

Train, Train, Go Away

There are some really busy railroad tracks that run along the north border of the town where I live. There are basically 3 roads that go out of town to the north; only one of which has an overpass for the tracks so cars don't have to stop for every train that passes by. This morning on our way back into town, we got stuck by a train. Taking the route with the overpass is not an option right now because the other road we would need for that route is currently under construction and closed. So we were stuck by the train, and it was a lengthy freighter (aren't they all when you live in the country?), and it decided to stop – it was at a standstill on the tracks. Not knowing how long the train was going to be stopped and because we were running low on gas, our only option was to turn around and try the third route. Thank goodness it wasn't being blocked by the stopped train also, which could have very well happened given the way these roads are laid out. And talk about timing – right as we were going over the tracks, the bells and whistles on the gates sounded because yet another train was coming! So if we had waited just a few more seconds to turn around, we would have gotten stuck by *another* train and probably run out of gas. I didn't realize we were so low on gas – I think there's something wrong with our gas gauge because it fluctuates a lot. But anyway, the point of this story is not to keep a full tank of gas – at today's gas prices, who could afford that? But I really hope they finish the construction soon so we can go back to taking the route where you don't have to bother with the train crossings – I'm so not used to sitting in traffic, even if it is just waiting for a train to pass!

UPDATE – This afternoon as I traveled toward the north edge of town, the construction seemed to have been completed, thus opening the route that goes under the railroad tracks! Maybe ODOT read my blog...