



City of Rochelle  
Economic Development  
Department

## Memo

**To: David Plyman**  
**From: Jason Anderson**  
**Date: August 18, 2014**  
**Re: City of Rochelle Railroad Expansion**

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The City of Rochelle Railroad is undergoing two expansion projects this summer including the expansion of one mainline track for approximately 1/2 mile and an additional "yard track" at the UP interchange yard. Both projects were competitively bid and both projects were awarded to Swanson Contracting Co. Combined, the two projects came in more than \$200,000 under the engineering estimates and therefore funds that were budgeted for these two projects are available for further enhancements to the rail system.

Over the past 4 years we have been making temporary repairs to the Caron Road crossing that carries BNSF railcars from the BNSF mainline into the Ryder/CIR Yard. Due to the increased traffic on the crossing, the crossing has begun to quickly deteriorate to the point it needs to be completely removed and replaced with new crossing panels. The estimate for the crossing restoration is \$145,000.00. This estimate was given to us by Swanson Contracting. Since Swanson Contracting is on site for the first two projects mentioned above and they have proven to be an excellent rail contractor, the staff recommends Swanson Construction be awarded the project and that the project be completed within the current construction season.

The City Council may agree to forgo the procedure of putting the project out for competitive bids and award the contract to Swanson Contracting if a super-majority of the Council should wish to do so. Staff believes the cost estimates are accurate and that in order to get the project done quickly and efficiently the project be awarded to Swanson Contracting.