



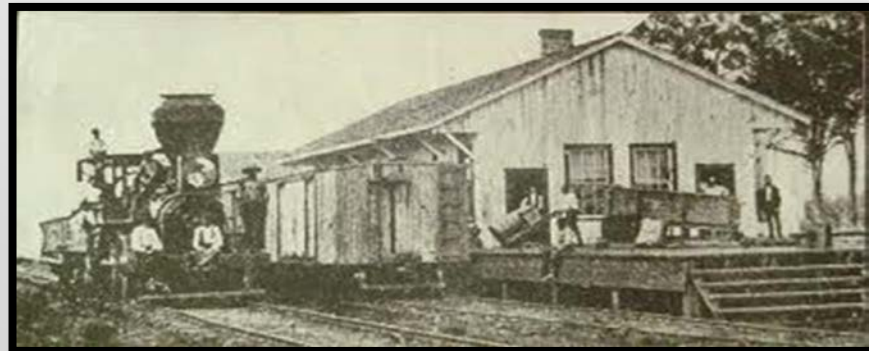
# Rail-Highway Safety Programs 101

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)  
Design Bureau/Traffic Engineering  
Traffic and Safety Operations

# Topics of Discussion

Reorganization  
Core Areas of Responsibility  
Crossings in Alabama  
Construction & Resurfacing Projects  
Section 130 Program  
Inventory  
Closures  
Region Railroad Coordinators

## First Railroad Depot in Alabama



Tuscumbia, Alabama

# Reorganization of Rail Group

**Effective May 16, 2017**

Rail-Highway Safety Group reassigned to  
Design Bureau, Traffic Engineering, Traffic & Safety Operations

## **New Address**

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)  
ATTN: Rail-Highway Safety Programs Group (DESIGN)  
1409 Coliseum Boulevard  
Montgomery, AL 36110



# Core Areas of Responsibility

Construction/Resurfacing Projects

Section 130 Program (Safety Improvements)

Invoice Processing

Closures of Rail-Highway Crossings

Maintenance of Rail Crossing Inventory

# Alabama Rail-Highway Crossings

More than **5,800** railroad crossings

Over **2,700** are public at-grade crossings

Over **1,500** are private at-grade crossings

Including **675** grade separation crossings

## Public At-Grade Crossings

Over **1,300** are Signalized

Less than **50%** of railroad crossing have active warning devices (**signals, bells, and gates**)

## Railroads Operating in Alabama

Class I Railroads (**5**)

Class II Railroad (**1**)

Class III Shortline Railroads (**26**)



## **F U N F A C T ...**

**Railroads do not operate in which of  
Alabama's 67 Counties?**

**Bullock & Geneva Counties**

# Construction & Resurfacing

## Rail Agreement Submittals

- 2018 Guidelines for Developing Construction Plans (GDCCP)
- Guidelines for Construction Projects with Railroad Involvement
  - Survey Forms
  - Certification of Railroad Involvement Forms
  - Warning Device Checklist
  - Diagnostic Review
- Submittal for rail coordination should be provide **at least 22 weeks prior to Letting Date** or sooner

## Project Information Data

- Updates to CPMS



# Construction & Resurfacing

## In the Works...

- Updating all agreements
- Consolidating RR Special Provisions
- Researching to develop master agreements

## Things to be mindful...

- 2009 MUTCD Chapter 8
- 2015 & 2016 ALDOT Railroad Crossing Guidance Memos
- Exceptions at railroad crossings
- RR Project Notes



# Diagnostic Review

## Purpose

- Determines what safety improvements are needed and the scope of work

## Team\*\*

- ALDOT Personnel
- Region Rail Coordinator/Project Lead/Designer
- ALDOT assigned Consultant
- Local Representative(s)
- Railroad Representative(s)

**\*\*Primarily Personnel whom have discussion making authority\*\***

# Force Account Estimates (FAE)

## FAE are received from the railroads

- Higher costs due to change in railroads work force
  - Union Labor & Consultants
- Need approval from region in order for execution of agreement

## Safety Improvements

- Unless otherwise being addressed in an ongoing Section 130 Safety Improvement project, all costs associated with safety improvements should be included in the construction costs

## Typical Costs

- Depends on type of work
- Number of days on railroads right-of-way
- PE charges
- Active or Passive device upgrades or installations

# Section 130 Safety Program

## Background

- Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1987 established Section 130 of Title 23 of the United States Code (USC), giving the Federal-Aid Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program permanent status under the law for the first time.
- Planning, Developing, and Implementing Rail-Highway Safety Improvement Projects at public crossings

## Funding

- Alabama receives approx. **\$4.7M** in Federal funding, annually
- Accident Prediction Index
- Federal Share Funding **NO LONGER 100%**
  - 90% Federal Share with 10% Local Match



# Section 130 Safety Program

## Current Program Projects

- Rail-State Action Plan (SAP) (Update) & Rail Directory
- Public Rail-Highway Passive Device Upgrades
  - Approximately 5-6 years to complete entire State
  - Completed Tuscaloosa & Fayette Areas, plans to be let to contract

## Additional Funding Opportunity

- [FRA Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements \(CRISI\) Grant](#)  
**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY COB JUNE 21, 2018**
- [FRA Rail Capital Projects and Operating Assistance Grant](#)

## ALDOT Section 130 Safety Program:

- Authorized **69** At-Grade Crossing Safety Projects
- At a cost of approximately **\$19.7 Million**

## Crash Data in Alabama

- CARE Data **29%** Rural and **71%** Urban (2007-2016)
- FRA Data **Top 5 Counties** for Trained Involved Crashes
  - Jefferson
  - Mobile
  - Shelby
  - Lee
  - Talladega

# Section 130 Safety Program

## Projects to Address Safety Improvements

- Locations based on ranking on Accident Prediction Priority list
- Safety Corridor Projects
  - Two or more crossings along the same line or in a near vicinity
  - Crossing closures and consolidation
  - Signalization and passive device upgrades
- Closures
- Special Projects

## Outreach Programs

- [Operation Lifesaver](#)



# Inventory

- Railroad vs. States Responsibility
- Public vs. Private Crossings
- Crossing Inventory Data
  - State
  - FRA
  - Railroad

## Online Resources

A screenshot of the Federal Railroad Administration Office of Safety Analysis website. The page title is "S.02 - Generate Crossing Inventory and Accident Reports". The navigation menu includes Home, What's New, Crossing, Forms/Publications, Downloads, Data, Documents, Policies, and Support. The main content area contains instructions: "Please click on one of the links below or enter a crossing number, pick the report type and click on the Generate Report button to produce the Report." Below this, there are radio buttons for "Report Type" (Inventory, Accident, Contact Sheet) and "Inventory" (Current, History). There is a text input field for "Crossing#" and two buttons: "Generate Report" and "Generate Map". At the bottom, there is a section for "Additional Links" with several hyperlinks: "Query by Location/Railroad", "Query by Crossing", "Accident Prediction (WRAPS)", "Crossing Inventory Data File Reconciliation (CIB)", "DOT Crossing Inventory Information", "Crossing Data help", "Rail Crossing Locator Mobile Application", "Maps", "Notice", and "Using this Site". At the very bottom, it says "Accident File as of: December 31, 2017" and "Crossing Inventory File as of: Today".

**FIELD REVIEW ONLY**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

**U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM**

OMB No. 2130-0017

Instructions for the initial reporting of the following types of new or previously unreported crossings: For public highway-rail grade crossings, complete the entire inventory Form. For private highway-rail grade crossings, complete the Header, Parts I and II, and the Submission information section. For public pathway grade crossings (including pedestrian station grade crossings), complete the Header, Parts I and II, and the Submission information section. For Private pathway grade crossings, complete the Header, Parts I and II, and the Submission information section. For grade-separated highway-rail or pathway crossings (including pedestrian station crossings), complete the Header, Part I, and the Submission information section. For changes to existing data, complete the Header, Part I items 1-3, and the Submission information section, in addition to the updated data fields. Note: For private crossings only, Part I Item 20 and Part III Item 2.K. are required unless otherwise noted. An asterisk \* denotes an optional field.

<b>A. Revision Date</b> (MM/DD/YYYY) ____/____/____	<b>B. Reporting Agency</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad <input type="checkbox"/> Transit <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<b>C. Reason for Update</b> (Select only one) <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Data <input type="checkbox"/> Re-Open <input type="checkbox"/> New Crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Date Change Only <input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Operating RR <input type="checkbox"/> No Train Traffic <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet Zone Update <input type="checkbox"/> Admin. Correction	<b>D. DOT Crossing Inventory Number</b> _____
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**Part I: Location and Classification Information**

<b>1. Primary Operating Railroad</b> _____		<b>2. State</b> AL _____		<b>3. County</b> _____	
<b>4. City / Municipality</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Near _____		<b>5. Street/Road Name &amp; Block Number</b> _____ (Street/Road Name) * (Block Number)		<b>6. Highway Type &amp; No.</b> _____	
<b>7. Do Other Railroads Operate a Separate Track at Crossing?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, Specify RR _____			<b>8. Do Other Railroads Operate Over Your Track at Crossing?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, Specify RR _____		
<b>9. Railroad Division or Region</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None _____		<b>10. Railroad Subdivision or District</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None _____		<b>11. Branch or Line Name</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None _____	
<b>12. RR Milepost</b> _____ (prefix)   (nnn.nnn)   (suffix)		<b>13. Line Segment</b> _____		<b>14. Nearest RR Timetable Station</b> _____	
<b>15. Parent RR (if applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A _____		<b>16. Crossing Owner (if applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A _____		<b>17. Crossing Type</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private	
<b>18. Crossing Purpose</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input type="checkbox"/> Pathway, Ped. <input type="checkbox"/> Station, Ped.		<b>19. Crossing Position</b> <input type="checkbox"/> At Grade <input type="checkbox"/> RR Under <input type="checkbox"/> RR Over		<b>20. Public Access (if Private Crossing)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>21. Type of Train</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Freight <input type="checkbox"/> Intercity Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Commuter <input type="checkbox"/> Transit <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Use Transit <input type="checkbox"/> Tourist/Other		<b>22. Average Passenger Train Count Per Day</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than One Per Day <input type="checkbox"/> Number Per Day		<b>23. Type of Land Use</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> RR Yard	
<b>24. Is there an adjacent crossing with a separate number?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, Provide Crossing Number _____			<b>25. Quiet Zone (FRA provided)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Hr <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago Excused Date Established _____		
<b>26. HSR Corridor ID</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<b>27. Latitude in decimal degrees</b> (WGS84 std: nn.nnnnnn)		<b>28. Longitude in decimal degrees</b> (WGS84 std: -nnn.nnnnnn)	
<b>29. Lat/Long Source</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated		<b>30.A. Railroad Use *</b> _____		<b>30.B. Railroad Use *</b> _____	
<b>30.C. Railroad Use *</b> _____		<b>30.D. Railroad Use *</b> _____		<b>31.A. State Use *</b> _____	
<b>31.B. State Use *</b> _____		<b>31.C. State Use *</b> _____		<b>31.D. State Use *</b> _____	
<b>32.A. Narrative (Railroad Use) *</b> _____		<b>32.B. Narrative (State Use) *</b> _____		<b>Notes:</b> _____	
<b>33. Emergency Notification Telephone No. (posted)</b> _____		<b>34. Railroad Contact (Telephone No.)</b> _____		<b>35. State Contact (Telephone No.)</b> _____	



# Closures

## Who can initiate a closure?

- ALDOT
- Railroad
- Local Municipality
- Joint efforts by Railroad, ALDOT, and Local Municipality

## Why close a RR Crossing?

- Economics
  - Maintenance
  - Redundancy
  - Safety Concerns
- Politics
- Alternate Route(s)

## Closure Incentive

- Section 130 funds can match up to \$7,500 per crossing under Title 23 USC 130 (i), provided there is matching railroad funds

## Closure Procedures

- Reference GFO 1-35





# Region Railroad Coordinators

## North

### Guntersville

- Charles Lynn Wood

### Tuscumbia

- Andy Laster

## West Central

### Tuscaloosa & Fayette

- LaTara Burton

## East Central

### Birmingham

- Vacant

### Alex City

- Ken Cush

## Southeast

### Montgomery

- David Bollie & Brent Jones

### Troy

- Dewayne Chancellor

## Southwest

### Mobile

- Dewayne Hood

### Grove Hill

- William Hardy

# Summary

One thing to remember...

When in doubt if your project or a location is over, under, near, or crosses a railroad contact Rail-Highway Safety Programs Group.



# Questions

