Grade Crossing Safety: “All of the Above”

Jamie Rennert
Director, Office of Program Delivery, FRA
CBS News Clip Featuring FRA Administrator Feinberg
**GX Accidents in Decline...**

Since 2006, fatalities at U.S. crossings have declined.

~ 34%

**2015 saw Fatalities Decrease...**

There were 244* fatalities at highway-rail crossings. That is roughly equivalent to the passenger load of a large aircraft.

**.....And Several High Profile Accidents**

Recent, high-profile collisions at highway-rail grade crossings have highlighted the continued need for all of us to remain vigilant about highway-rail grade crossing safety.

**.....Any accident is one too many.**

The Department of Transportation is dedicated to eliminating fatalities on our nation’s railroads by working Toward Zero Deaths.

*As of February 11th, 2016*
Over the past ten years, fatalities at highway-rail grade crossings decreased approximately 24%. While this downward trend is positive, the FRA remains as determined as ever to work towards zero deaths.

*As of March 10, 2016*
Railroad Crossing Collisions and Fatalities: A 5 Year Map
Agenda

1. Purpose and Need

2. Recent Accomplishments

3. Current Projects

4. Future Initiatives/Funding
Piedmont Improvement Program

Bowers to Lake-Upper Lake Rd Bridge Grade Separation

Grier Road Grade Separation
**Tower 55 Project**

**BEFORE:** Old route to school via Peach Street GX

**AFTER:** New Route to school via Gounah St Underpass
Illinois HSR Project

Four Quadrant Gates

Pedestrian Gates
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Grade Crossing Task Force
Reduce incidents, injuries, and fatalities at grade crossings

5 Major Focus Areas
Data, Analysis, and Research Focus Area

Objective: Better understand grade crossing accidents, fatalities, and injuries to ensure development of appropriate countermeasures and focus for future research and outreach.

- Grade Crossing Location Clean-Up
- Tech Company Coordination
- FRA Internal Data Analysis
- Correlate and Causal Analysis
- Predictive Modeling
Engineering Focus Area

Objective: Provide up-to-date improved engineering standards and best practices for safety improvements at grade crossings.

- Traffic Preemption
- Blocked Crossing Study
- Grade Crossing Handbook Update
**Education Focus Area**

**Objective:** Educate partners, stakeholders, and the wider public about grade crossing safety to improve awareness, understanding, and safer behavior.

- Motorist/Pedestrian Outreach
- Continued Support of Operation Lifesaver, Inc.
- Website Improvements
Website Improvements

https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0841
**Enforcement Focus Area**

**Objective:** Develop enforcement strategies for improving grade crossing safety through enhanced law enforcement and regulatory compliance.

- National Working Group
- First Responder Videos
- “Take 10” Campaign

- data, analysis, and research
- engineering
- education
- enforcement
- program improvement
Program Improvement Focus Area

Objective: Improve safety at high risk grade crossings through grant management and collaborative efforts with other agencies and organizations.

- STEP GX Project Selection
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Section 130 Coordination
- State Action Plans
# State Action Plans

**Original Requirement:** RSIA2008, Section 202
- 10 States
- Based on 3 items of interest

**New Requirement:** FAST Act, Section 11401
- FRA and FHWA collaborating on requirements

**Currently Available:** State Action Plan Resource Guide
- Available until Model State Action Plan is available
- Located on the FRA website

**Under Development:** Model State Action Plan
- Per NTSB recommendation from Miriam, NV crash
- Model Plan available later in 2016
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Funding Availability: FY 2015

- **$10M**
  - STEP GX Funding
- **$220M**
  - Section 130

[Image of dollar signs and hexagons]
Funding Availability: FAST Act + FY16

- **FY16:** $350M
- **FY17:** $230M

- **FY16:** $6.5M
  - Section 130
  - TIGER Grants
  - Railroad Safety Grants
  - NHTSA Ad Campaign
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant
  - Freight and Highway Projects
  - Railroad Safety Grants

- **FY16:** $11.1B
- **FY16:** $800M
- **FY16:** $500M
- **FY16:** $25M
How can FRA help your State improve Grade Crossing Safety?

1. Layering funds sources
2. Providing additional data
3. Overcoming obstacles to solutions
For more information visit us at www.fra.dot.gov

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QUESTIONS?