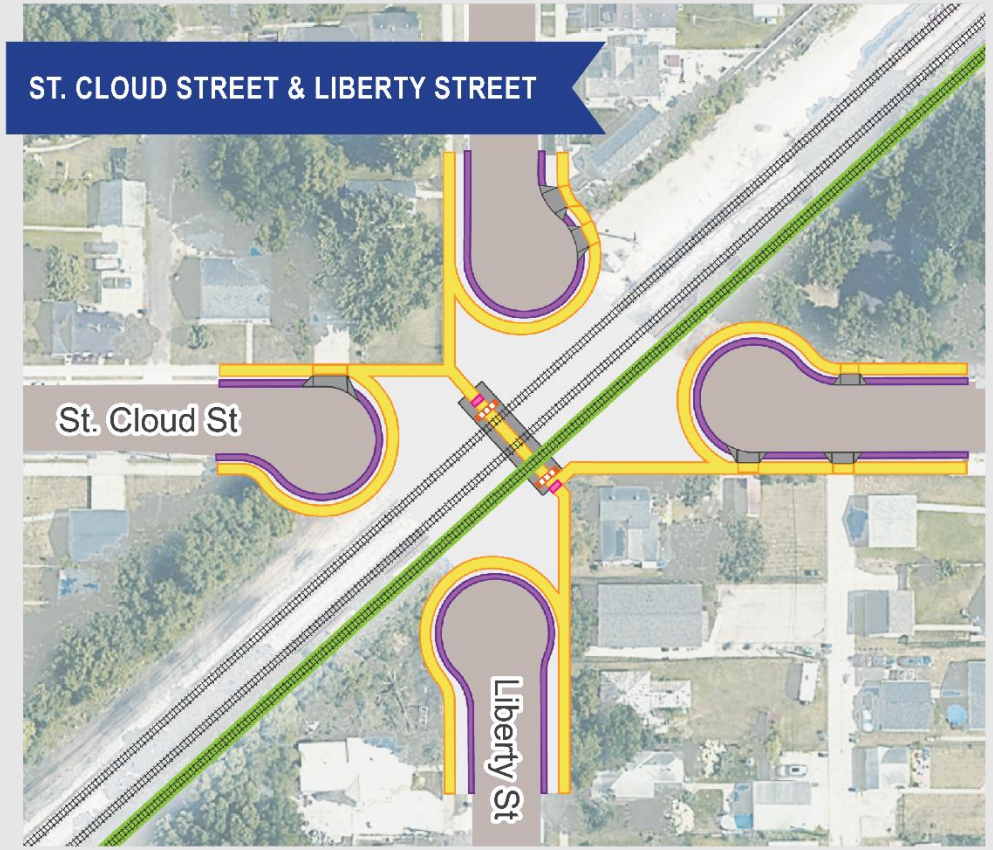
SCALE IN FEET





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PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE:

ONE 8-GATE SYSTEM AND ONE CLOSURE (1+1 ALTERNATIVE)

PRIMARY FACTORS IN RECOMMENDATION

ADDRESSES SAFETY CONCERNS

- Eliminates the most dangerous and less used crossing.
- Will reduce the crash rate at the Hagar Street and Avon Street crossing.
- Improves pedestrian and bicycle safety at crossing.

IMPROVES DESIGN DEFICIENCIES

- Improves gate configuration at Hagar Street and Avon Street.
- Eliminates vehicular diagonal track crossing at St. Cloud Street and Liberty Street.

INCORPORATES STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- Maintains bi-directional vehicle traffic at Hagar Street and Avon Street while adding 8-gate Systems to improve safety.
- Closing the St. Cloud Street and Liberty Street crossing removes a railroad crossing, improving safety and reducing maintenance.

NEXT STEPS

Public Involvement Meeting (Open House)

DATE: **Wednesday, July 10th**

TIME: **5 - 7 pm**

LOCATION: **Logan High School**

OCR PETITION

Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) Petition and Decision

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

CONSTRUCTION