



MDOT **PRESS RELEASE**

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Railroad crossing test site is activated after extensive improvements

December 10, 2010 -- Railroad crossing barricades located in Wayne County's Van Buren Township were re-activated earlier this week at a test site located on Denton Road, about 30 miles west of Detroit. It is the only location in the U.S. to be equipped with automated barricades that serve as warning devices at a railroad crossing. The barricades rise from the pavement to discourage drivers from driving around lowered crossing gate arms when a train is approaching.

According to MDOT, the system was first installed in December 2007, but encountered delays and was pulled offline in 2009. All of the equipment was removed, waterproofed, and a track circuitry problem that plagued the project was resolved following extensive testing.

"We watched the new system in action this week and we were very satisfied with the timing of the barricades, which perform much faster and smoother," said K. Michael Bedore, project manager, MDOT.

The department expects another six-month test period to continue until spring or summer of 2011.

The barricades are part of a federal railroad crossing safety test sponsored by MDOT, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. They are working in partnership with Norfolk Southern Railway, Wayne County and Intelligent Perimeter Systems.

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MDOT says: Remember - in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!