DOT Crossing Inventory Program

Federal Crossing Regulations Update Crossing Inventory Requirements, Emergency Notification Signs, and Reflectorized Tape

> Pennsylvania Rail Freight Seminar Harrisburg, Pennsylvania May 19, 2011

> > Thomas P. Woll
> > Federal Railroad Administration
> > Office of Safety

REFLECTORIZED STRIPS ON CROSSBUCKS

MUTCD Deadline for installation was Jan 17, 2011

(Requirements established in January 2000 and given 10 yrs to comply)

2 inch White Retroreflective Material placed on:

- Crossbuck Posts full length to within 2 feet of ground, on front & back side of posts, at all passive crossings where crossbuck signs are installed
- Back of All Crossbuck Blades full length
- Exceptions: Back to Back Xbucks; One Way Streets; YIELD/STOP Signs on the same post.

REFLECTORIZED STRIPS ON CROSSBUCKS

- Compliance with the MUTCD is the responsibility of the State.
- Contact the State to determine how they want to proceed.
 They can contract with the Railroads for time & materials to install the reflectorized strips.
- Caution: Once installed, the striping will be part of the Crossbuck Assembly and thus the responsibility of the Railroad to maintain.

Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA 2008) Public Law 110-432 - Oct. 16, 2008

- Section 201 Pedestrian Crossing Safety
- Section 202 State Action Plans
- Section 203 Improve Sight Distance at Grade Crossings
- Section 204 National Crossing Inventory
- Section 205 Telephone Number to Report Crossing Problems
- Section 206 Operation Lifesaver
- Section 207 Federal Grants to States for Crossing Safety
- Section 208 Trespasser Prevention
- Section 209 Accident and Incident Reporting
- Section 210 Introduce New Technology to Improve Safety

RSIA 2008 - Section 205 Telephone Number to Report Grade Crossing Problems (ENS)

- Requires Implementation of an Emergency Notification System by all Railroads for the public to report crossing problems.
- Signs need to be installed at all grade crossings on rightsof-way with phone number of the <u>dispatching</u> railroad.
- Covers <u>all at-grade crossings</u>, Public, Private and Pedestrian (Pathway).
- Rulemaking Authority is granted to FRA.
 NPRM issued March 4, 2011. Comment period closed on May 3, 2011.

RSIA 2008 - Section 205 ENS System Requirements

- A Toll-Free Telephone Number (or local number);
- A System to receive problem reports, identify the location, contact appropriate officials, correct the problem, and log the information;
- A complete and current Inventory of all Crossings;
- Install Signs at each (at-grade) crossing, on both sides, with the following information;
 - Initials or Name of the Operating Railroad (not in the Law)
 - Explanation of the purpose of the Sign
 - Toll-Free Telephone Number to the Dispatching Railroad
 - DOT Crossing Inventory Number for the Location

RSIA 2008 - Section 205 ENS Types of Reports Received

- "The Dispatching Railroad is to directly receive calls reporting the problem."
- Malfunctions of crossing warning devices,
- Disabled vehicles blocking railroad tracks,
- Obstructions for a reasonable distance in either direction that is blocking the view of an approaching train,
- Any other safety related information involving such grade crossings.

RSIA 2008 - Section 205 ENS Requires Handling of Reported Problems

The Railroads, upon receiving Reports of malfunctioning signals or disabled vehicles, are required to:

- Immediately contact approaching trains to warn them of the impending problem;
- Contact appropriate local safety officials to provide information if their assistance is needed;
- Investigate in a timely manner, reports of unsafe conditions or obstructions, and appropriately correct the safety problems.

RSIA 2008 - Section 205 ENS Rulemaking and Waivers

- Nothing is Final the Rulemaking (NPRM) has started, Comment period closed May 3, 2011
- Current Goal for the Final Rule is Fall 2011;
- FRA will waive the requirement for a Toll-Free Telephone Number for non-Class I Railroads i.e., they can use a Local Telephone Number;
- All Railroads will be required to implement an ENS System at ALL at-grade Crossings.

RSIA 2008 - Section 205 ENS Current Sign Design

REPORT PROBLEM OR EMERGENCY 1-800-555-5555 X-ING 836 597 H XYZ RAILROAD

Installed "SEDA-COG" ENS Signs

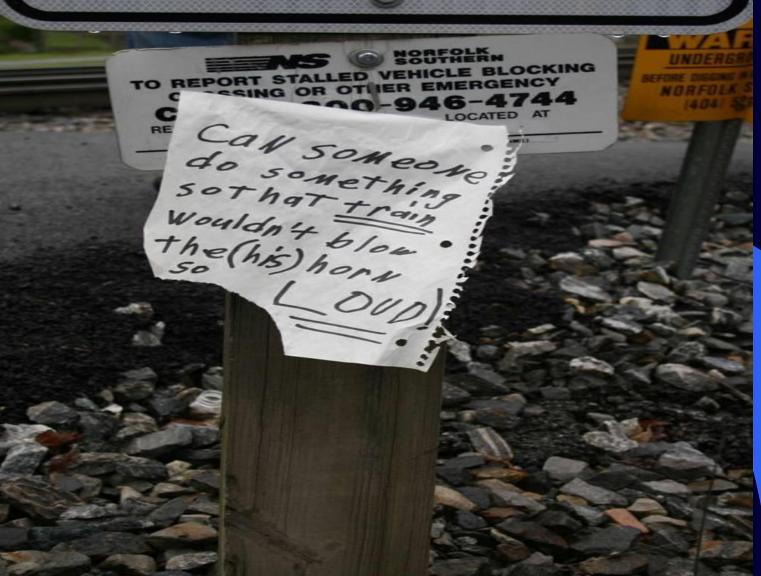
Public Crossing

Private Crossing





LOOK



SEDA-COG Crossing Emergency Notification System Project

Proposed by: SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and North Shore Railroad and Affiliated Companies

In Partnership with:
State of Pennsylvania
Federal Railroad Administration
Clinton County 911 Communication Center

An Exciting Opportunity to Improve Safety thru Partnership

SEDA-COG Data Analysis Types of Reported Problems

46	Signal Problems	62%
8	Vehicle on Track	11%
7	Obstructions	9%
5	Rough Crossing	7%
4	Accident	6%
1	Train Blocking Crossing	1%
1	Fire	1%
1	Trash on Tracks	1%
1	Wires on Tracks	1%
1	Other	1%

75 Total Calls for 1 Year

RSIA 2008 - Section 204

DOT Crossing Inventory Program

New Mandatory Requirements of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008

RSIA 2008 - Section 204

- Requires RAILROADS and STATES to update the National File on a Regular Basis – annually by Sept 30th.
- All Current "Policies, Procedures, & Instructions" apply and are to be enforced.

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see http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/801 or http://www.fra.dot.gov/Pages/801.shtml
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- Rulemaking Authority is granted to FRA to implement and modify the requirements of Sec. 204.
- Title 23, Section 130, is revised to require States to comply with provisions of the RSIA for all Public Crossings (both atgrade and grade-separated), and for Pathway Crossings.

RSIA 2008 Important Requirements All are Required NOW

- October 16, 2009 MUST Inventory any New or previously Unreported Crossings. All crossings must have a DOT Crossing Inventory Number.
- April 16, 2010 MUST report all Change of Ownership for lines Sold or Transferred, and all Closed crossings. All crossings must be in the correct name of the Operating Railroad and in the correct State.
- October 16, 2010 MUST Update the balance of the data elements for all Existing Crossings. <u>All crossings</u> must be updated with current and correct information.

FRA is the Custodian for the Crossing Inventory Database

 This is not FRA's Data – It is FRA's File of YOUR Data.

- FRA is the Custodian of the National Crossing Inventory Data File for the States and Railroads.
- The File is YOUR (States & Railroads) Inventory.
 FRA only updates it with YOUR data.

RSIA 2008 - Section 204 Definition of a Crossing

- A location where a roadway, including associated pathways, such as sidewalks within 25 feet, intersect one or more railroad tracks.
- A Pathway Crossing is dedicated for non-vehicular traffic, and not associated with a highway-rail crossing, that intersects one or more railroad tracks.
- For Inventory purposes, a crossing includes those tracks that lie between a pair of the same warning devices.
- A crossing with multiple tracks will be one where the tracks are usually less than 100' apart.

What You Need to Remember

- The Inventory is now a MANDATORY PROGRAM as a result of RSIA 2008
- Every Crossing is required have a DOT Crossing Number
 - Every Public, Private, Pedestrian (PATHWAY), both At-Grade and Grade-Separated MUST be Inventoried and in the File.
 - Includes crossings in railroad yards, private rail yard facilities, port, and dock areas
 One number is sufficient and it is a Private Crossing.
 - For the Inventory, a crossing is further defined as "those tracks that lie between the same PAIR OF WARNING DEVICES."
 - Any recognized "Legal" Crossing location.
 - Responsibility is the Railroad's to identify and initiate the Inventory process

What You Need to Remember

- Post the Number on both sides of the Crossing
 - Responsibility for posting is the Railroad
 - ENS Signs, soon to be required, will contain the number
- Information coincides with Inventory Data in the File
- Everything you need to know is located on Webpage: http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/801
- Guidance: Any location where a train can have an accident with a motor vehicle or pedestrian (not trespasser), and an Accident Report has to be filed, needs a crossing inventory number assigned.

Inventory Form

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Initial Numbering and Filing

- Responsibility of the Operating Railroad
- Public at-grade: Complete Parts I V and send it to FRA and the State
- Private: Complete Part I and send to FRA
 - Send a courtesy copy to State

FRA only accepts Inventory Updates from the State Inventory Contacts or the Railroad Inventory Contacts

Initial Numbering and Filing (things we are looking for)

- For Public at-grade: The Railroad needs to complete all Parts I – V, including the Highway Information.
- For <u>all crossings</u>: Railroad needs to provide <u>ACTUAL</u> GPS values. (Google or Bing maps can be used.)
- For all crossings: Railroad needs to provide the 3 telephone numbers in Boxes 31-33.
 - ENS Number, Railroad Contact, State Contact
- For Public at-grade: We need to have current train and traffic count data. The Highway Traffic AADT has a Year Date associated with the count.
 - The Year Date needs to be 2009, 2010, 2011

RSIA 2008 - Section 204 Additional Items & Rulemaking

- Existing Policies, Forms, Instructions, and Processes will be enforced in accordance with the Statue w/o the need for regulations, until new rules are issued.
 Go to: http://www.fra.dot.gov/Pages/801.shtml
- FRA is granted Rulemaking Authority, which has now started.
- The new revised Crossing Inventory Form will require Rulemaking, which will wait until the new Form and Instructions are ready for revision.

Inventory Form Data Elements File Structure Instructions

All Available on FRA's Website at http://www.fra.dot.gov/pages/801.shtml

Submission of Updates -Acceptable Formats

- Hardcopy (Inventory Form, letter, lists, tables)
- GX32 Computer Program (provided FREE by FRA)
- Electronic Files generated by the submitter
 - txt ASCII file, or Comma Delimited
 - dbf Database file
 - .xls Excel file
 - .mdb Access file
 - .xml XML format

Updating by States and Railroads

- Currently, there is No Electronic Updating On-line
- Use <u>Hardcopy Forms</u> for less than 40 crossings
- Use <u>Lists</u> or Electronic Computer Files (can be via e-mail or using Excel) for Single Element Updates
 - Closures, Latitude/Longitude Updates,
- Use <u>Electronic Files</u> for those who maintain their own data file. Use FRA's Standard File Structure Format and compare to FRA's File using CIR.
- Use GX32 Computer Program
 - Obtain Free from FRA's Processing Contractor

Important Issues when Updating using Hardcopy – (what we look for)

- Insure that the changes or updates are noted or identified on the Form - highlighted or circled.
- Indicate the Effective Date will need 2010-2011
- Indicate the Initiating Agency State or Railroad
- Provide ACTUAL Latitude and Longitude values.
- Provide Telephone Numbers in Boxes 31 33
- Provide Accurate Train Counts for current Year
- Provide Accurate Highway Traffic Counts for Years 2009-2011

How to Start Updating Electronically

- Start with Data Reconciliation (CIR)
- Agree on the Number of all Open Crossings.
- Agree on Operating Railroad
- Agree on State and County Location
- Agree on Type: Public, Private or Pedestrian, and Position: at-Grade or Grade Separated
- Assign Numbers to "New" Crossings Close, or Transfer others to the correct railroad.

When Resolved and the Data Files are in Agreement, then Update the Balance of Data Items

What needs to be done Annually and by September 30, 2011

- Make sure that all crossings have an assigned number and are in the National File.
- Update any records where the data has changed and provide the Effective Date of the change.
- Where there is NO change in the data, change the Effective Date to January first of the current year. i.e., 01/01/2011

Be sure that your data file and FRA's File agree on (1) the total Number of crossings, (2) the correct Operating Railroad, (3) in the correct State & (4) County, and (5) are the correct Type and (6) Position.

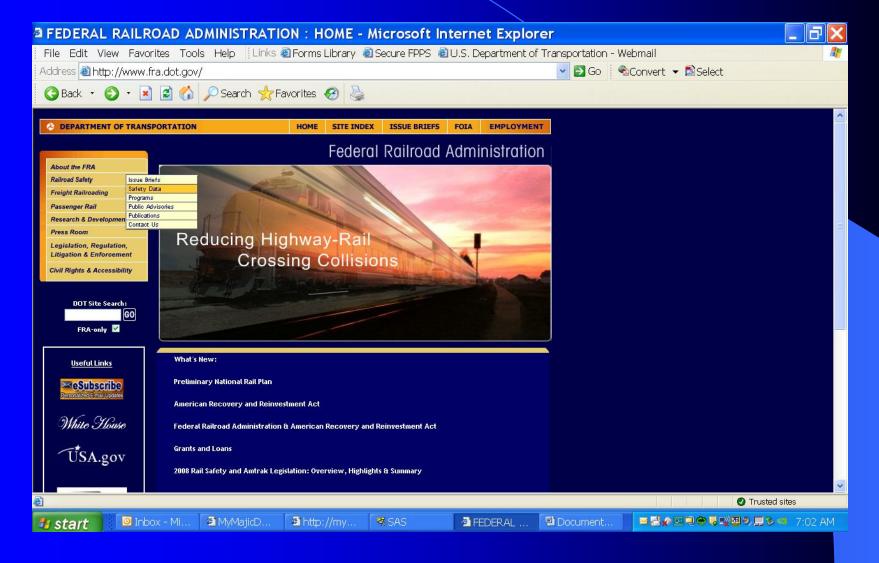
What needs to be done Annually and by September 30, 2011

- Where there is no change in the data, send a letter verifying and certifying that there is no change and update the list of the crossings to 01/01/2011.
- If you use GX32, then your data file is the same as the FRA File and you can assign the Effective Date of 01/01/2011 for crossings with no change.
- If you have your own separate data file, use the CIR Application on the Crossing Safety Data Website. For the file that is "All Match," you may certify that there is no change in the data and assign a new Effective Date of 01/01/2011.

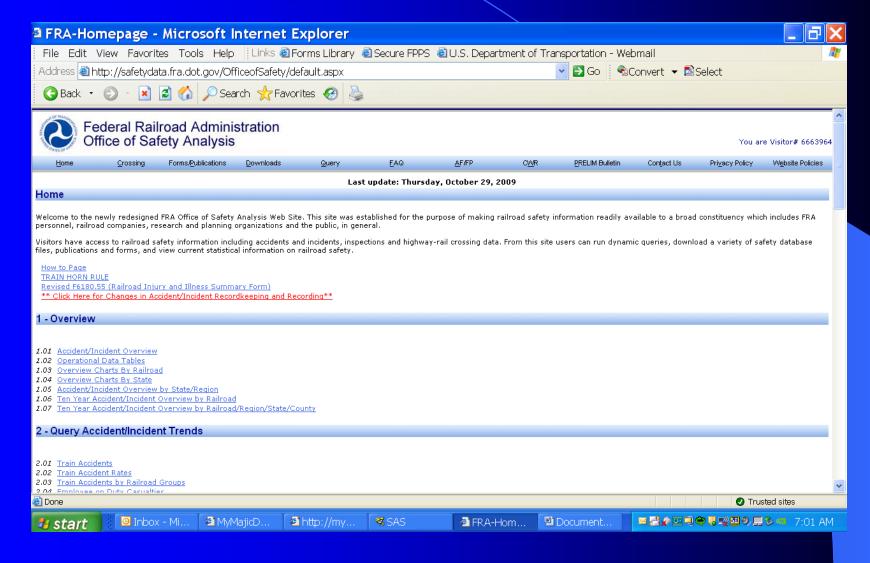
Current Availability of Data

- Safety Data Website (.dbf file)
 http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/
 - Current and Historical Records
- GX32 (.mdb Access file) FREE
 - Obtain from FRA's Data Processing Contractor
- WBAPS (Web Based Accident Prediction System)

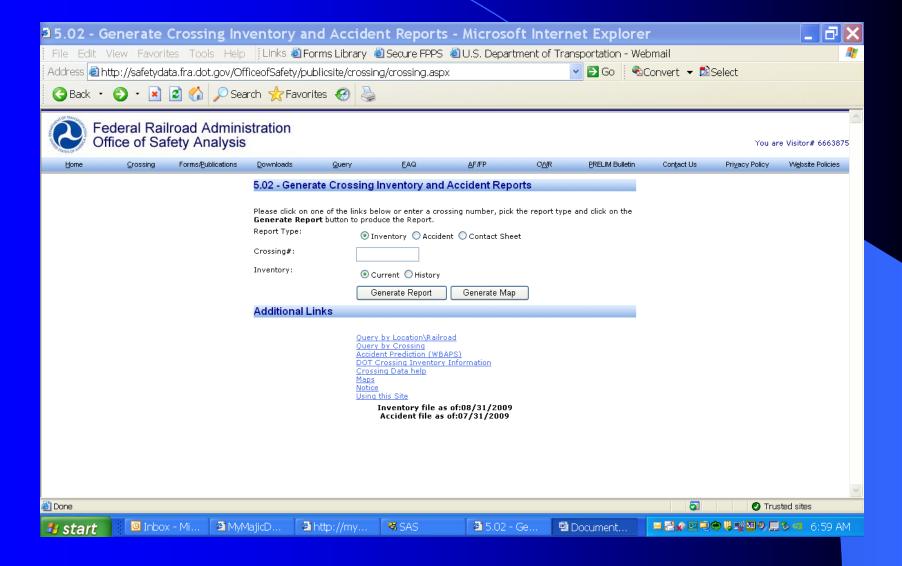
Website Inventory Data FRA Home Page - www.fra.dot.gov



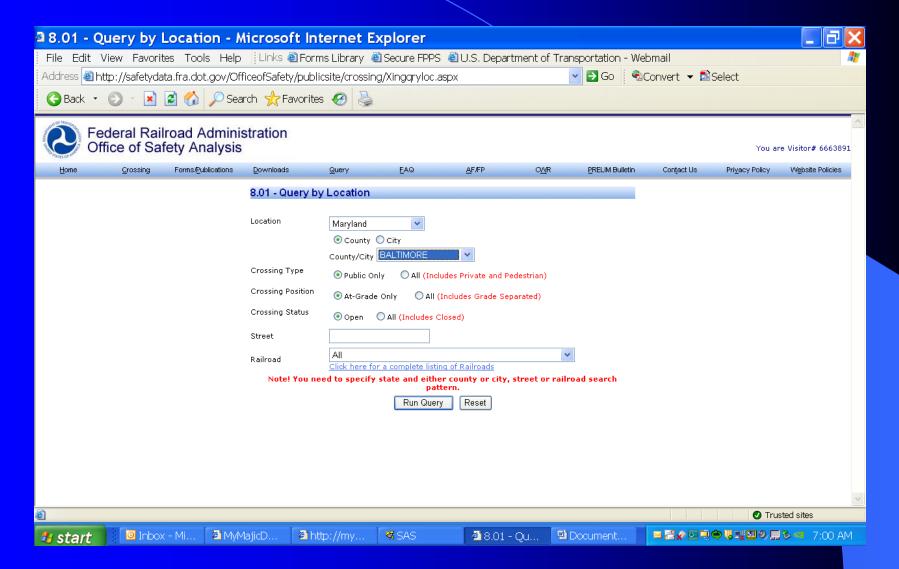
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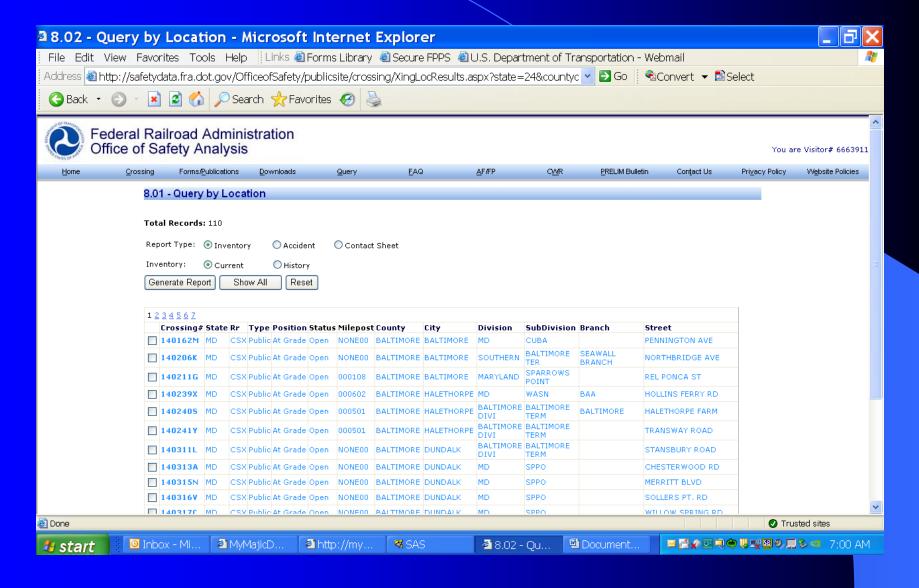
Website Inventory Data



Website Inventory Data



Website Inventory Data



Website Inventory Data Printout

U.S. DOT - CROSSING INVENTORY INFORMATION AS OF 2/23/2007

Crossing No.: 665279X Update Reason: Changed Crossing Effective Begin-Date of Record: 05/04/04

Railroad: AGR Alabama & Guif Coast Rwy LLC [AGR] Current Record

Initiating Agency State Type and Position: Private At Grade

Part I Location and Classification of Crossing

 Division:
 MEMPHIS
 State:
 AL

 Subdivision:
 PENSACOLA
 County:
 BALDWIN

Branch or Line Name: City: Near BAYMINETTE

Railroad Milepost: 0893.90 Street or Road Name: PVT

RailRoad I.D. No.: Highway Type & No.: Nearest RR Timetable Stn: ATMORE HSR Corridor ID:

Parent Railroad: County Map Ref. No.:

Crossing Owner: Latitude: 30.6168190
ENS Sign Installed: Yes Longitude: -87.4028920
Passenger Service: Latitung Source: Fed. Derived

Passenger Service: LabLong Source: Fed. D
Avg Passenger Train Count: g Quiet Zone: No

Avg Passenger Train Count: 0 Quiet Zone: No Adjacent Crossing with No

Private Crossing Information:

Category: Farm Public Access:

Signs Specify Signs: X-BUCK Specify Signals:

ST/RR A ST/RR B ST/RR C ST/RR D

Railroad Use:

State Use:

Emergency Contact: Railroad Contact: State Contact: (334)353-8435

Part II Railroad Information

GATE

Narrative:

Number of Daily Train Movements: Less Than One Movement Per Day: Yes

Total Trains: 0 Total Switching: 0 Day Thru: 0

Typical Speed Range Over Crossing: From 0 to 0 mph Maximum Time Table Speed: 0
Type and Number of Tracks: Main: 0 Other 0 Specify:

Does Another RR Operate a Separate Track at Crossing?

Does Another RR Operate Over Your Track at Crossing?

Website Inventory Data – Download Data



Downloads

Select the specific download page you wish to go to by clicking on any of the links below.

Highway-Rail Crossing Database Files
Accident Data on Demand
FRA Auxiliary Tables
FRA Database File Structures

Current Availability of Data

Website (.dbf file)

- GX32 (.mdb Access file)
 - obtain directly from our Contractor ActioNet
 - Free software

WBAPS

(Web Based Accident Prediction System)

GX32 Software Package

😿 Highway-Rail Crossing Data Mainl	tenance System - [516250R	t - Edit Crossing)							<u>_ & </u>		
À∰ File View Tools Help											
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O Railroad O State 516250R				O Closed Crossing or Abandoned				01/27/2003			
Part I: Location and Classification Information											
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4. Railroad Division or Region	5. Railroad Sub	division or Dis	trict	6. Branch c	r Line Name		7	7. RR Milep			
				LEWES	RUNNING			38			
8. RR I.D. No	9. Nearest RR			10. Parent			Crossing Owner				
	Timetable Station	NASSAU		(if applica	ble)		Company name)	(if applicat	ole)		
12. City (check one)		13.9	Street or I	or Road Name STATE			STATE SUPPL	SUPPLIED INFORMATION			
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14. Highway Type and No	15. ENS Sign Installed	(1-800)	16. Quie	tZone 🔘 N	lo O Pai	rtial	22. County				
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(choose one)	AL Grade C AMTRAK		Passenger Train		24. Longitude		-075.2520070				
⊙ Public O Private			AK and C	d Other Count Per Day					-073.2320070		
O Pedestrian	C RR Over	O Othe	r Ol	None	0		25. Lat/Long S C	ource Actual	C Estimated		
26. Is there an Adjacent Crossing With a Separate Number?											
C Yes C No If Yes, Provide Number											
27. PRIVATE CROSSING INFORMATION											
27.A. Category (check one)		.B. Public Acce	ss	27.C. Signs/9	_		□ None				
O Farm O Residential	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Yes ON		_	Specify			Specit	fy		
O Industrial	O Commercial	Unknown		☐ Signs			☐ Signals	5			
28.A. Railroad Use				29.A. State U	/se						

Start 🛮 🕜 🍣 😘 📗 🖪 Microsoft PowerPoint - [P... 😿 Highway-Rail Crossing...

10/20/2003

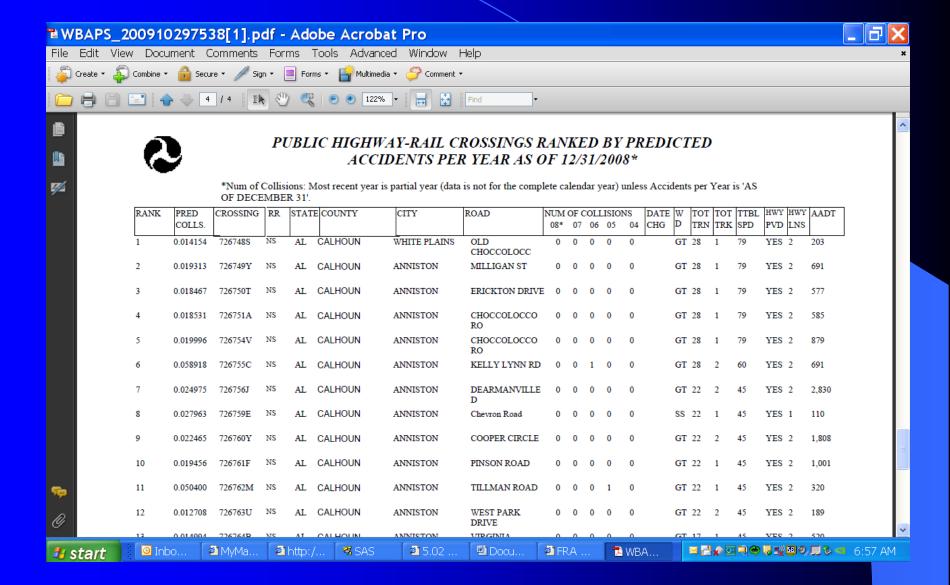
Current Availability of Data

Website (.dbf file)

• GX32 (.mdb Access file)

 WBAPS (Web Based Accident Prediction System)

WBAPS - Ranked List



What is coming?

- New Inventory Form
- Additional Data Elements
- Revised File Structure
- New Instructions
- Rulemaking for the New Inventory Form and resulting requirements for non-compliance.

Have Questions or Need More Information?

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