

Keeping Pedestrians & Drivers Safe Around Railroad Tracks

Pedestrian and driver safety around railroad tracks and driver behavior at grade crossings — where rail tracks and roads intersect — are a top safety concern for freight railroads.

With more than 200,000 grade crossings in the U.S., railroads work daily with state, local and federal officials and the public to help prevent accidents and injuries on the tracks.

Although states, not railroads, are responsible for evaluating grade crossing risks and prioritizing grade crossings for improvement, railroads invest heavily in grade crossing safety, spending hundreds of millions of dollars each year to maintain crossings and many millions more on programs and initiatives related to grade crossing safety. With a nearly 140,000-mile network that runs through towns and cities of all sizes, railroads also work closely with local communities to eliminate risky behavior near railroad tracks.

- **Railroad Investments:** America's freight [railroads spend](#) hundreds of millions of dollars each year to maintain and improve grade crossings.
- **Preventable Deaths:** [Approximately 95%](#) of all rail-related deaths involve drivers at grade crossings, or people trespassing on railroad tracks.
- **Section 130 Program:** The federal government invests in grade crossing safety. The federal [Section 130 Program](#) in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) provides funds to states — more than \$230 million each year — to install lights and gates at grade crossings.