



Department of Police

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James L. Episcopo
CHIEF OF POLICE

Edward A. Petrak
DEPUTY CHIEF

Dear Brookfield Residents,

As you've heard by now the Prairie Avenue Railroad Crossing will be closed for a major remodel beginning Friday June 15th, to Saturday June 23rd.

We are doing our best to get the word out to our valued residents and commuters about being inconvenienced during this time. We know from experience that traffic will be congested, parking will be problematic, getting around on foot and walking the area will be difficult. We are stating in our messaging that the Police Department will have extra Officers working the area of the Maple Ave. crossing in an attempt to keep traffic flowing more smoothly. A company called "RoadSafe" will be posting "Detour and Road Closure" signs around the perimeter of the area to assist with re-routing traffic patterns as well. Officers will also be watching for pedestrians who might be considering *dangerous decisions* in an effort to get across the tracks on foot by crossing at a location other than the normal crosswalk at Prairie Ave. There is already preventative wire fencing to the East to discourage this, and there will be temporary "snow fencing" in place to the West to also make it difficult for pedestrians to cross.

The truth is:

Pedestrians will STILL try to get across the tracks by whatever means necessary to avoid missing their train, or getting back across to their parked car or bicycle. (Unless we can convince them otherwise)



According to information provided by "Illinois Operation Lifesaver"

What Most Americans Do Not Know About Vehicle-Train Crashes

- 333 - Number in millions of vehicles that cross railroad tracks every day.
- 274 - Number of people killed in 2017 at highway-rail grade crossing collisions.
- 735 - Number of people killed in 2017 trespassing on railroad property. (That includes crossing at unauthorized locations)
- 18 - Number of football fields it takes a freight train, traveling at 55mph, to stop.
- 50 - Percentage of vehicle/train collisions that occur at crossings with active warning devices (lights, gates, bells).
- 211,600 - Approximate number of at-grade highway-rail crossings in the U.S.
- 40 - Times you are more likely to die in a crash with a train than you are to die in an automobile crash.
- 3 - Average time, in hours, between each incident where a vehicle or pedestrian is struck by a train.

As your Chief of Police, I am asking for everyone's patience during this short time. At the end of the day your **SAFETY** is all we care about. Please don't become another statistic. Do whatever you have to do to make alternate plans for your commute, and allow for a little extra time. This is an exciting time for Brookfield with major improvements taking place all over town. Let's make sure we stay safe while it's happening so we can all enjoy the benefits later. Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

Sincerely,

James L. Episcopo

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