



# City of Rochelle Economic Development

## Memo

**To:** Meggon McKinley

**From:** Jason Anderson

**Date:** February 23, 2011

**Re:** Expansion of Rail to Cross Steward Road

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Three industries have approached the City regarding rail access east of the Illinois River Energy facility which is referred to as the "Boyle Farm". Two of the industries are currently negotiating terms to purchase ~60 acres which would be contingent upon the City approving the extension of the City Industrial Rail (CIR) system across Steward Road on to the Boyle Farm.

The first step in providing rail access would be for the City to petition the ICC for permission to create the rail crossing to access the Boyle Farm. The benefits to creating this crossing include but are not limited to:

- Increased capacity for rail car storage as both industries will donate land to the city for a future rail yard
- Increased safety by separating rail cars with hazardous materials from rail cars with non hazardous materials.
- Storing rail cars out of town and not next to the food companies adjacent to the only rail yard on the CIR
- Rail revenues will more than double from the rail car volumes generated by these new rail served industries
- Increased revenues will create funding for further improvements to the CIR
  1. Removal of the Caron Road Crossing from the BNSF Main
  2. Funds for crossing guards at crossings when future traffic warrants the need for crossing guards
  3. Improved interchanges with both the UP and BNSF
  4. Provide funding for quiet zones

Staff recommends that the City go forward with a petition to the ICC to grant permission for the Steward Road Crossing.