City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: March 7, 2016
Council Bill No. 2016-109

Item: Agreement for the Closure of 18th and Wisconsin Railroad Crossing
Originating Department: Public Works – Engineering

Attachments: 1) Location Map
2) Agreement
3) Quit Claim Deed
3) Council Bill 2016-109

Department Head: Nicholas A. Heatherly	Date:
Engineering: Dan Salisbury	Date:
Finance Department: Leslie Haase	Date:
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards	Date:
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm	Date:

Recommended Action: Approval of the Joint Agreement with Kansas City Southern Railway Company for the closure of the at-grade crossing near 18th Street and Wisconsin Avenue.

Background: As we near completion of the 20th Street overpass project staff has been accessing other traffic and railroad safety concerns in the area. The at-grade crossing on 18th Street, west of Wisconsin Avenue, was identified as an area where public safety could be improved by closing the crossing and directing traffic to the 20th Street overpass or to an existing nearby alternate crossing which has adequate warning devices. The closure would take place after the opening the 20th Street overpass to traffic.

Discussion: Staff requested input from area property owners through mailings and neighborhood meetings. Just over 100 letters were sent to property owners in an area from 15th Street to 20th Street, between Indiana and Connecticut. The feedback was overwhelmingly in support of the closure since it will reduce the number of times the train horn will blow. The residents believe it will improve their quality of life.

As detailed in the joint agreement, the City of Joplin will quit claim their interest in the 18th Street crossing within the limits of the KCSR's right of way. Kansas City Southern Railway Company will make a one-time payment of $25,000 to the city once the crossing has been closed.

Recommendation: Approval of the Joint Agreement for the closure of the 18th Street at-grade Crossing with the Kansas City Southern Railway Company on an emergency basis per Section 6.12 (6) of the Charter of the City of Joplin.