BACKGROUND

The **Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008** ([US Code, Title 23, Chapter 1, Section 130](https://www.loc.gov/law/)) requires VDOT to provide periodic updates of Highway-Railway Crossing Information to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). This information consists of improvement projects to the crossing, physical information of the roadway and physical information of the railway crossing.

RESPONSIBILITY

VDOT Central Office - Traffic Engineering Division will maintain an inventory of all public crossings (at grade, grade separated, vehicular, or pedestrian) to comply with this requirement. The inventory data shall include the following:

1. List of projects that will improve the highway-railway grade crossings. Project information will be submitted every 2 years.

2. An updated crossing assessment will be generated and submitted by September 30th of each calendar year and be provided to the FRA. To keep this assessment current, **FORM FRA F 6180.71F** (REV. 3/15 or latest revision), shall be used to document changes. The changes shall include Highway or Pathway Traffic Control Device Information, Physical Characteristics of the Crossing and Public Highway Information.

3. The **Safety Partners** (1) shall advise the **VDOT Highway-Railway Safety Program Manager** as soon as possible of any and all changes and improvements to Highway-Railway Crossings within your respected area. Such changes and improvements include, but are not limited to, a change in the road alignment or grade, installation of additional signing (2), installation of additional pavement markings (2), signal installations, crossing to be abandoned or added, automatic warning devices installed, or other upgrades or changes that might affect the operational safety of the crossing.

(1) *Safety Partner is defined as person/persons from the VDOT District Office, VDOT Residency Office, Railroad Company, Locality or other Crossing Owner.*
(2) Replacement of existing signs in kind or the refurbishment of pavement markings need not be reported

HIGHWAY-RAILWAY PROJECTS

The VDOT Highway-Railway Safety Program Manager will solicit project proposals from the Safety Partners on an annual basis. Projects will be ranked using the FRA Crash Prediction Model multiplied by the Sight Distance Number Value Chart. Both can be found in the Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook Revised Second Edition August 2007; this multiplication sets the Priority Index Value. Once this value is determined, it is used to sort the projects for final review. Final project rankings are determined by the combination of the Priority Index Value and any input from the Safety Partners.

Projects are then selected from the final ranked listing until the annual funding has been exhausted. If a proposed improvement location is not selected it may be resubmitted the following year for consideration.

HIGHWAY-RAILWAY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Highway or Pathway Traffic Control Devices Information includes but is not limited to the following:

- Types of Passive Traffic Control Devices.
  - Crossbucks
  - Stop / Yield Signs
  - Advance Warning Signs
  - Pavement Markings

- Types of Train Activated Warning Devices at the Grade Crossing
  - Gate Arms and Configuration
  - Cantilevered (or Bridged) Flashing Lights
  - Mast Mounted Flashing Lights
  - Total number of Flashing Light Pairs
  - Highway Traffic Signals Controlling Crossing

Physical Characteristics of the Crossing Information to include but not limited to the following:

- Number of Highway Traffic Lanes and Configuration
- Is the Crossing Illuminated?
- Crossing Surface Type
- Is there an Intersection within 500 feet of the Crossing?
- Highway Crossing Angle

Public Highway Information to include but not limited to the following:

- Highway System Type
- Functional Classification of Road at Crossing
- Highway Speed Limit
- Highway Mile Point
- Annual Average Daily Traffic
- Estimated Percent of Trucks
- Is the Crossing Regularly Used by School Buses?
- Is the Highway an Emergency Service Route?