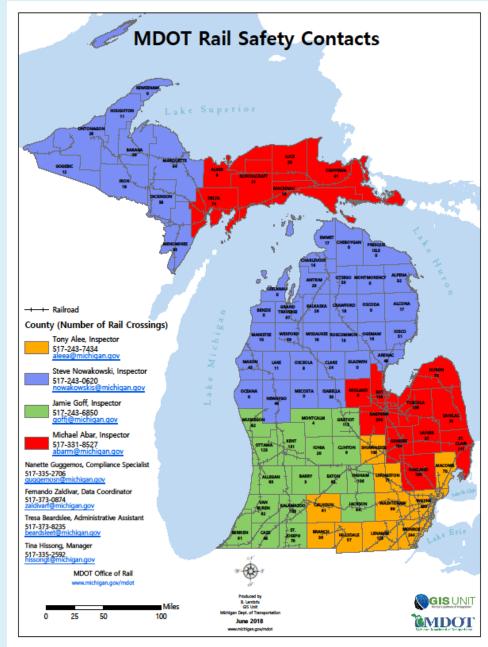
**CALDOT** Michigan Department of Transportation

> Rail Safety Section – Regulatory Winter Operations Workshop October 17, 2018

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# Rail Safety Section Statewide Coverage

www.michigan.gov/mdotrail



# RAIL SAFETY SECTION WHAT WE DO

- On Site Crossing Inspections Reviews, approximately 2,300 crossings per year.
- Diagnostic Study Team Reviews (DSTRs)
   For road projects, road authorities must submit an MDOT-1425 request form.
- Legal Orders & Enforcement.
- Assist Road Authorities and Railroads with crossing issues.



#### TIPS FOR SNOW PLOWING/SALTING AT AND NEAR RAILROAD CROSSINGS

- Reduce snowplow pressure, raise snowplow blades
- Do not pile snow on track, don't dump salt on track
- Avoid piling snow in front of railroad warning devices, bungalows and access roads
- Apply salt or gravel to crossing approaches to assist motorists in stopping
  - When possible, clear-off pavement markings on the roadway approaches.



# WHEN AND HOW TO CONTACT US

- When a road or trail project will take place within 250 feet of a public railroad crossing.
- Safety concerns with a crossing.
- Rough crossing surfaces.
- Obtain the 1425 form from the MDOT Website (Michigan.gov/MDOTRail) to request a Diagnostic Study Team Review.



# WHAT IS A DIAGNOSTIC STUDY TEAMREVIEW (DSTR)?

# A DSTR team consists of knowledgeable representatives from MDOT, the Road Authority and the Railroad.

The MDOT Railroad Safety Inspector facilitates.

The Team reviews the railroad crossing configuration, including the surrounding roadway, and the road/trail project specifics to determine if safety enhancements are warranted.

# **DSTRS FOR ROAD PROJECTS**

- Are held when changes will be made to the width, height or configuration of the roadway.
- When traffic flow or volumes will change during construction.
- If changes to the roadway will increase permanent traffic volumes.

If crossing surfaces need to be addressed.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

# Submit updated ADTs Provide updates on contact info. Participate in the DSTR process Complete ordered work on time Read our correspondence!! (please)











## SOMETHING GOOD TO KNOW

#### **Exempt Sign Changes**

School buses and vehicles transporting hazardous material can utilize Exempt signs at crossings.

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R15-3P				

MDOT approval must be granted to use Exempt signs. (DSTR process)

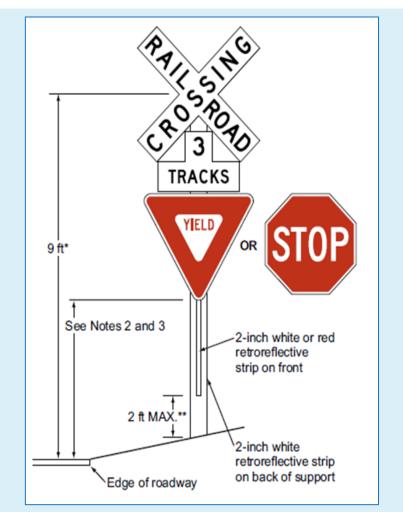


## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### **FRA Mandate:**

All crossbuck only crossings must have Yield or Stop signs in place by 12/31/2019.

Road authorities are the responsible party to install the signs.



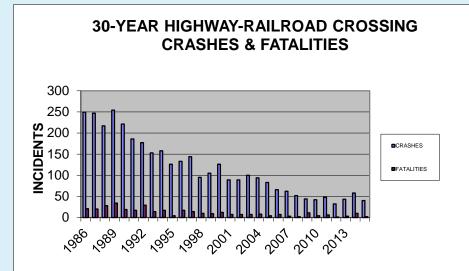
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#### LOCAL GRADE CROSSING PROGRAM WARNING DEVICE ENHANCEMENTS

4400 local crossings
2200+ with lights/gates
40-50 projects/year
Average \$225,000





Federal/State funding
Record low crashes
Record low fatalities
90% Crash reduction

#### LOCAL GRADE CROSSING PROGRAM NEW SURFACE FUNDING

KIRK T. STEUDLE

RICK SNYDER

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LANSING

December 7, 2016

Mr. David Agacinski, Manager Wayne County Road Commission 400 Monroe, 3rd Floor Detroit, Michigan 48226

RE: New Local Grade Crossing Surface Program & Call for Projects

Dear Road Agency Partner:

As you may know, the road funding package signed into law in December of 2015 included the creation of a local public highway-raiload grade crossing surface program. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been tasked with development and administration of this annual program in accordance with its enabling legislation, details of which can be found in Act 51, MCL 247.661(1)(d), with relevant excerpts provided below for reference:

- (i) In prioritizing projects, the department shall consider vehicular traffic volumes, relative crossing surface condition, the ability of the railroad and local road authority to make coordinated improvements...
- (ii) The grade crossing surface account shall fund 60% of the project, with the remaining 40% funded by the railroad company...

In cooperation with the County Road Association of Michigan, the Michigan Municipal League, and the Michigan Railroads Association, MDOT has created a project solicitation and selection process that assures equal opportunity for all prospective participants. A brief overview of the inaugural program follows:

- Applications will be accepted if received via e-mail or postmarked by January 27, 2017
- Applications must be submitted by road agencies, in cooperation with a participating railroad
- Applications must include detailed railroad estimates and updated vehicle traffic counts
- Eligible project costs include materials, labor and equipment: engineering costs are not eligible
- Applications will be evaluated and projects will be selected and announced by early February
- · Project selection will be in compliance with the criteria established in the new law

All prospective projects require proof of 40% railwoad participation and documentation that relevant MMUTCDcompliant traffic contol plans have been approved by the affected road agency. Yo <u>it incumbents may</u> and road agencies to work together to assure that applications are complete and accurate. It should also be noted there are significant public advantages if a proposed project includes coordinated adjacent road work, as the entire crossing environment can be enhanced all at one time. Therefore, road agencies are accuraged to seek opportunities to combine adjacent roadway surface improvement projects with any pending railroad crossing applications.

Application materials and instructions are available on-line at the MDOT Office of Rail web page, and a list of railboad contact information is attached for your reference. Please feel free to contact my office directly at 517-335-3054 if you have any questions.

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Kristian Foondle, Manager Local Grade Crossing Programs www.michigan.gov/mdotrail

Enclosure: Railroad Crossing Contact List

LH-LAN-0 (01/11)

MURRAY D. VAN WAGONER BUILDING \* P.O. BOX 30050 \* LANGING, MICHIGAN 48909 www.michigan.gov \* (517) 373-2090 \$3M Annual Program

- Eligible to Road Agencies
- 2019 Awards Pending
- 2020 Applications

#### LOCAL GRADE CROSSING PROGRAM ROADWAY CLOSURE PROJECTS

# Up to \$150K incentives Multiple closure bonuses Local choices & investments

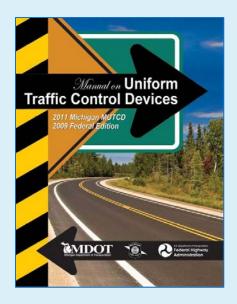




62 Crossings closed
\$6.1 Million invested
Average \$100,000

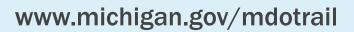
# OFFICE OF RAIL GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

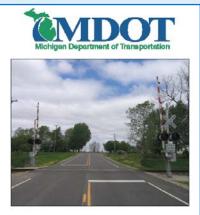
- Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Guidelines for Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings
- Railroad Code (Public Act 354 of 1993)



#### **CONTACTS**

- Rail Safety Tina Hissong, 517-335-2592
- Local Grade Crossings Kris Foondle, 517-335-3054





GUIDELINES FOR HIGHWAY-RAILROAD GRADE CROSSINGS

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Questions / Answers Thank You!