Grade Crossing Project Planning Tools

August 9, 2018

FRA's Approach to Grade Crossing Safety

2018 Rail Program Delivery Webinar Series Grade Crossing Project Planning Tools

August 9, 2018

Our Focus

The mission of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.



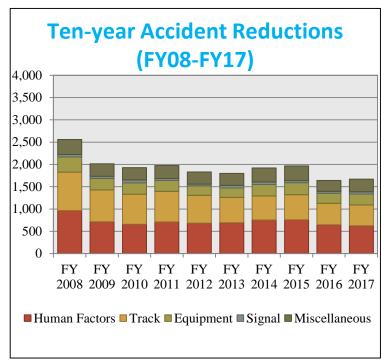
- Safety is our number one priority
- We are laying a foundation for higher performing rail
- Promulgating and enforcing rail safety regulations
- Investing in America's rail corridors
- Facilitating and conducting research and technology development
- Vision: RAIL Moving America Forward

Safety is our number one priority

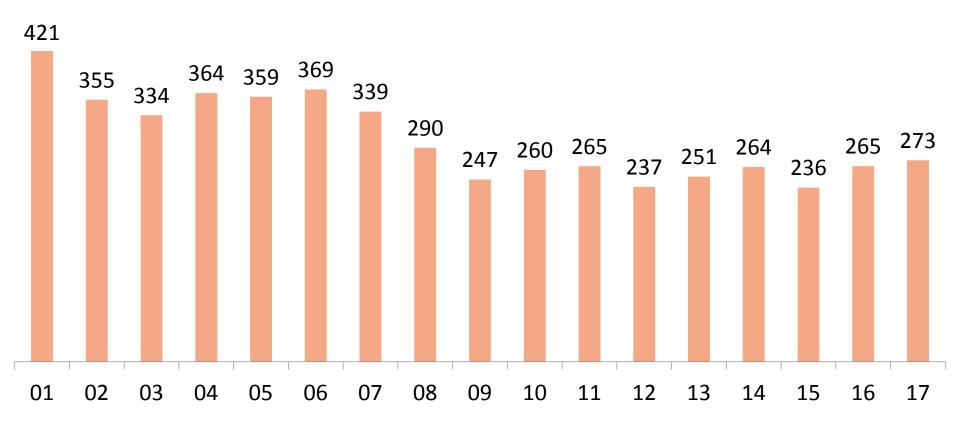
Rail Has Never Been Safer

Every regulation and enforcement action we issue is based on facts and sound research.

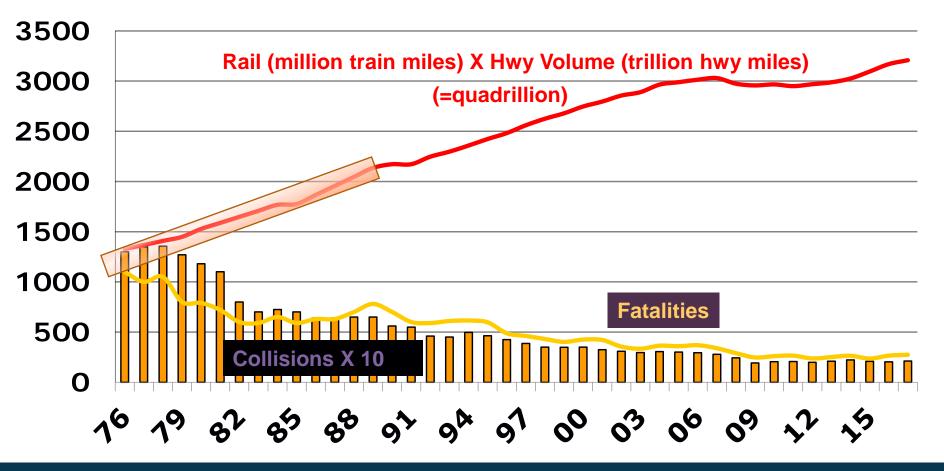
- Over the past decade, train accidents have declined <u>41 percent</u>
- Highway-rail grade crossing accidents are down <u>24 percent</u>
- And employee fatalities have been reduced by <u>50 percent</u>



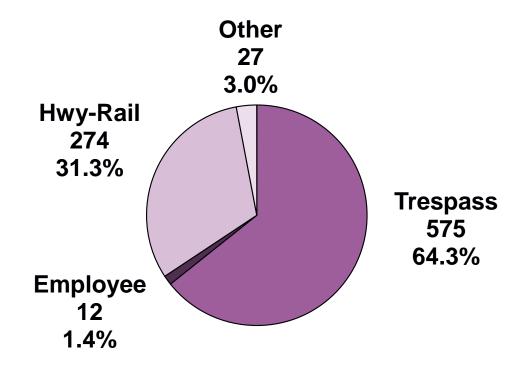
Trends in Fatalities At Grade Crossings, 2000 -2017



Collisions, Fatalities, and Exposure (1976-2017)



871* Rail-Related Fatalities in 2017



^{*} Does not include 209 suicide fatalities

Crossing Collisions 2016 vs. 2017

	2016	2017	%	
			Change	
Collisions	2,042	2,106	+ 3.1%	
Fatalities	255	273	+ 7.1%	
Injuries	845	813	- 3.8%	

^{*} Does not include 209 suicide fatalities

Number of Crossings As of March 2017

Crossing Type	How Many	% of Total	
Total	249,947	100.0	
Public at grade	127,789	51.2	
Private at grade	79,084	31.7	
Pedestrian at grade	2,927	1.2	
Grade Separated (all)	39,672	15.9	

Where Collisions Occur 2012 - 2017 (Public GX)

Device	# Collisions	% Collisions	% Xings (2016)	
Gates	5811	52.5%	36.9%	
Lights	1484	13.9%	14.2%	
STOP	1197	10.8%	9.0%	
Crossbucks	2174	19.7%	34.8%	
Other	351	3.1%	5.2%	

Type of Hwy Users in GX Collisions

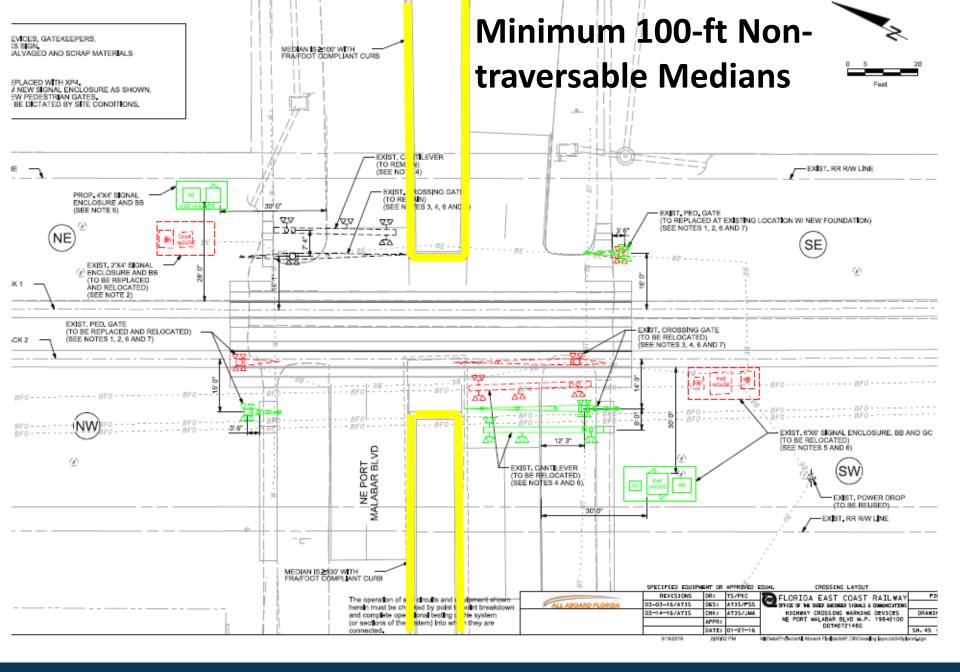
Vehicle Type	2015	2016	2017
Auto	919	901	963
Truck-trailer	326	324	388
Truck	409	370	357
Pedestrian	151	176	172
Other motor vehicle	132	141	155
Van	71	49	63
Other	63	59	49
Bus	4	3	6

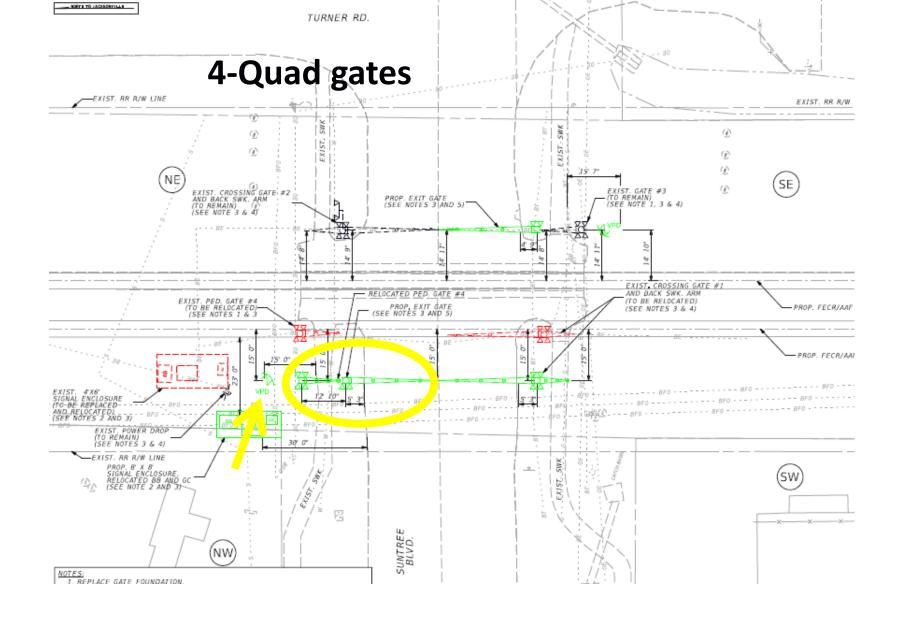
Close As Many Grade Crossings As Possible

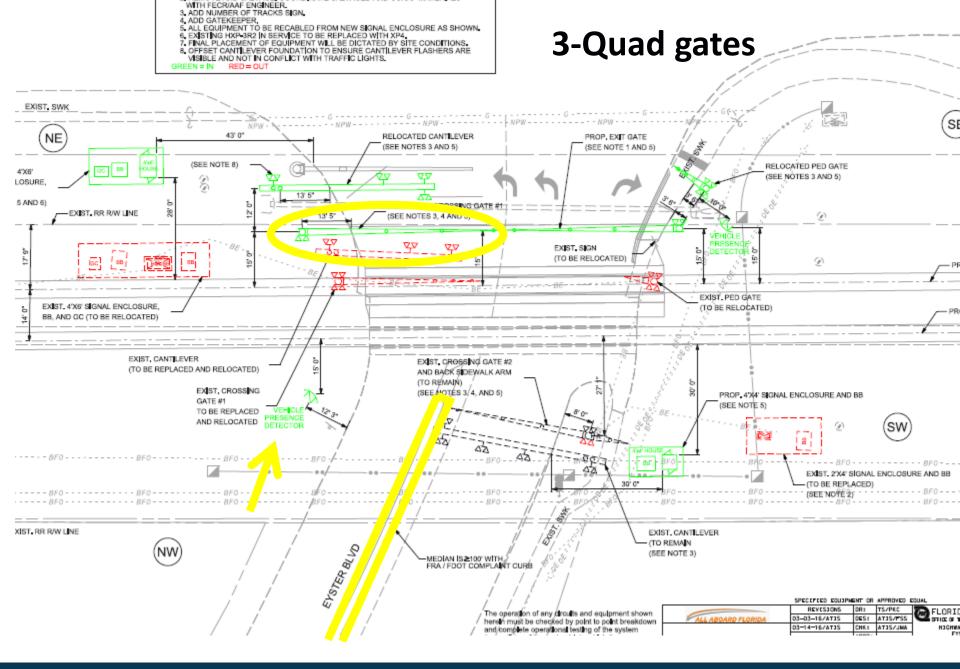


What does the FRA look for in crossing design??

- Non-traversable Medians
- 3 or 4 Quadrant Gates
- Gate orientation
- Cantilevers
- Preemption (Advanced or Simultaneous)
- Technologies (VPD, RHM)







Pedestrian Treatments





Railroad Preemption



Exit Gate Management System



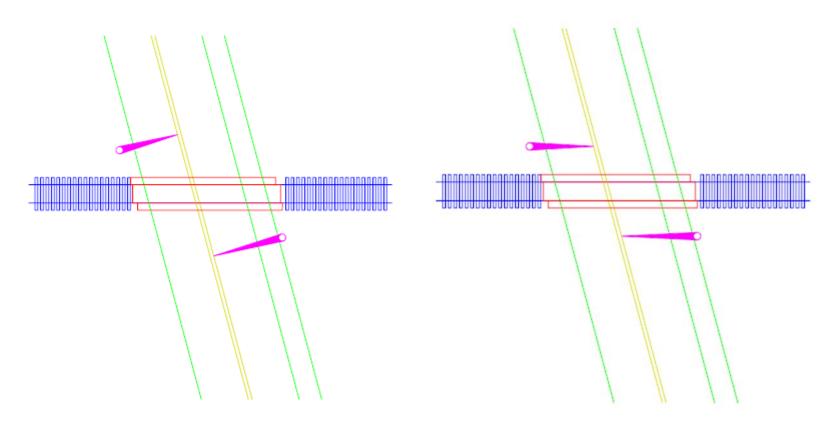
Cantilevers



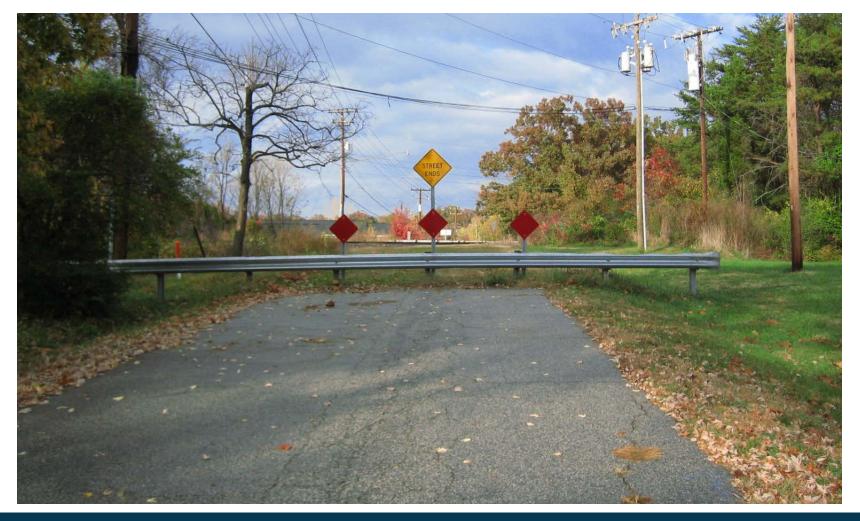


Skewed Crossings Acute Angled

AREMA Part 3.1.36B



The best grade crossings are...



Thank you!

Frank Frey Frank.frey@dot.gov 202-738-2195

Introduction to GX Dash!

Debra Chappell, Transportation Analyst at FRA

Agenda

- Background
- Features of GX Dash!
- Next Steps
- Questions

Background

What is GX Dash!?

- A different way to view existing data
- Information from the Office of Safety Analysis database
- Provides information for commonly asked questions from media, public inquiries
- Data timeframe: 2008-2018 (partial) updated monthly
- Tableau software
- Located at https://www.fra.dot.gov/gxdash

Background

What is GX Dash!?

- Assists with programming needs
- Provides some supporting data for applications
- Assists with "getting in the weeds" of complex data mining
- Provides a more targeted view
- Assists with outreach efforts
- Answers questions from public, legislative entities, media, etc.

Live Demonstration

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

Questions?

Thank you!

Debra Chappell
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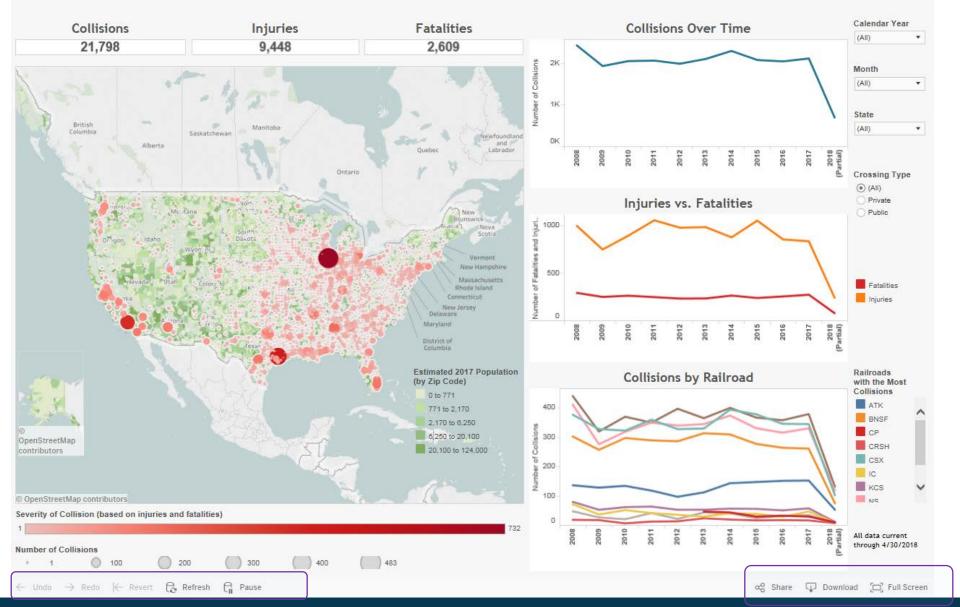
Extra Slides

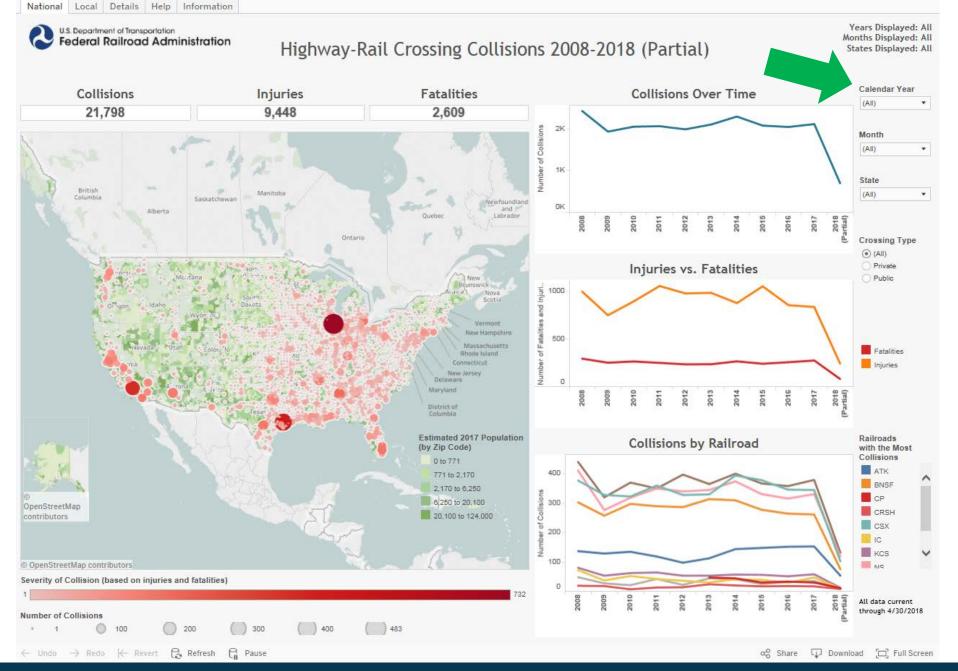
In case of Internet failure

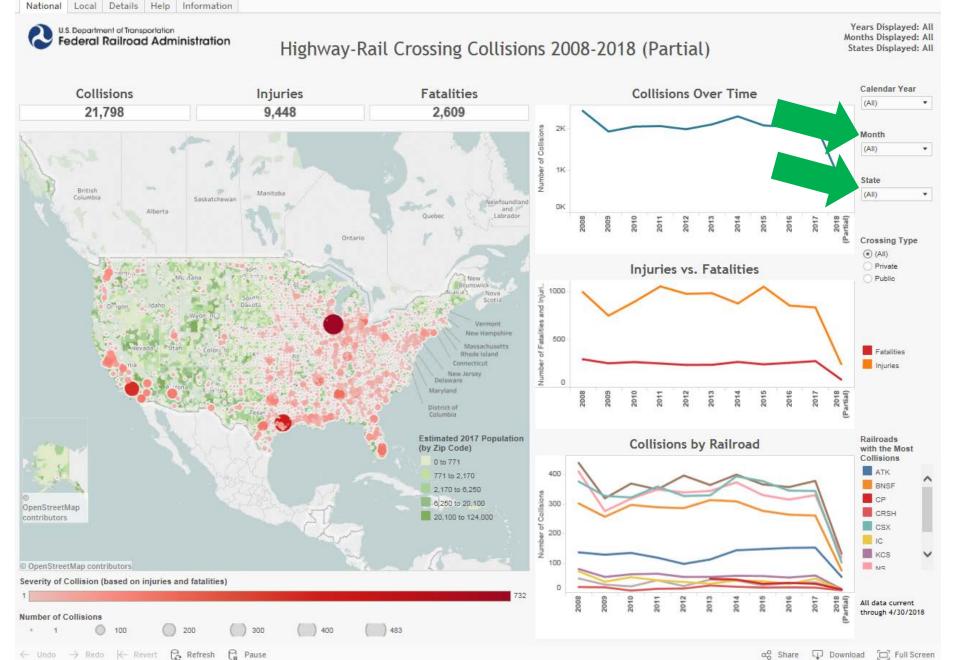
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

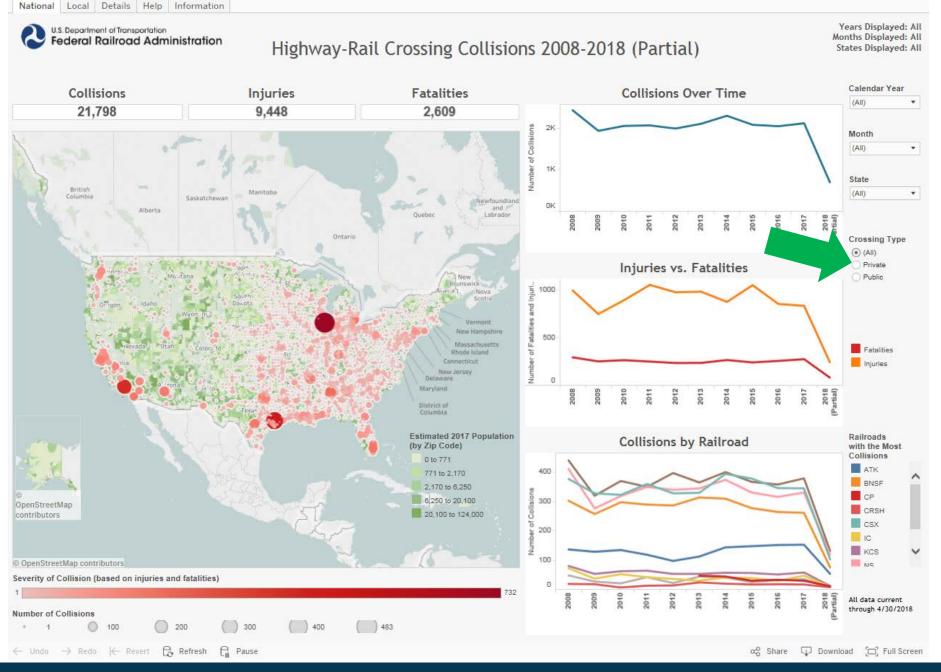
Highway-Rail Crossing Collisions 2008-2018 (Partial)

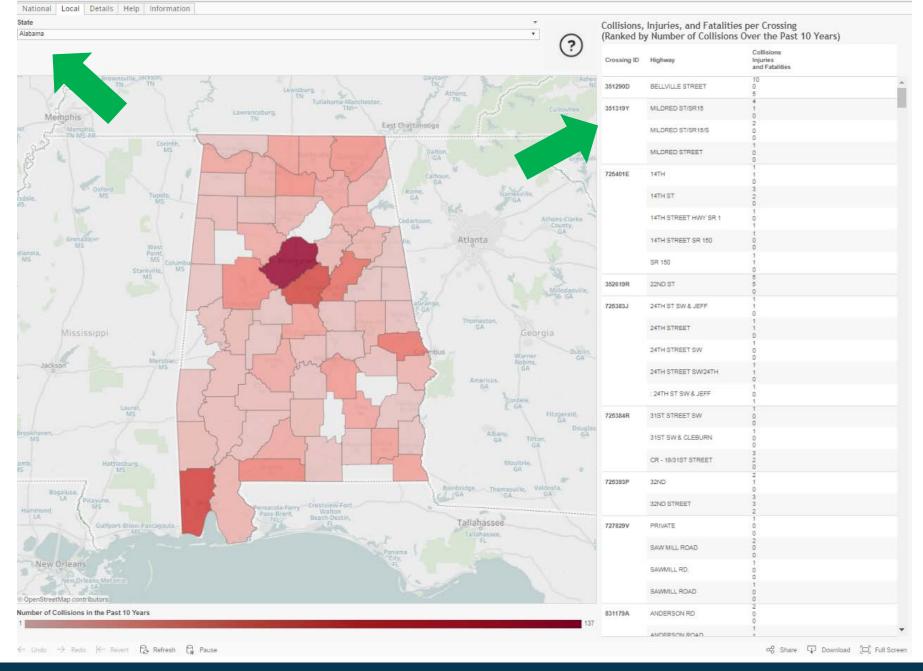
Years Displayed: All Months Displayed: All States Displayed: All

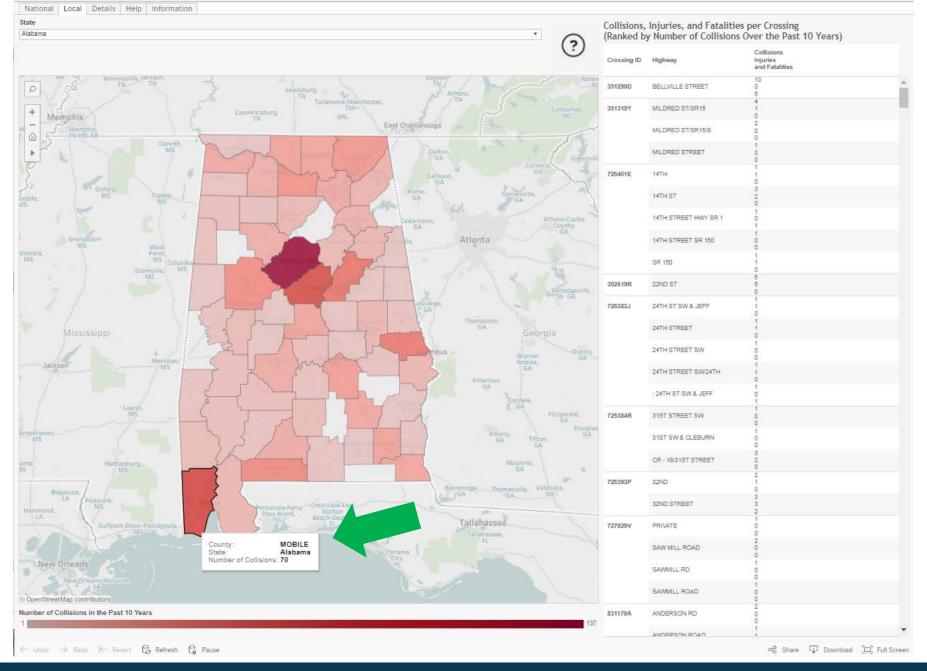


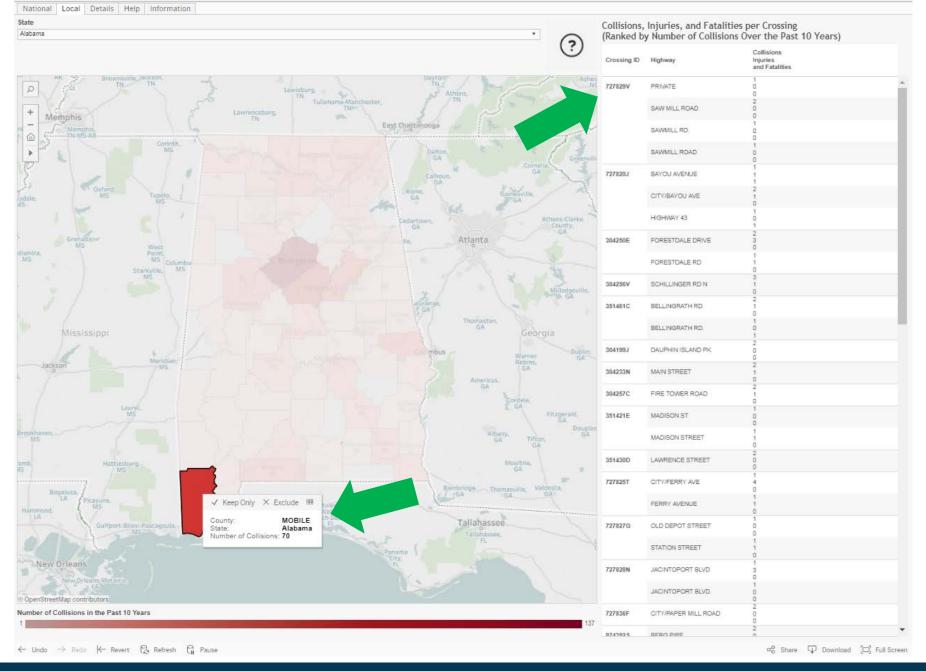


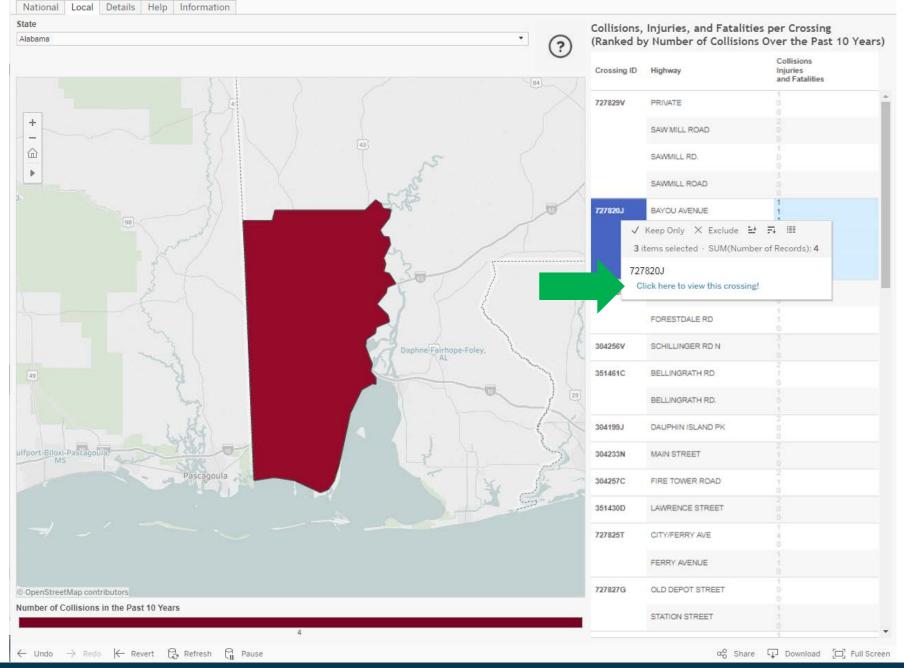


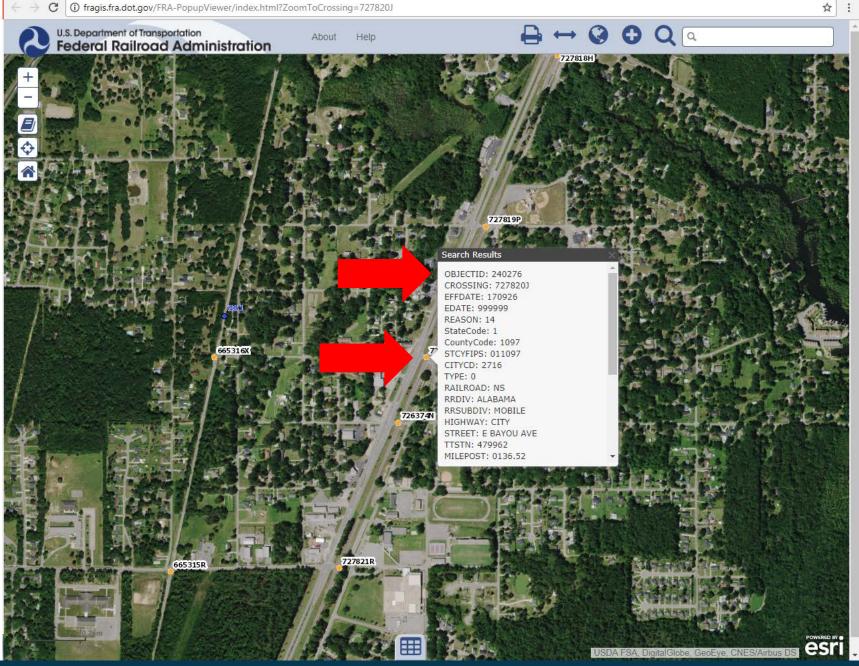




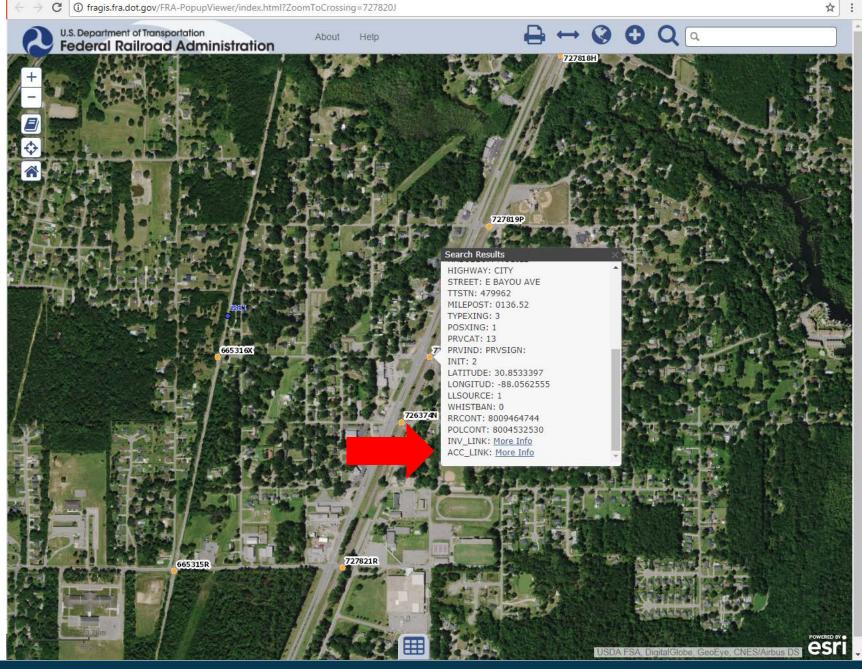






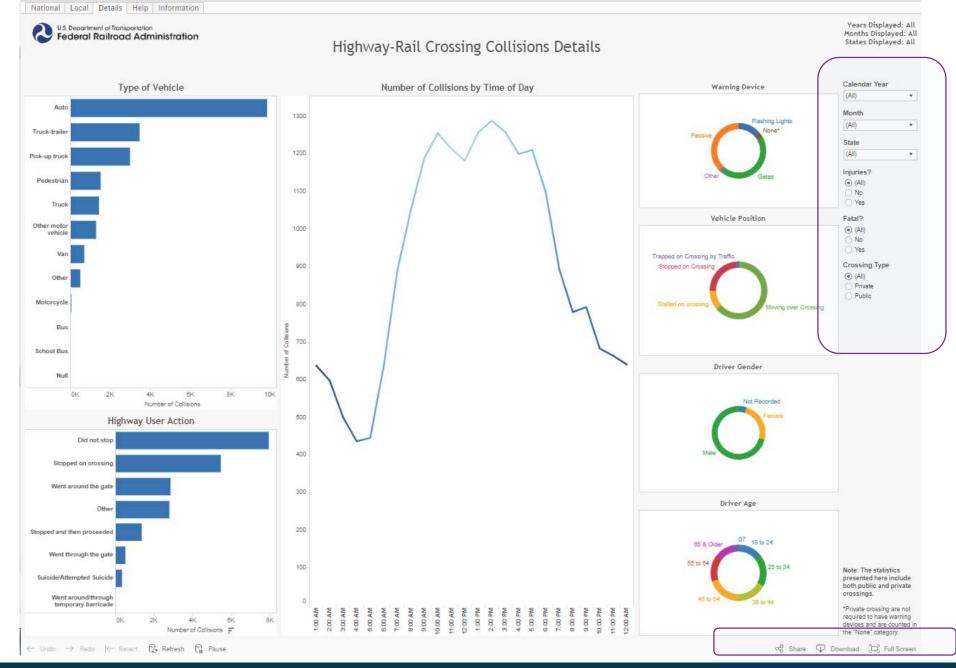


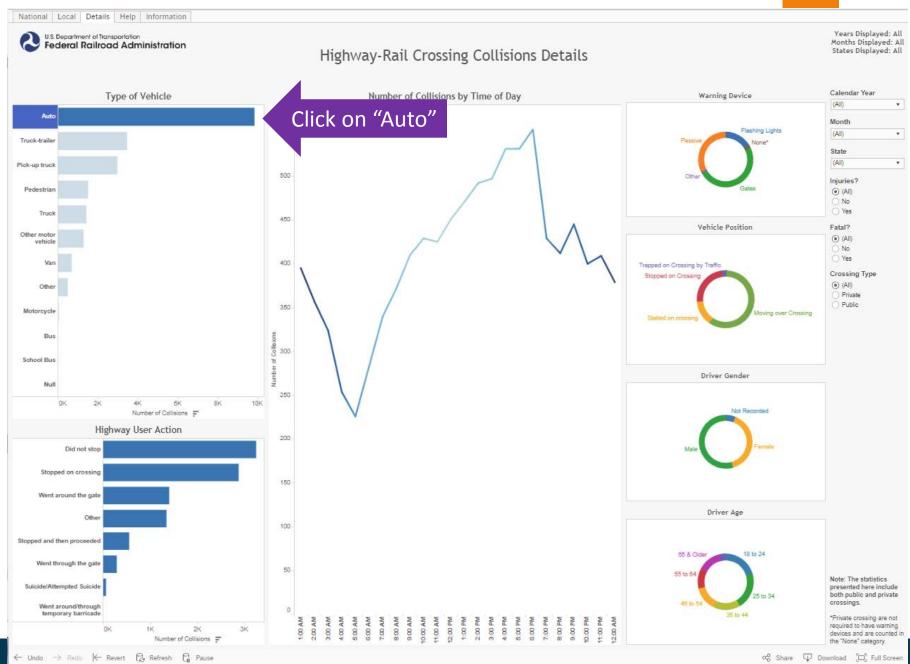
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

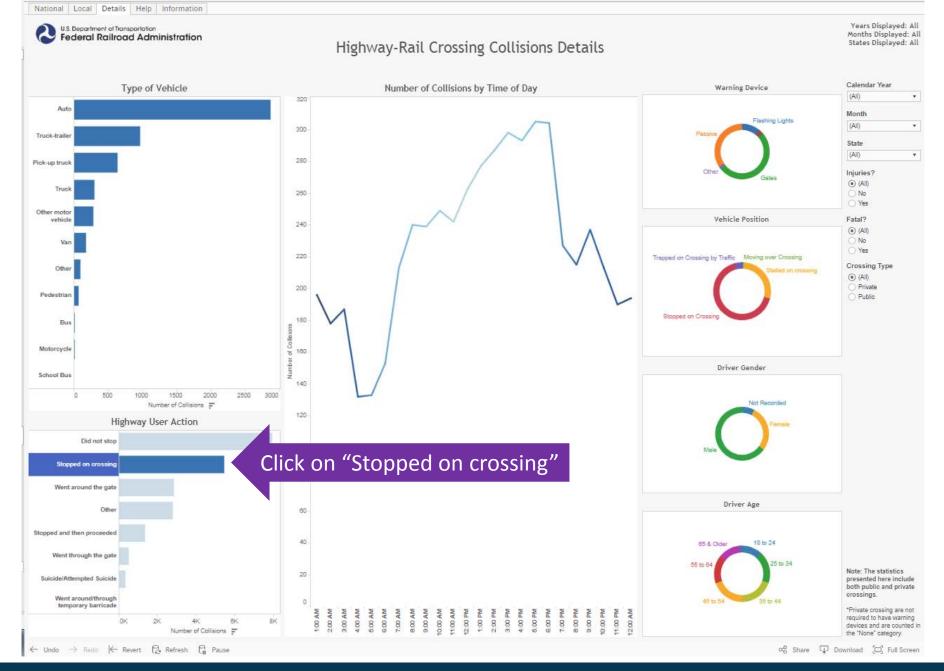


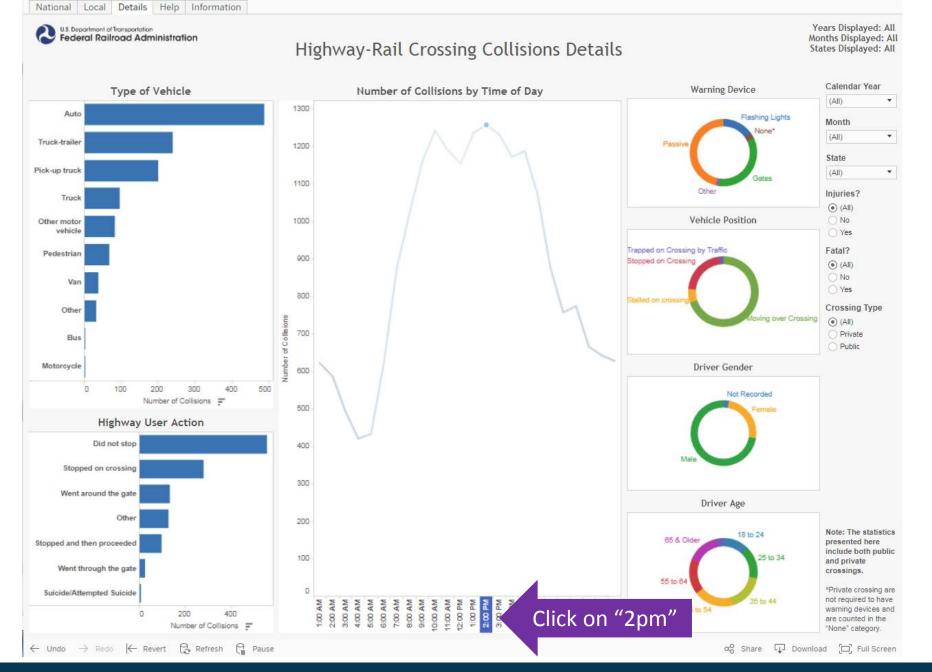
U.S. Department of TransportationFederal Railroad Administration



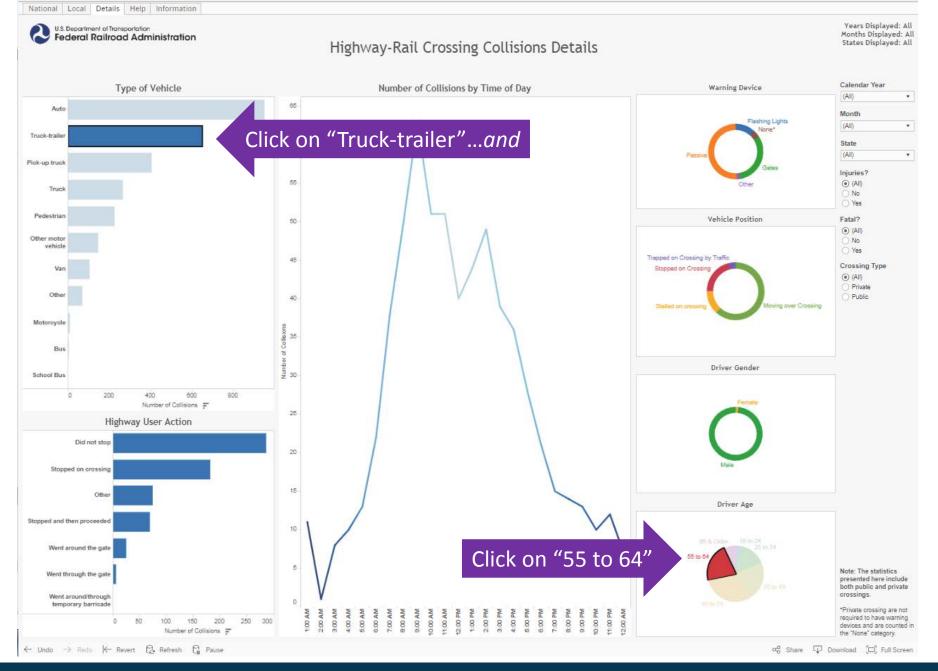












GX Dash! Tips and Tricks

GX Dash! is a data visualization tool that allows users to interact with FRA's highway-rail grade crossing and inventory data in an intuitive way that drives insights. GX Dash! is supported by Tableau Software, which assists with the visualization of data into a format called dashboards. Tableau is designed to be intuitive and user friendly. As you become familiarized with GX Dash!, there are a few things that will allow users to get the most out of interacting with the data. The following are the top 8 most helpful things to know in order to successfully navigate through the dashboard.

- 1. Filters: Filtering allows you to tailor visualizations to include only specific criteria. For example, limiting graphics to a geographic area or range of years. Filters apply to every visualization you see on each tab including maps, graphs, and charts.
- 2. Tool Tips: These pop-up text boxes provide additional information when you hover the cursor over an object. Tool tips often pop-up when you hover over areas on a map. You will also find tool tips in line and pie graphs that provide the specific numbers behind the trends.
- 3. Undo: You can undo the last few actions taken while navigating the dashboard by clicking the back arrow button in the bottom left-hand corner of your dashboard. Whether it's a filter, selection, or exclusion, this function will let you back up a few steps.
- 4. Interactive Visuals: When you click on part of a graph or map, the rest of the dashboard filters to include only data relevant to what you selected. Deselect by clicking in the blank space of the visual or clicking the original selection a second time.
- 5. Maps Functions: Use the search function on the top left-hand corner of maps to zoom into a particular state, county, or city. To move the map manually hold "Shift" then click and drag your mouse. You can also double-click to zoom in and "Shift"+ double-click to zoom out.

Pro-tip: To zoom at smaller intervals hold "CTRL" while zooming in/out with your mouse.

- 6. Revert to Saved: Clicking "Revert" in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen will reset the dashboard to the original version of webpage. This function resets all filters, highlights, etc. giving you a fresh start.
- 7. "Exclude" and "Keep Only": Hovering over or selecting any element of a visual will present the option "Keep only" or "Exclude". Excluding your selection will eliminate that set of data from visuals on the entire dashboard, the opposite is true for "Keep only." To retrieve these values back, use the "Undo" function (Tip #4).
- 8. Highlighting: In the top right-hand corner of each legend there is a highlighter symbol, clicking this turns on and off the highlighting function. When this function is on, selecting values in the legend will highlight the corresponding data throughout the rest of the dashboard, where applicable.

For Media Inquiries Contact: frapa@dot.gov For Technology Inquiries Contact: fraweb@dot.gov



















When a collision occurs at a highway-rail crossing, also known as a grade crossing, the railroad involved is required to file a detailed report of the incident to the Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. These reports are recorded through Form FRA F6180.57. Form FRA F6180.57 report data feeds all graphs and visuals in this dashboard. For more information on grade crossing data and statistics please visit the FRA Safety Data website at https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov.

Note.

The data contained within the GX Dash! website is being disseminated in the interest of information exchange. This data is generated by the Federal Railroad Administration's Safetydata database, which is located at https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov. This database is updated monthly. Users of this data should anticipate possible variations, based on the updates provided by the railroads and/or States. The United States government assumes no liability for the content or use of the data contained within this website.

Additional Online Data Resources

Federal Railroad Administration: https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0001

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing and Trespass Prevention Division: https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0841

Operation Lifesaver: https://oli.org/

← Undo → Redo ← Revert 🕞 Refresh 😭 Pause

Share Download D Full Screen

Web-based Accident Prediction System (WBAPS)



What is WBAPS?

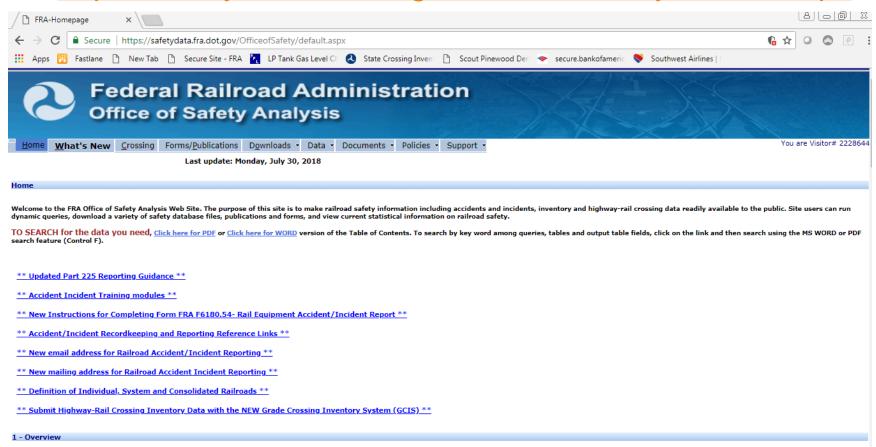
- FRA's Highway-Rail Crossing Web-based Accident Prediction System
- Generates reports listing open, public at-grade highwayrail crossings
- Ranked by predicted accidents per year.
- Used by States and Railroads for Section 130 purposes or for grant applications

Why use WBAPS?

- A tool to identify particular crossings that may be more hazardous than others
- Provides data results of the crossing's physical and operating characteristics, along with the crossing's accident history over the last 5 years
- Assists in the decision-making process in determining which crossing(s) to fund for safety enhancements
- DOES NOT rank crossings in terms of most to least dangerous

FRA's Safety Data Homepage

https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/default.aspx



Scroll down to 5.03...

- 3.11 Accident Detail Report
- 3.16 Summary of Train Accidents With Reportable Damage, Casualties, and Major Causes
- 3.17 Type Of Territory Vs. Accident Type and Cause
- 3.18 Accident By State/Railroad

4 - Casualties

- 4.02 FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports (Published May 2011)
- 4.03 FRA Guide (PDF) (Effective May 1, 2003)

Query FRA Casualty Data:

- 4.06 Casualty Detail Report
- 4.07 Casualty Map with Table
- 4.08 Casualty Summary Tables
- 4.09 Worker Safety Report
- 4.11 Suicide Casualties By State/Railroad
- 4.12 Casualties By State/Railroad
- 4.13 Trespasser Incidents by Age, Day of Week, Time of Da
- 4.14 One Month Casualty Report in Text Format

5 - Highway-Rail Crossing Accidents

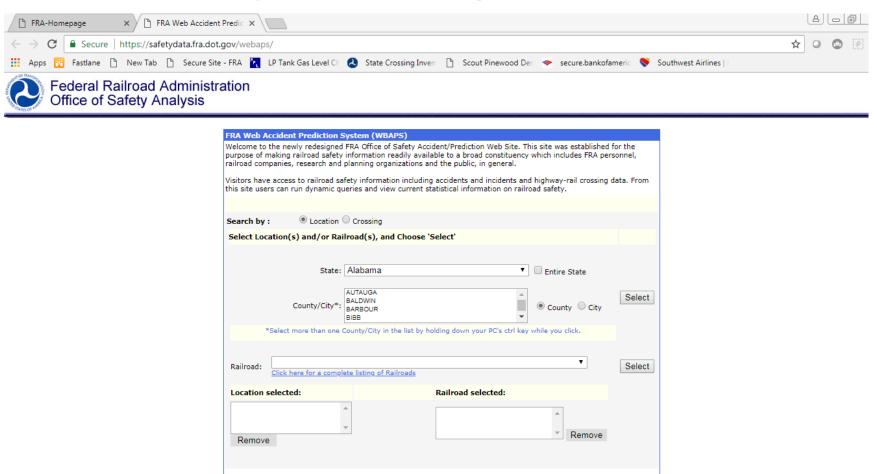
- 5.01 FRA Guide (PDF) (Effective Ma
- 5.02 Generate Crossing Inventory dent Reports
- 5.03 Accident Prediction WBAPS
- 5.06 FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports (Published May 2011)

Query FRA Crossing Accident Data:

- 5.08 Frequency of Crossing Collisions
- 5.09 Hwy/Rail Detail Report
- 5.10 Hwy/Rail Map with Table
- 5.14 Hwy Rail Accident Incident Summary By Railroad
- 5.15 Consolidated Hwy Rail Accident Incident

WBAPS Homepage

https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/webaps/



FRA Web Accident Prediction System (WBAPS) Welcome to the newly redesigned FRA Office of Safety Accident/Prediction Web Site. This site was established for the purpose of making railroad safety information readily available to a broad constituency which includes FRA personnel, railroad companies, research and planning organizations and the public, in general. Visitors have access to railroad safety information including accidents and incidents and highway-rail crossing data. From this site users can run dynamic queries and view current statistical information on railroad safety. Location Crossing Search by: Select Location(s) and/or Railroad(s), and Choose 'Select' State: Alabama Entire State AUTAUGA Select BALDWIN County/City*: County City BARBOUR BIBB *Select more than one County/City in the list by holding down your PC's ctrl key while you click. Select Railroad: Click here for a complete listing of Railroads Location selected: Railroad selected: Remove Remove How many Records? 0 100 30 O 50 O All Reports

Begin live demonstration

https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/webaps/

Thank you!

Frank Frey Frank.frey@dot.gov 202-738-2195

GradeDec.Net

FRA Web-Based Benefit Analysis Tool

What is GradeDec.Net?

- Web-Based Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Benefit Cost Analysis Tool
 - Evaluates crossing upgrades, closures, and separations
 - Compares grade crossing investment benefits of improved safety and reduced travel time, environmental impacts, and highway vehicle fuel costs to capital and maintenance costs
 - Benefits and costs are discounted to allow decisionmakers to inspect future benefits in terms of present day values
 - Meets all criteria outlined in the US DOT Benefit-Cots Analysis Guidance for Discretionary Grant Programs
 - The model is completely transparent. Users can adjust model parameters to more accurately reflect local circumstances.

What is GradeDec.Net?

- Easy access to FRA National Grade Crossing Inventory Database and FRA Accident Data
- Evaluate crossings within a region or along a rail corridor
 - Region: Rank crossings within a county, group of counties, or state
 - Measure the effects of grade crossing closure and separation on adjacent crossings
 - Corridor: Input train and highway vehicle time-ofday arrival rates to estimate probability that trains and vehicles arrive at crossings simultaneously.
- Measures the length of queue behind closed gates to so planners anticipate 'spillback' to the next roadway intersection

LoginGradeDec.Net https://gradedec.fra.dot.gov/

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

GradeDec.Net - System for Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Investment Analysis

Welcome to GradeDec.Net

You are accessing GradeDec.Net system: a U.S. Government information system. The GradeDec.Net information system, including all related equipment, networks, and network devices, is provided for U.S. Government-authorized use only. Unauthorized or improper use of the GradeDec.Net system is prohibited, and may result in civil and criminal penalties. The communications and data stored or transiting this system may be, for any lawful Government purpose, monitored, recorded, and subject to audit or investigation. By using the GradeDec.Net system, you understand and consent to such terms.

- To read more about GradeDec.Net, click "About" on the toolbar at the top of the page.
- If you experience difficulty logging in, clear your browser's cache of temporary files. This feature can be found in your browser options. (Or click here for detailed instructions).
- After logging in, the Navigation bar on the left side of the screen also serves as a menu for page-specific functions. Place the mouse over the Navigation bar to view the functions available for the page.
- Current social cost values from the DOT Benefit-Cost Analysis Resource Guide are included by default in scenarios when you create a new dataset. Datasets created prior to February 6, 2017 may not have the most current social cost values.

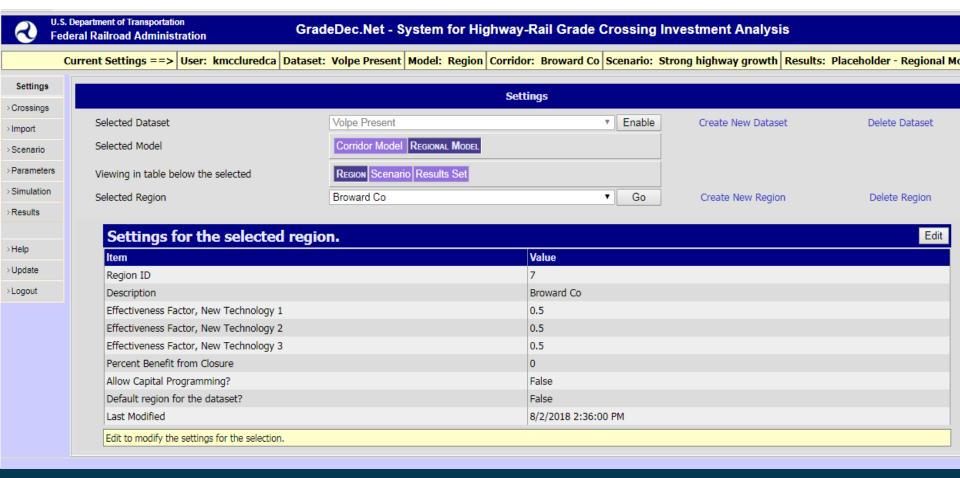
A revised User's Manual is now available and can be accessed, after logging in, from the Help option of the Main Menu. Please contact Karen McClure, 202-493-6417, at the Federal Railroad Administration if you have additional questions.

LOGIN AND REGISTRATION Do you have a User ID and password?

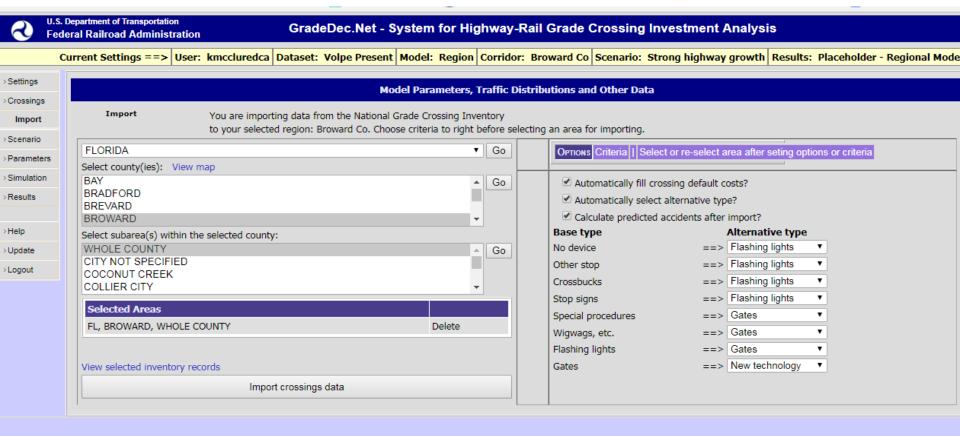
Yes	I have a User ID and password			
Enter below, then click "Submit"				
User ID:	Submit			

No I need to create a	a User ID and password
Click "Go" for New User Registration	Go

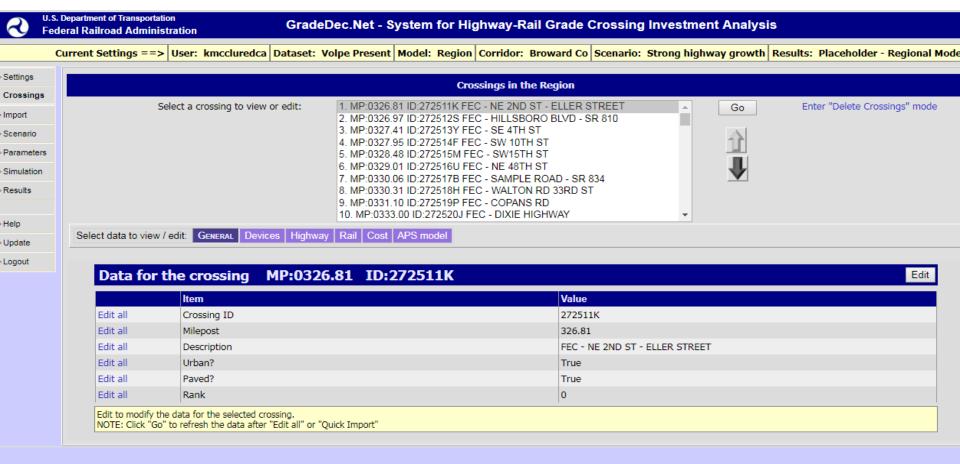
Select Regional Model and Import All Crossings In County



Upgrade all crossing while importing

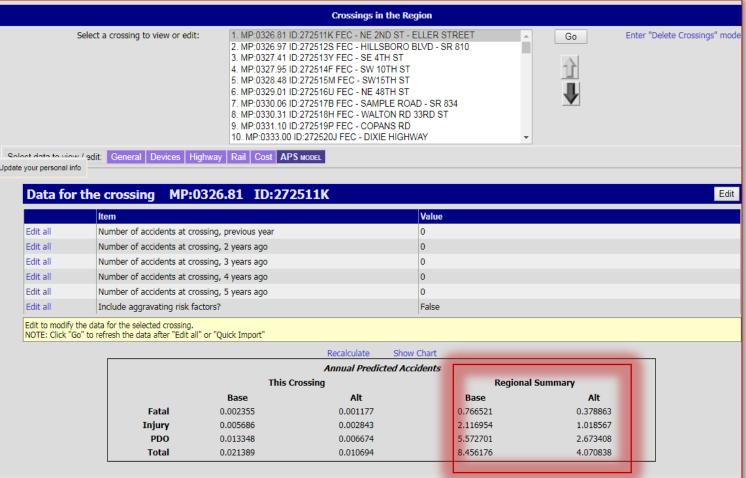


Go to Crossings page to verify all imported data

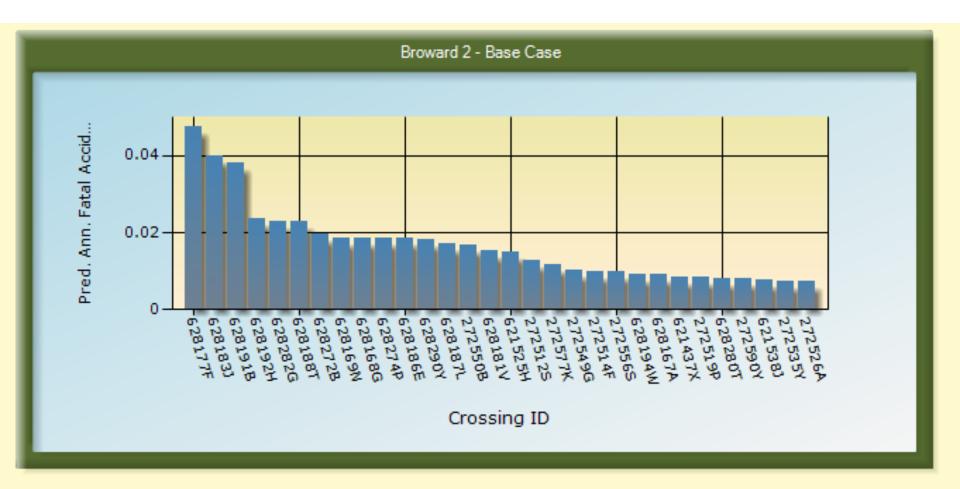


All 140 Broward County crossings are imported.

Use US DOT APS Model to estimate risk for each crossing and the entire county



Select the 10 most dangerous crossing IDs in the county



Switch to Corridor Model, Use Quick Import to select top 10 high risk crossings

	Cu	rrent Settings ==>	kmccluredca	2	Corridor	10	growth	
> Settings		GradeDec.Net - Quick import page - Google Chrome						
Crossings	Ш	■ Secure https://gradedec.fra.dot.gov/QuickImport.aspx						
> Import	Ш			Nasa this window who	h fi!	ched importing	_	
>Scenario				close this window whe	en you nave iini	snea importing		
> Parameters		Quick Import	Enter up to five ID	Import List Import of	rossings to corridor: br	oward Co Top 10		
> Simulation		· ·						
Results		Ontion 1 - I	mport Up to 5 Cross	sings - Enter Crossing	IDs on Page			
Liele		•		ne crossing(s) to import to the				
> Help > Update			Crossing 1	628177F				
> Logout			Crossing 2					
			Crossing 3					
			Crossing 4					
	<u> </u>		Crossing 5					
				Import the crossings			-	
		Option 2 - Import Crossings Using a File with a List of IDs						
		Prepare a comma separated value (CSV) file that contains a list of Grade Crossing IDs to import from the National Grade Crossing Inventory of Public Highway-Rail			-Rail Samp	le List File		
				crossing ID, the list sho	• •	Nank	*	
				ders in the first row (Ra the ID of each crossing			003629K 003630E	

Calculate the Maximum Queue Length Behind Each Crossing

Results: Placeholder - Corridor Model							
Selected results data group: Max Queue Length, last year, by GCX ▼ Go Show summary chart							
Variable	Mean Value	Standard Deviation					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 1, PCE, MP 1001.29	71.067	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 2, PCE, MP 1002.3	42.604	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 3, PCE, MP 1004.34	29.929	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 4, PCE, MP 1006.31	18.160	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 5, PCE, MP 1007.88	7.801	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 6, PCE, MP 1009.01	36.414	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 7, PCE, MP 1010.08	10.771	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 8, PCE, MP 1016.2	28.747	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 9, PCE, MP 1017.3	24.567	NaN					
Max queue length, last year, GCX 10, PCE, MP 1020.85	28.144	NaN					
	Variable Max queue length, last year, GCX 1, PCE, MP 1001.29 Max queue length, last year, GCX 2, PCE, MP 1002.3 Max queue length, last year, GCX 3, PCE, MP 1004.34 Max queue length, last year, GCX 4, PCE, MP 1006.31 Max queue length, last year, GCX 5, PCE, MP 1007.88 Max queue length, last year, GCX 6, PCE, MP 1009.01 Max queue length, last year, GCX 7, PCE, MP 1010.08 Max queue length, last year, GCX 8, PCE, MP 1016.2 Max queue length, last year, GCX 9, PCE, MP 1017.3	VariableMean ValueMax queue length, last year, GCX 1, PCE, MP 1001.2971.067Max queue length, last year, GCX 2, PCE, MP 1002.342.604Max queue length, last year, GCX 3, PCE, MP 1004.3429.929Max queue length, last year, GCX 4, PCE, MP 1006.3118.160Max queue length, last year, GCX 5, PCE, MP 1007.887.801Max queue length, last year, GCX 6, PCE, MP 1009.0136.414Max queue length, last year, GCX 7, PCE, MP 1010.0810.771Max queue length, last year, GCX 8, PCE, MP 1016.228.747Max queue length, last year, GCX 9, PCE, MP 1017.324.567					

Go to the Simulation Page, click run, then select Max Queue, last year, by GCX. Identify crossings most suitable for separation

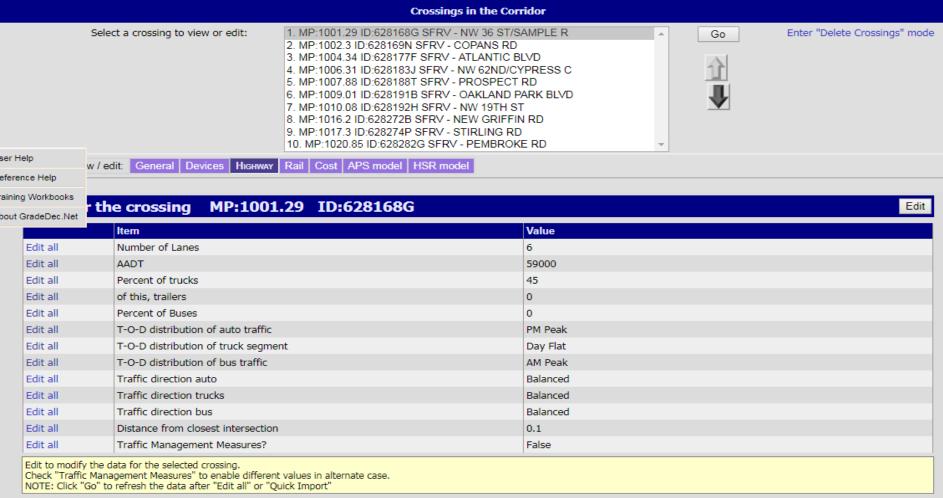
Return to the Crossings page, Click the Devices tab, click "Edit All' alternative devices, then separate the top two crossings.

Data for all crossings in the corridor

Edit

No.	Crossing ID	Milepost	Description	Alternate Case Device
1	628168G	1001.29	SFRV - NW 36 ST/SAMPLE R	Grade Separation
2	628169N	1002.3	SFRV - COPANS RD	Grade Separation
3	628177F	1004.34	SFRV - ATLANTIC BLVD	New Technology 1
4	628183J	1006.31	SFRV - NW 62ND/CYPRESS C	New Technology 1
5	628188T	1007.88	SFRV - PROSPECT RD	New Technology 1
6	628191B	1009.01	SFRV - OAKLAND PARK BLVD	New Technology 1
7	628192H	1010.08	SFRV - NW 19TH ST	New Technology 1
8	628272B	1016.2	SFRV - NEW GRIFFIN RD	New Technology 1
9	628274P	1017.3	SFRV - STIRLING RD	New Technology 1
10	628282G	1020.85	SFRV - PEMBROKE RD	New Technology 1

Adjust Highway Traffic Time of Day Arrival Rate



Use "Edit All" for all auto traffic distributed to PM peak

Data for all crossings in the corridor Cancel Update T-O-D distribution of auto traffic No. Crossing ID Milepost Description SFRV - NW 36 ST/SAMPLE R PM Peak 628168G 1001.29 PM Peak 628169N 1002.3 SFRV - COPANS RD • 1004.34 PM Peak 628177F SFRV - ATLANTIC BLVD • 6281831 1006.31 SFRV - NW 62ND/CYPRESS C PM Peak • 628188T 1007.88 SFRV - PROSPECT RD PM Peak • PM Peak 628191B 1009.01 SFRV - OAKLAND PARK BLVD PM Peak 628192H 1010.08 SFRV - NW 19TH ST • 628272B 1016.2 SFRV - NEW GRIFFIN RD PM Peak • 628274P 1017.3 PM Peak SFRV - STIRLING RD •

PM Peak

•

Be sure to click "Update" to save your changes.

10

628282G

1020.85

SFRV - PEMBROKE RD

Benefit Cost Results at the 7 percent discount rate

Results: Placeholder - Corridor Model

Selected results data group: Benefits and Benefit-Cost Summary ▼ Go Show summary chart

		Variable	Mean Value
	No view	Safety benefits, thous \$ PV	28156.590
	No view	Travel time savings, thous \$ PV	37618.070
	No view	Environmental benefits, thous \$ PV	4151.333
	No view	Veh operating cost benefit, thous \$ PV	11513.290
	No view	Network benefits, thous \$ PV	70.713
Не	elp	Total benefits, thous \$ PV	82717.030
rence Help		of this, benefits from induced trips, thous \$ PV	29.829
ning Workbooks		of this, disbenefits from induced trips, thous \$ PV	-80.621
ıt G	radeDec.Net	of this, investment salvage value, thous \$ PV	1257.826
INO VICTO		Total costs, thous \$ PV	23000.700
	No view	Net benefits, thous \$ PV	59716.330
	No view	Benefit-cost ratio	3.596
	No view	Rate of return (constant dollars), %	19.143
	No view	Local benefits (not included in summary), thous \$ PV	8271.703

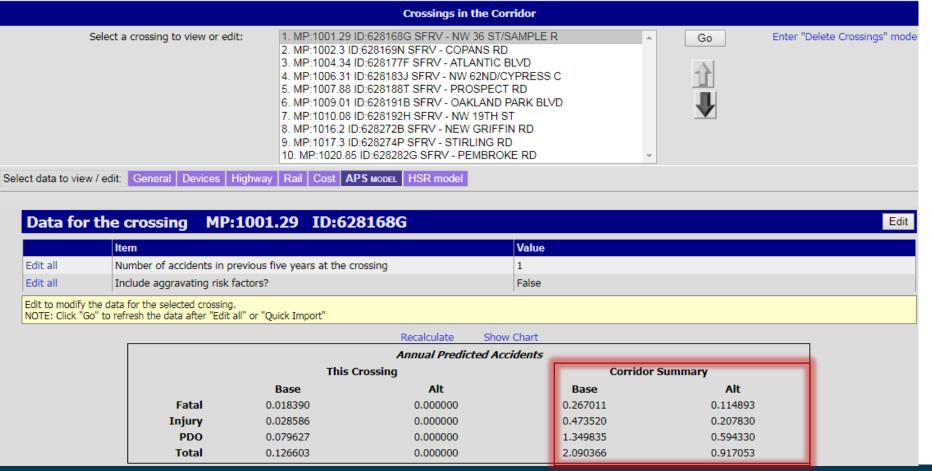
Intermediate Values: Maximum Queue Length

Results: Placeholder - Regional Model

Selected results data group: Max Queue Length, last year, by GCX ▼ Go Show summary chart

Variable	Mean Value	Si
Max queue length, last year, GCX 1, PCE, ID 272511K	5.890	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 2, PCE, ID 272512S	425.665	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 3, PCE, ID 272513Y	5.084	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 4, PCE, ID 272514F	95.014	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 5, PCE, ID 272515M	12.342	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 6, PCE, ID 272516U	17.157	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 7, PCE, ID 272517B	425.665	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 8, PCE, ID 272518H	15.630	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 9, PCE, ID 272519P	397.776	
Max queue length, last year, GCX 10, PCE, ID 272520J	2851.942	

Targeting the two most dangerous crossing of the 10 selected for the analysis reduced accident risk by 50%.



Add 4 quad gates with 60' median barriers to the other 8 crossings

Fatal

Injury

PDO

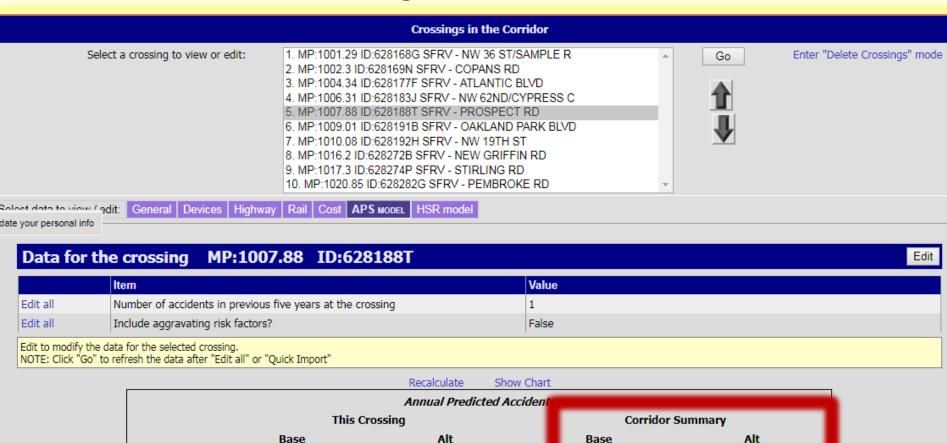
Total

0.022158

0.027997

0.063234

0.113389



0.001773

0.002240

0.005059

0.009071

0.267011

0.473520

1.349835

2.090366

0.018383

0.033253

0.095093

0.146728

Questions?

Thank you!

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