

Private construction firms would be eligible for loans for development and site improvements prior to construction.

In assigning priorities, the Authority would consider the need for such housing in a particular area, the time in which a project can be built and the number of families it can accommodate, the availability of Federal aid, and the compatibility of a project with State, regional and local planning for that area.

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT ON SAFETY
CONTROLS AT GRADE CROSSINGS OF
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

February 21, 1968

Governor Agnew announced today that the State will institute strict new safety controls at 16 grade crossings in Maryland in the path of the Pennsylvania Railroad's high speed train Demonstration Program scheduled to start this spring.

"Although only two of these crossings are on the State Highway System, I am authorizing the State Roads Commission to expend \$150,000 immediately from Critical Funds to start planning and installing these safety devices," the Governor said.

"Until we can actually eliminate the crossings with grade separations — an expensive and long-range process — we must take what steps we can to insure the safety of motorists using them. I have good reason to believe that Federal agencies will assist us in this project."

The Governor said the SRC's plans call for special advance warning systems, experimental barriers, new signing and pavement markings to warn motorists. The overall cost of the interim program is estimated at \$300,000.

Jerome B. Wolff, Chairman-Director of the State Roads Commission, who met with Federal officials this week on the matter, said they indicated that they will attempt to allocate new Federal funds to supplement the State's expenditures on temporary safety controls.

The meeting resulted from a request by Governor Agnew last month that the Federal government provide the \$15 million necessary to eliminate the crossings since it is subsidizing the high speed train proj-