



Federal Railroad Administration National Law Enforcement Liaison Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) Program is an essential component of the agency's program to reduce the number and severity of highway-rail grade crossing collisions and trespass incidents along railroad rights-of-way. The FRA seeks law enforcement officers interested in serving either a one-year full-time detail assignment in its Washington, D.C. Headquarters, or quarter-time assignment in one of its eight regional offices. The liaison program was developed in partnership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs Association (NSA).

Selected officers are responsible for educating state, local and municipal law enforcement professionals, judges, and prosecutors about grade crossing safety and trespass prevention programs as well as the need for effective and sustained enforcement of existing applicable state and local laws. The LEL program is a critical element of FRA's education, enforcement, and engineering efforts to prevent highway-rail grade crossing collisions and trespass incidents.

Selection for the positions is made by FRA's Office of Safety Highway-Rail Crossing Safety and Trespass Prevention Programs Division. Qualified candidates must be full-time sworn officers or retired officers. Ideal candidates should have both practical experience with and knowledge of traffic safety, as well as collision investigation; some knowledge of railroad operations; the ability to effectively present ideas verbally and in writing to diverse groups; and basic computer literacy. Those seeking consideration must submit a letter of endorsement from their chief or managing supervisor. The national liaison position requires relocation to the Washington, D.C. area and extensive travel. Regional liaison officers work a minimum of five days each month for the FRA. Selected officers' regular salaries and benefits are paid by the home jurisdiction while the Federal government pays the established rate for housing (D.C. position only), lodging, daily per diem, and other costs associated with official duties carried out on behalf of the FRA.

For nomination, submission or additional information contact:

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National and Regional Law Enforcement Liaison Duties

- Promote and increase enforcement of grade crossing safety and trespass laws by conducting outreach to local police departments.
- Serve as a liaison between the FRA and state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies, state prosecutors, judges, traffic safety commissions, state, county, and city executives, as well as with local federal agency offices through direct personal contact and attendance at certain IACP, NSA and FOP conferences.
- Actively encourage and enable state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies to communicate and work with railroad police officers.
- Foster positive relationships between law enforcement, railroads and FRA by meeting with local police agencies, both line officers and command personnel by conducting “Roll Call” training.
- Participate in “Officer on the Train” programs.
- Coordinate enforcement emphasis patrols involving both railroad and local enforcement agencies.

Benefits to Law Enforcement Liaison Officers and home jurisdictions

- Development of leadership skills.
- Gain knowledge of federal policy-making processes.
- Professional development opportunities include: writing and editing publications and correspondence; public speaking; national police convention attendance and participation; establishing and maintaining professional and industry contacts; and nationwide travel.
- Training opportunities include: Grade Crossing Collision Investigation (GCCCI); Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Presentations; and Railroad safety and operations.
- National exposure and national recognition of the home jurisdiction.

Benefits of the Program

- Enhanced knowledge and awareness in the law enforcement community and among prosecutorial and judicial stakeholders of grade crossing safety and railroad trespass issues.
- Better enforcement of existing state and local laws.
- Improved communication and cooperation among state, county, municipal and railroad police agencies and the FRA.
- Establish a “credible” police contact for law enforcement agencies that have little or no previous contact or experience with the U.S. DOT or FRA.
- New or expanded partnering opportunities.

