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# FRA Office of Railroad Safety

*Debra M. Chappell*

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FTA State Safety Oversight/Rail Transit Agency Workshop  
September 24, 2019



Note: Statistics are preliminary & are subject to change.

# Agenda

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- Crossing Data
- Trespass Data
- Key Events in FY 19 and FY 20
- Action Plan
- Handbook, Third Edition
- Close



# Rail Related Deaths in 2018

- Highway-Rail Grade Crossing: 263
- Trespasser: 541
- Employee on Duty: 17



# Crossing Deaths, Injuries & Incidents



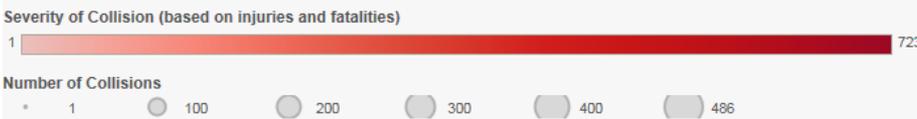
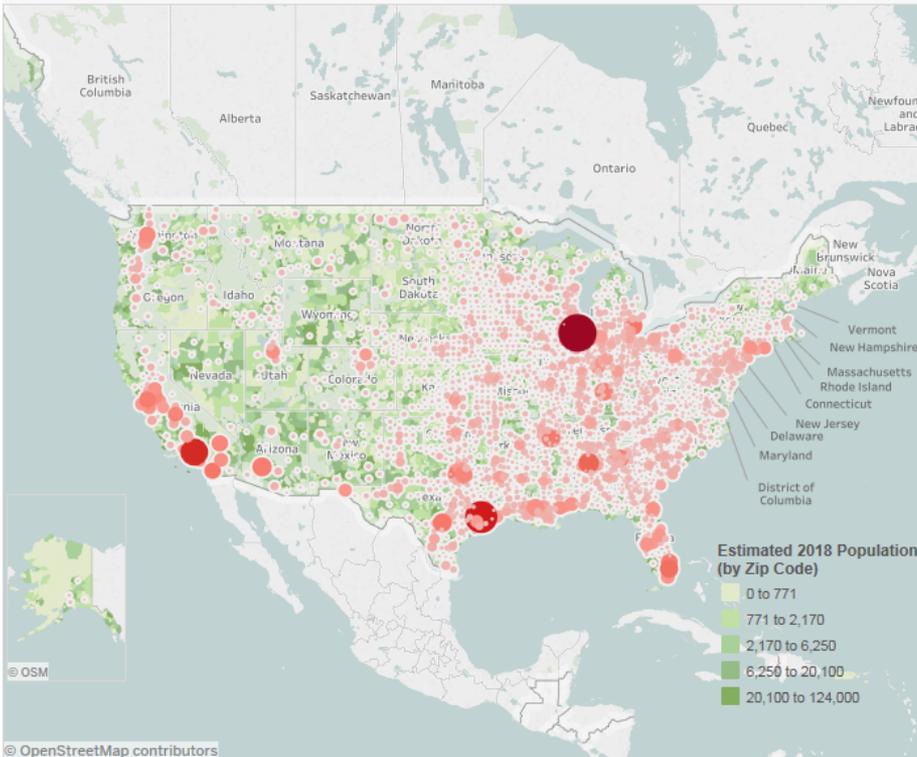
## Highway-Rail Crossing Collisions 2009-2019 (Partial)

Years Displayed: All  
Months Displayed: All  
States Displayed: All

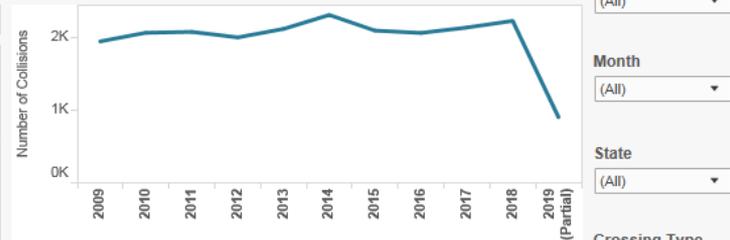
**Collisions**  
21,794

**Injuries**  
9,361

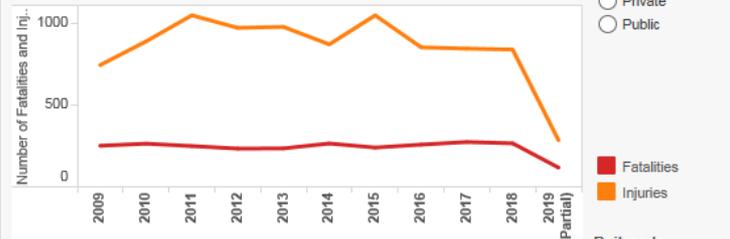
**Fatalities**  
2,620



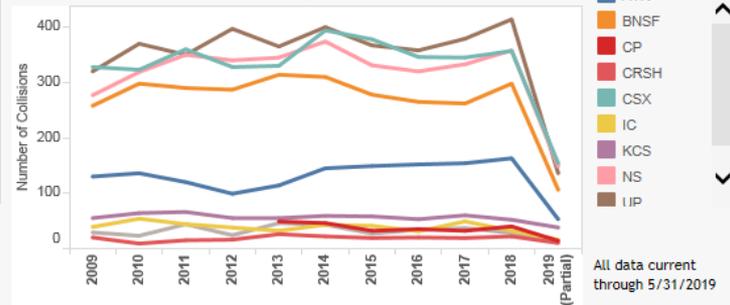
### Collisions Over Time



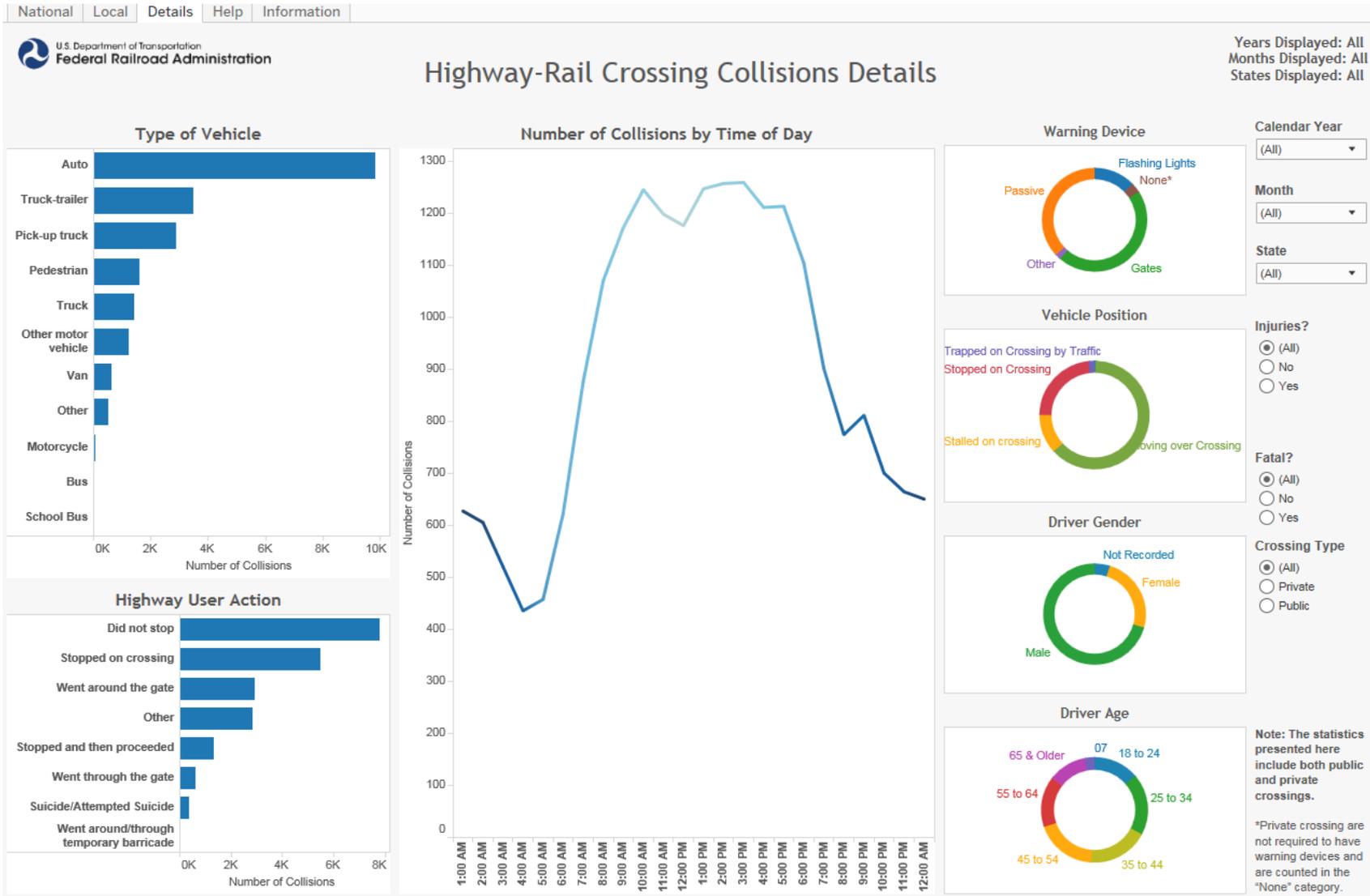
### Injuries vs. Fatalities



### Collisions by Railroad



# GX Dash! FRA's Grade Crossing Dashboard



# Trespass and Suicide Dashboard

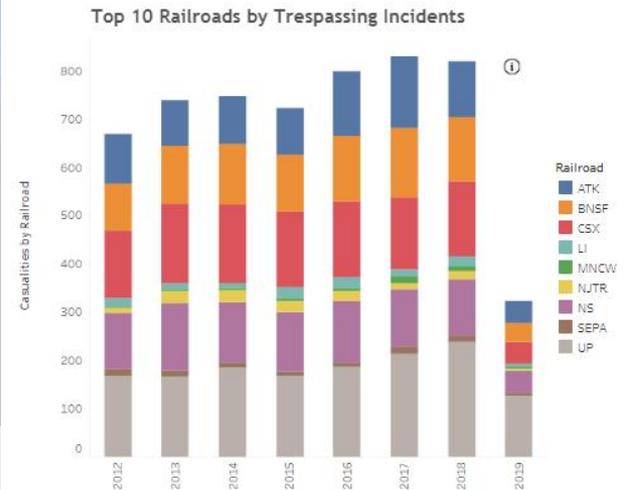
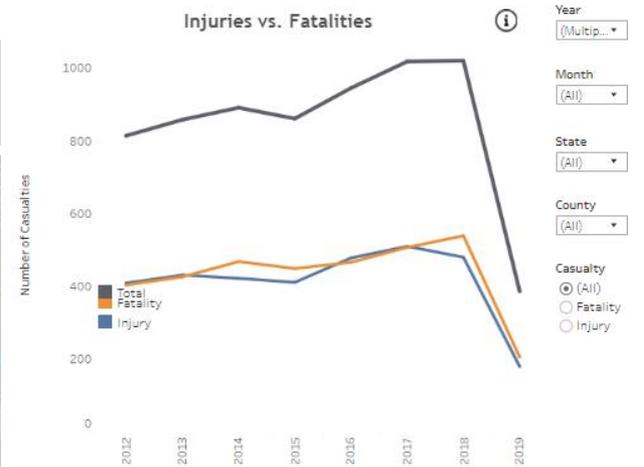
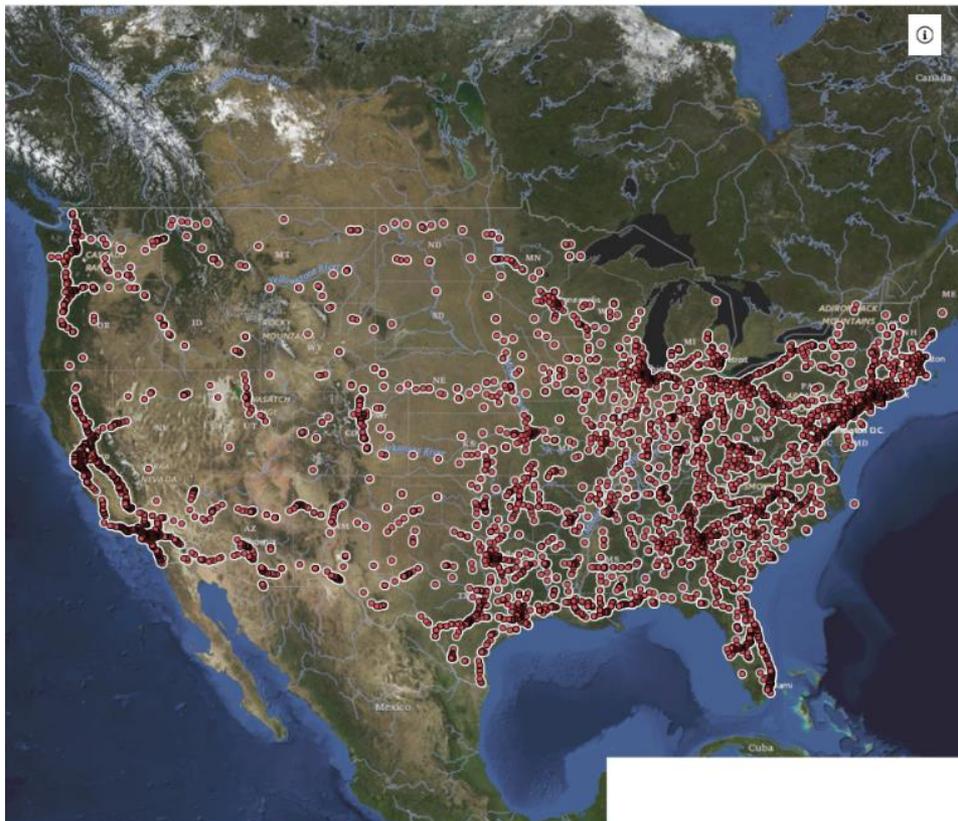
Trespass Overview | Trespass Details | Suicides Overview | Trespass & Suicide Prevention | Index



Years Displayed: 2012, 2013, 2014 and 5 mor  
States Displayed: A  
Counties Displayed: A

## Trespass Overview Jan 2012 - Apr 2019

Total Casualties	Fatalities	Injuries
6,802	3,473	3,329



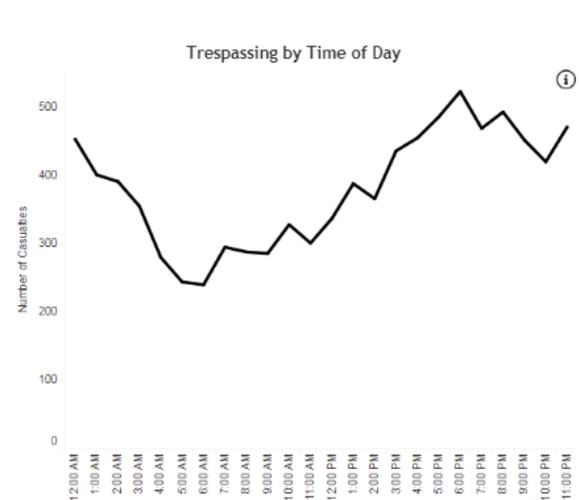
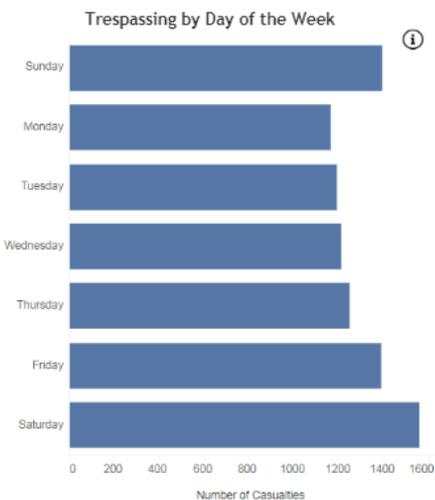
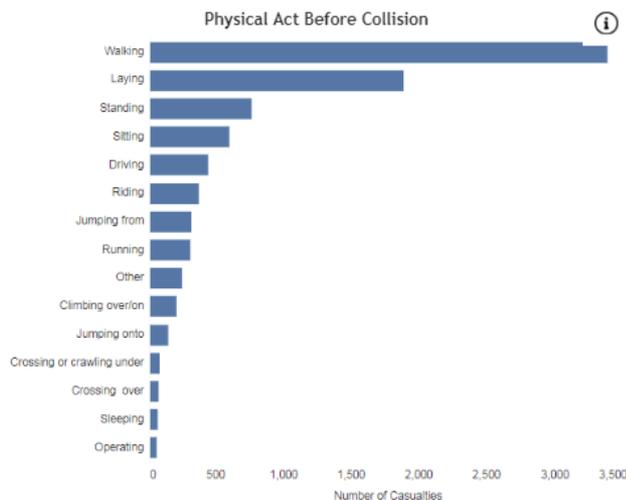
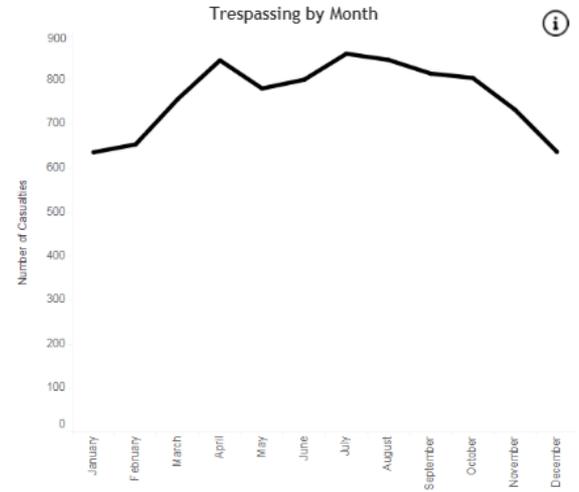
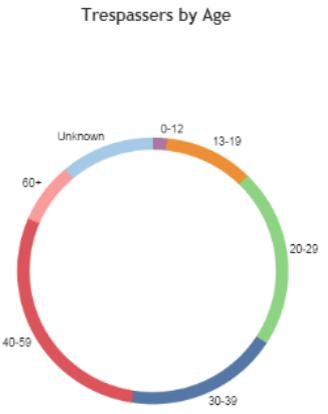
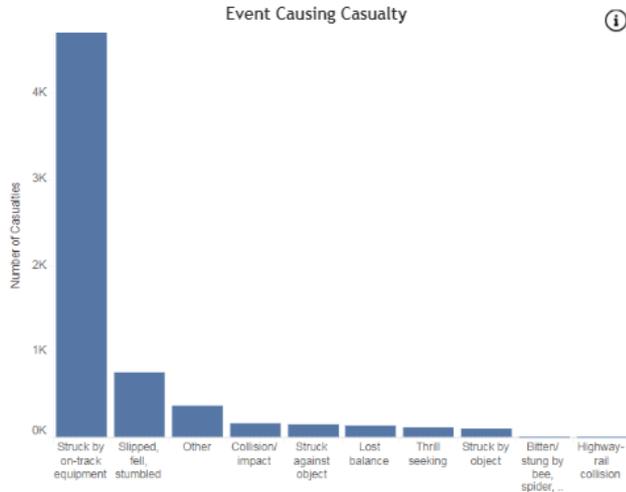
# Trespass and Suicide Dashboard

Trespass Overview | **Trespass Details** | Suicides Overview | Trespass & Suicide Prevention | Index



## Trespass Detail Jan 2009 - Apr 2019

Casualty: (All) | Year: (All) | Month: (All) | State: (All) | County: (All) | Railroad: (All)



## *GX Dash!* Grade Crossing Dashboard

<https://www.fra.dot.gov/gxdash>

## *Trespass and Suicide* Dashboard

<https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/1111>



FRA – Office of Railroad Safety



# Initiatives and Hot Topics

- **FRA safety initiatives**

- NOFO: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants - **October 18 DEADLINE!**
- National Strategy to Prevent Trespassing on Railroad Property: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/L19817>
- Data, analysis and research (mapping software)
  - Dashboards (GX Dash & Trespasser/Suicide)
  - Online GIS: <http://fragis.fra.dot.gov/GISFRASafety/>
- Program improvement – grade crossing improvements are becoming eligible projects for FRA grants

# Initiatives and Hot Topics

- **FRA safety initiatives**

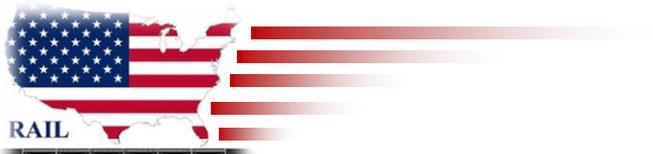
- Orlando, FL video & survey (aka Orlando STOPS) – reasons why drivers didn't obey crossing signals
- Engineering - Gate Skirts
- Education (“Stop. Trains Can't.” PSAs) – via NHTSA
- Enforcement - Pilot grants to pay for trespass enforcement
- Crossing Safety and Trespass Summit (10/30/18)
  - ONEDOT: FRA, FHWA, FTA, FMCSA and NHTSA, OST-R
  - AAR, ASLRRA, RSI, APTA, AASHTO, OLI, Law Enforcement
  - Goal – a coherent national approach
  - View online at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1145>

# FRA Key Events in FY 19 and FY 20

- October 31, 2018: **Summit held at USDOT.** Purpose: discuss the USDOT's and FRA's strategy to reduce fatalities from crossing collisions and trespassing.
- March-April, 2019: **Six Listening Sessions Series** with various groups (railroads, signal manufacturers, technology companies, trade/advocacy groups, law enforcement and USDOT/State/local agencies)
- November 19, 2019: **Grade Crossing Technology Symposium** at USDOT. Purpose: identify demonstrated and emerging technologies to improve grade crossing safety, and identify current barriers to implementation and how to remove or overcome said barriers. Event includes a ONEDOT networking event
- FY 20: **Follow up dialogue with USDOT and stakeholders** to advance the Symposium topics and FRA's Mission.

# Change in Division Leadership

- **FRA personnel**
  - Mr. Ron Ries retired on 12/31/18
  - Mr. James Payne, Staff Director
- **Hot areas of public concern**
  - Train horn noise/Quiet zones
  - Blocked crossings
  - State Action Plan



# Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

## P.L. 112-141, Section 11401

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### SECTIONS

- (a) Model State Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Action Plan
- (b) **State** Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Action Plans
- (c) Report to Congress
- (d) Railway-Highway Crossing Funds
- (e) Definitions



# NOTEWORTHY PRACTICES GUIDE

## Highway-Railway Grade Crossing Action Plan and Project Prioritization



<https://www.fra.dot.gov/modelsap>

# New Version

- *Highway-Rail Crossing Handbook, Third Edition*
- Major Update
  - Reorganized
  - Content – Applications-based
  - Compliant with 2009 MUTCD



# Chapter Organization

1. Introduction & Glossary
2. Engineered Treatments
3. Treatment Selection and Guidance
4. Project Implementation
5. Maintenance, Management & Operations
6. Special Topics

# Additional information?

## FRA Website

<https://safety.fra.dot.gov>

## State Action Plan Webinar

<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/xings/>



Debra Chappell  
[debra.chappell@dot.gov](mailto:debra.chappell@dot.gov)  
(202) 493-6018

# Questions?

James Payne, Staff Director

[James.Payne@dot.gov](mailto:James.Payne@dot.gov)



FRA – Office of Railroad Safety



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Railroad  
Administration

# Thank-You!



C-28102 U. S. & S. Co. Development Study prior to  
Highway Crossing Signal Standardization - 1930