

RAIL

FY 2024-2025 National Railroad Partnership Program Safety and Major Capital Projects Webinar

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Partnership Program Webinars



**Program Overview and
Best Practices 10/09/25**



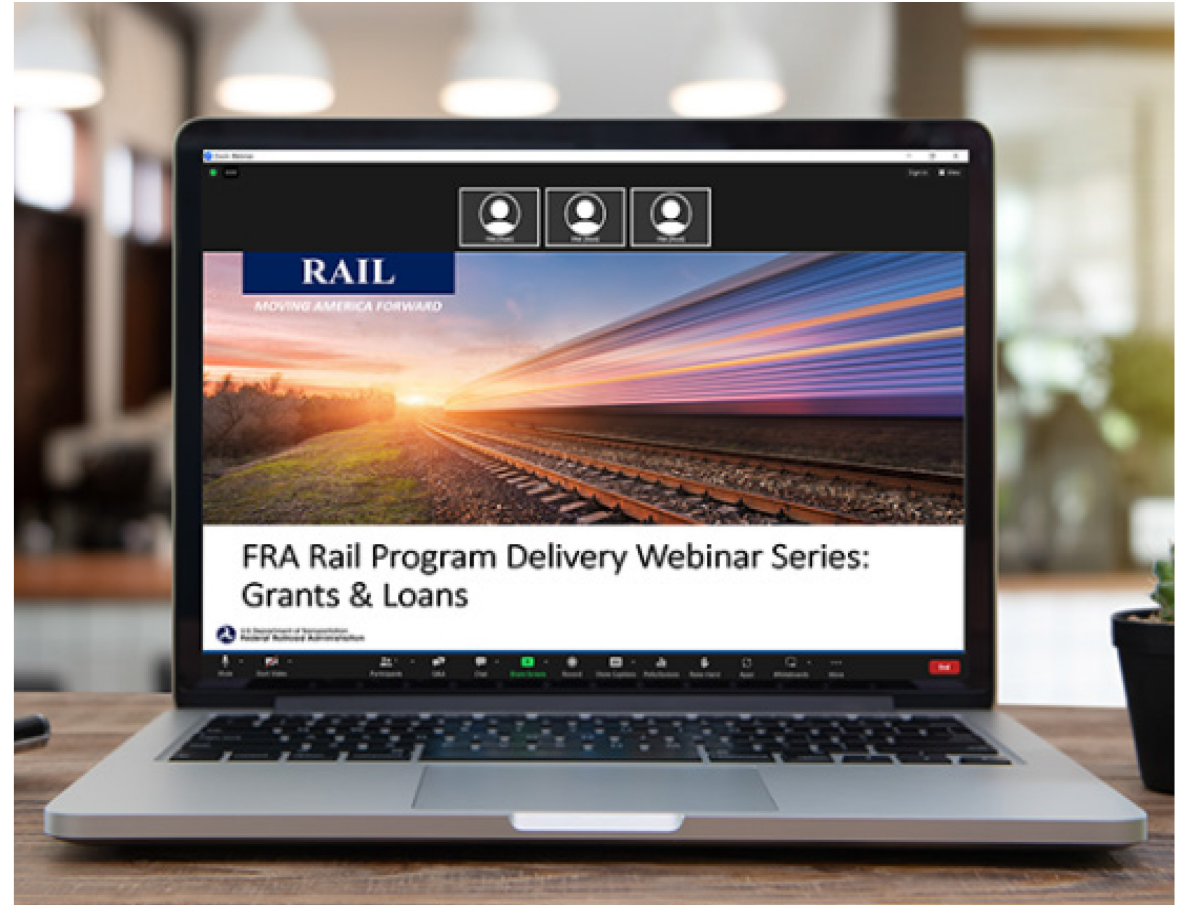
**Safety and Major Capital
Projects 10/16/25**



**BCA and NEPA Best
Practices 10/24/25**



[FRA's Rail Program Delivery Webinar Series:
Grants and Loans](#)



Agenda



1

FRA Priority: Safety

2

Safety as an Evaluation Factor

3

Safety Resources

4

Major Capital Projects

5

Q&A

Partnership Program Safety Projects

FRA and DOT's Top Priority is Enhancing the Safety of Transportation Systems

The FY 24-25 Partnership Program NOFO emphasizes the importance of projects that **enhance passenger rail safety** in accordance with statutory requirements.

49 USC § 24911 (C)

Eligible Projects -The following **capital projects**, including acquisition of real property interests, are eligible to receive grants under this section:

- (1) A project to **replace, rehabilitate, or repair infrastructure, equipment, or a facility used for providing intercity passenger rail** service to bring such assets into a state of good repair.
- (2) A project to improve intercity passenger rail service performance, including reduced trip times, increased train frequencies, higher operating speeds, improved reliability, expanded capacity, reduced congestion, electrification, and **other improvements, as determined by the Secretary.**
- (3) A project to expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service.
- (4) A group of related projects described in paragraphs (1) through (3).
- (5) The planning, environmental studies, and final design for a project or group of projects described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

Safety – Evaluation and Selection

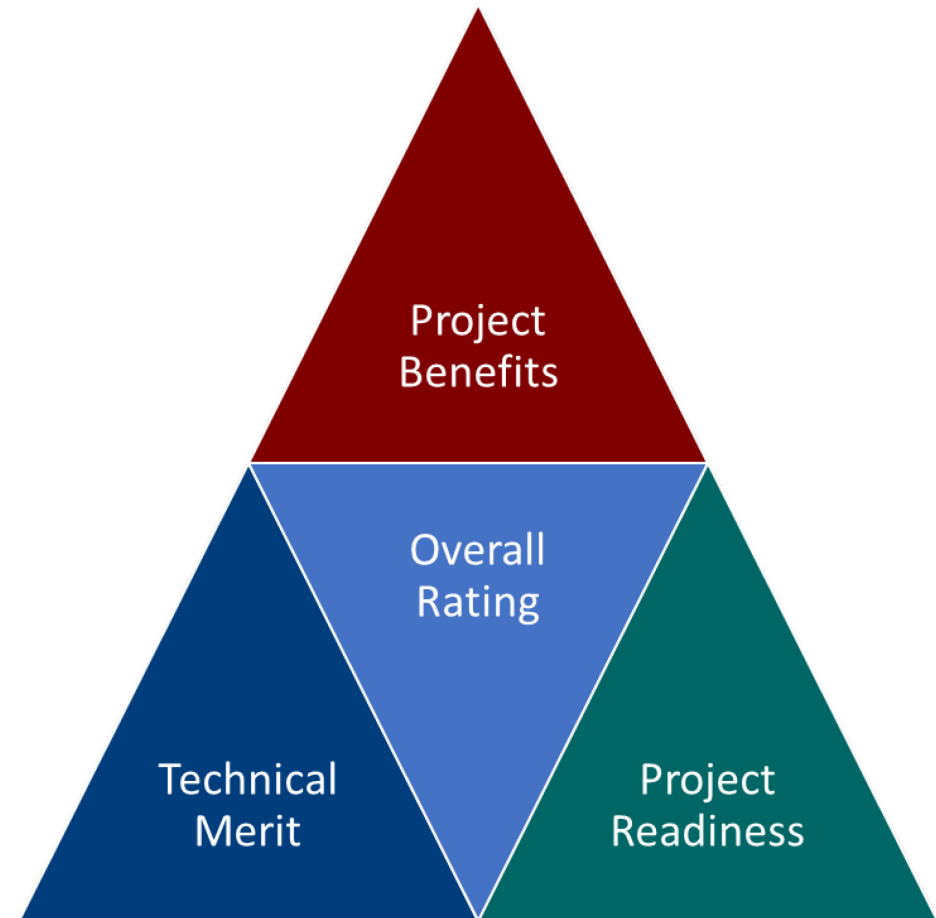
Evaluation Criteria:

- Project Benefits: A proposed projects effects on Safety – affects overall rating

Selection Preferences:

- FRA encourages applicants to consider how proposed projects enhance safety while improving IPR performance

When possible, applicants should provide quantifiable evidence that speaks to the project's ability to improve safety in the project narrative



Examples of Eligible Safety Projects



Railroad Crossings:
Grade Separation and Closures



Improvement to or installation of **protective devices, signals, or signs**



Improvement to **catenary systems** (wires, support structures, etc.)



Track replacement or improvement



Replacing other **Capital assets beyond their useful life** (ROW fencing, track ties, switches, etc.)

Note: This list is not comprehensive and does not include all projects that can enhance IPR safety

Resources for Railroad Crossing Applications: Grade Crossing Inventory

Crossing ID	Crossing Inventory Form	Grade Crossing Accident/ Incident Form	State	Railroad Code	Open/Closed	Milepost	County Name	City Name	Street	Inventory Updated	Highest Warning Device	Crossing Position	Crossing ID
000108J	https://s...	https://sa...	OH	AA	Open	0001.66	LUCAS	TOLEDO	MANHATTAN	9/30/2024	All other Gates	At Grade	
000110K	https://s...	https://sa...	OH	AA	Open	0003.89	LUCAS	TOLEDO	MATZINGER	7/10/2023	All other Gates	At Grade	State Name (All) ▼
000112Y	https://s...	https://sa...	OH	AA	Open	0004.72	LUCAS	TOLEDO	STICKNEY	7/10/2023	All other Gates	At Grade	County Name (All) ▼
000114M	https://s...	https://sa...	OH	AA	Open	0005.57	LUCAS	TOLEDO	STATE LINE RD	9/30/2024	All other Gates	At Grade	City Name (All) ▼
000115U	https://s...	https://sa...	MI	AA	Open	0006.07	MONROE	TEMPERANCE	LAVOY RD	7/10/2023	Flashing lights	At Grade	In/Near City (All) ▼
000118P	https://s...	https://sa...	MI	AA	Open	0007.04	MONROE	TEMPERANCE	CRABB RD	7/10/2023	Flashing lights	At Grade	Street (All) ▼
000119W	https://s...	https://sa...	MI	AA	Open	0007.25	MONROE	TEMPERANCE	STERN'S ROAD	7/10/2023	All other Gates	At Grade	Milepost (All) ▼
000120R	https://s...	https://sa...	MI	AA	Open	0008.31	MONROE	TEMPERANCE	DEAN ROAD	7/10/2023	All other Gates	At Grade	Railroad (All) ▼
000122E	https://s...	https://sa...	MI	AA	Open	0009.36	MONROE	TEMPERANCE	TEMPERANCE RD	7/10/2023	Flashing lights	At Grade	Parent Railroad (All) ▼
000124T	https://s...	https://sa...	MI	AA	Open	0010.10	MONROE	TEMPERANCE	LEWIS MAYBEE	7/10/2023	All other Gates	At Grade	Holding Company (All) ▼
													Railroad Class (All) ▼
													FRA Safety Manage... (All) ▼

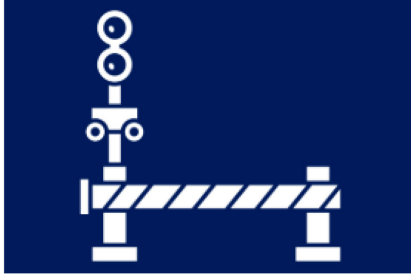
Use the inventory data to determine the FRA Grade Crossing ID numbers for the crossings relevant to your application.

- For a curated view of the most important columns from the inventory, use this report: [Crossing Inventory Listing \(8.01/8.08\)](#).
- For the complete dataset, use the following link: [Crossing Inventory Data \(Form 71\)](#). On the Data tab, configure desired filters and then export.
- For filter, export, and download guidance, please refer to the [Download, Export and Print User Guide](#) and download the [Form71 Data Dictionary.xlsx](#).

Resources for Railroad Crossing Applications: Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incidents

Use the *incident data* to accurately describe the 5-year incident history for each grade crossing ID included in your application.

- To access incident data, go to: <https://railroads.dot.gov/safety-data/new-safety-data-site>. Scroll down and click on “Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incidents”
- For a curated view of the most important columns from crossing incidents, use the 6th data viewer listed: [Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incident Detail Listing \(5.15\)](#).
- For the complete dataset, use the 8th data viewer listed: [Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Accident/Incident Data \(Form 57\)](#). On the Data tab, configure desired filters and export.
- For filter, export, and download guidance, please refer to the [Download, Export and Print User Guide](#) and download the [Form71 Data Dictionary.xlsx](#).

		
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incidents Map (5.10) This report contains a map of highway-rail grade crossing incidents, as well as a data table for incidents, fatalities and injuries, broken out by public and private crossings.	Public and Private Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incidents, Fatalities and Injuries (5.14) This report contains highway-rail grade crossing incidents, fatalities and injuries, broken out by public and private crossings and by groups of highway users involved (motor vehicle, pedestrian, or other). There are three views of data: (1) incidents where the rail equipment struck the highway user or was struck by the highway user, with breakouts by highway user type, (2) incidents where the rail equipment struck the highway user or was struck by the highway user, with breakouts by warning device at the crossings and (3) by railroad.	Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incident Detail Listing (5.15) This report lists all highway-rail grade crossing incidents and key details, along with the ability to download reports for the form 57 (highway-rail grade crossing incidents), form 71 (highway-rail grade crossing inventory) and/or form 55a (injury/illness summary).
		
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incident Summary This report summarizes highway-rail grade crossing incidents, with the ability to display data by state, county, city, railroad, warning device, and highway user.	Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Accident/Incident Data (Form 57) This page contains links and information for all data downloads available for Form 57.	Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Accident Prediction System (GXAPS) The GXAPS has replaced the Web Based Accident Prediction System (WBAPS). The WBAPS average predicted accident values are available within GXAPS.

Major Capital Projects

Important Definitions

Major Project*

- A railroad capital project with a **capital cost estimate equal to or greater than \$500 million and at least \$100 million in federal assistance**; or
- A railroad capital project that FRA determines to be a Major Project
 - FRA considers complexity of the project and how additional procedures for project development/management will benefit the agency or the Project Sponsor



Capital Cost Estimate

- Estimate of the cost to implement the capital project inclusive of the project development stage through completion of the construction stage



Key Terms are now located on FRA's Grants and Loans website: <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/definitions-key-terms>

Requirements for Major Capital Projects – FD/Construction



Schedule in .pdf, .mpp or .xer

- Activities needed to accomplish work
- Prerequisites (NEPA, PE, ROW)
- Logical sequence of events

Cost Estimate in .pdf and .xlsx

- All costs needed/incurred for the project's development, FD and Construction
- Documentation of assumptions, sources, methodologies

Risk Assessment in .pdf and .xlsx

- Objective list of risks and explanation
- Scoring of Risks and Planned Mitigation

Project Management Plan

- How will the project be managed?
- Follow FRA's Railroad Capital Project Guidance

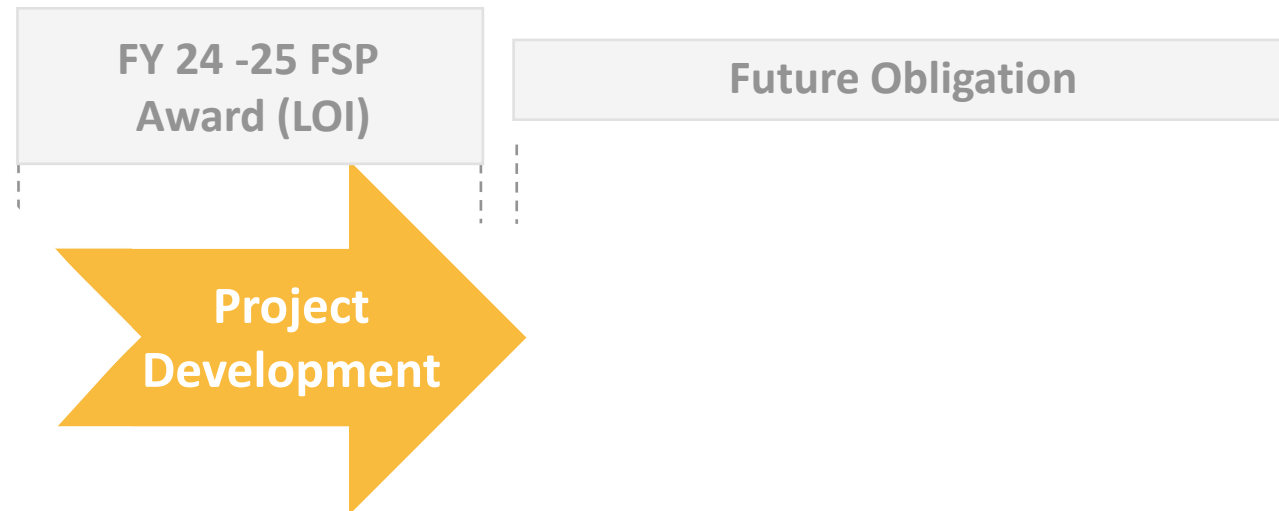
LOIs/PFAs under the Partnership Program

- **Only Major Capital Projects*** are eligible to receive a LOI or PFA
- LOIs and PFAs are **only** authorized under the Partnership Program
- Applicants proposing a Major Capital Project can, as part of their application, request a LOI or PFA
- FRA may also determine that a project is appropriate for a LOI or PFA, without sponsor indication



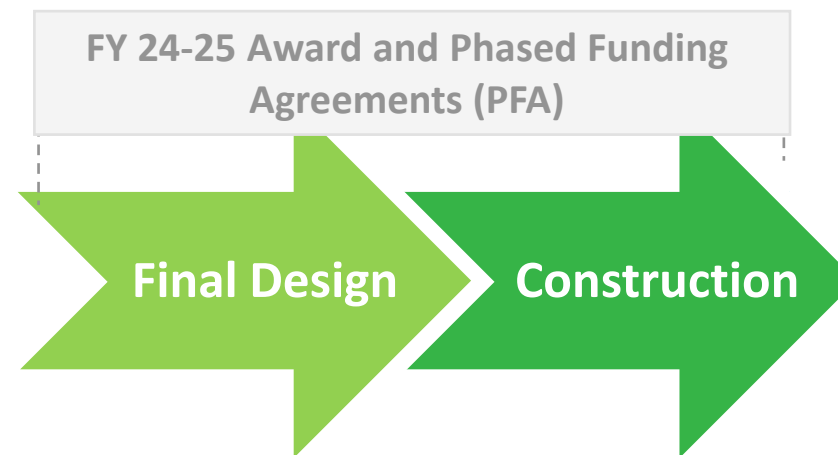
Letter of Intent (LOI)

- An LOI is a letter from FRA to a grantee announcing **“an intention to obligate”** an amount to a **Major Capital Project** from **future budget authority**
- LOIs are **not binding** obligations
- Future Obligation for Final Design and Construction



Phased Funding Agreement (PFA)

- A PFA is a **grant agreement** under the Partnership Program that obligates funding from available funds and makes a **contingent commitment to obligate future funds** when they become available
- FRA may enter into a PFA with an applicant for a **highly rated Major Capital Project** under the Partnership Program
- A PFA shall:
 - (1) establish the terms of participation by the Federal Government in the project;
 - (2) establish the maximum amount of Federal financial assistance for the project;
 - (3) include the period of time for completing the project, even if such period extends beyond the period for which Federal financial assistance is authorized; and
 - (4) make timely and efficient management of the project easier in accordance with Federal law.



LOI/PFA Consideration within the Review and Grant Selection Process

FRA will conduct a grant application review process, as follows:



**REVIEW HIGHLY RATED MAJOR
CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR LOI/PFA***



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Partnership Program and Application Process

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NOFO Questions

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*Learn more about FRA Competitive Discretionary Grant Programs
at railroads.dot.gov/grants*