



# National Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference

San Diego, CA – August 20-23, 2024



## Day 1 - Tuesday August 20, 2024

Time	Event
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Conference Registration - Pacifica Ballroom Foyer (2nd Floor)
7:00 PM	<b>Welcome Dinner and Reception - San Diego Ball Room (4th Floor)</b> All are welcome, including spouses, to meet with your fellow attendees and colleagues as we prepare for a full day of informative sessions that begin Wednesday morning. The reception is business attire. Welcoming remarks to be provided by Matthew Bond, CPUC - Host and Chairman of Executive Committee; Allan Rutter, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; and Frank A. Frey, FRA - Moderator of the workshop.

## Day 2 - Wednesday August 21, 2024

Time	Event	Speaker
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast Provided - San Diego Ballroom (4th Floor - all Meals will be held here)	
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Conference Registration - California Ballroom Foyer (2nd Floor)	
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Welcoming Address and Safety Briefing All sessions held in the California Ballroom (2nd Floor)	Executive Committee
8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Opening Remarks	Brian Riley, San Diego MTS Toks Omishakin, CalSTA Amit Bose, FRA Administrator
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Operation Lifesaver Learn about the latest crossing safety trends and outreach initiatives.	Rachel Maleh, Executive Director
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Morning Break/Refreshments	
10:00 AM– 11:30 AM	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) – 11 <sup>th</sup> Edition Specific highlights of the latest edition, and how it will affect rail crossings.	Duane Thomas, PE FHWA
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Section 130 Case Studies Hear about different projects using Section 130 funding in innovative ways.	David M. Bearse, Atlas
1:45 PM – 2:30 PM	Humped Crossings Using drone-enabled sensing to identify humped crossings, insufficient sight lines, and other rail safety issues.	Colin Brooks, PhD. MTRI

## Day 2 - continued

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Afternoon Break/Refreshments	
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Rail Crossing Monitoring and Accident Prevention - Rail Sentry	Glen Dargy, Herzog
3:30 PM – 4:15 PM	Technology Solutions for Grade Crossing Safety Prioritization	Danielle Pena, PE, TE RailPros Elizabeth Lun, PE Metrolink
	Metrolink and RailPros will discuss the creation and use of a tool to prioritize rail crossing improvements.	
4:15 PM to 5:00 PM	NTSB Investigations	Daniel Walsh, PE Senior Hwy Factors Investigator Kenneth Bragg, Senior Accident Investigator
	What happens when the NTSB arrives on scene at a crossing collision? Learn about the investigative process, the decision to launch, on-scene fact gathering, analysis of findings, & final reports.	
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Sights and Sips Harbor Cruise - Pier 1, Hornblower Landing, 1800 N Harbor Dr	
	Please meet at the pier and join us for appetizers, drinks, and dancing aboard the Admiral Hornblower yacht. Boarding begins at 6:30 PM and the boat will leave promptly at 7 PM.	

## Day 3 - Thursday August 22, 2024

Time	Event	Speaker
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast Provided - San Diego Ballroom (4th Floor - all Meals will be held here)	
8:00 AM – 8:10 AM	Morning Briefing and Day 2 Recap All sessions held in the California Ballroom (2nd Floor)	Executive Committee
8:15 AM – 9:15 AM	Railroad Crossing Accident Trends	Railroad Panel
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	FRA Inventory	Richard Cranfill, Tavla Solutions Dylan Liverman, Tavla Solutions James Dahlem, PE FRA
Improving data quality, for example identifying mis-located, mis-attributed, or unreported crossings, as well as blocked crossing, crossing closure, and corridor impact analysis using OpenStreetMap data and network analysis techniques.		
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Morning Break/Refreshments	
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Rail Crossing Diagnostics	Travis Bailey, PE Olsson
Best practices for conducting diagnostics and documentation of discussion and decisions.		
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch on your own	

## Day 3 - continued

<b>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Traffic Signal Preemption</b> Learn the latest information in addressing traffic signal preemption, including specific updates from the 11th Edition of the MUTCD.	<b>Rick Campbell, Benesch</b>
<b>2:00 PM – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Legal Issues with Rail Crossings</b>	<b>David Pickett, Brightline</b> <b>Lisa Gatchell, Brightline</b>
<b>3:00 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Afternoon Break/Refreshments</b>	
<b>3:30 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Railroad Community of Interest (COI) Update</b> The COI was formed to support improving coordination among and between state DOT/PUC agencies and the railroads. Led by FHWA and supported by FRA, the working group meets three times a year in person to share best practices, lessons learned, challenges, accomplishments - fostering a collaborative environment for expediting proper delivery of rail crossing projects. All states and railroads are strongly encouraged to join the COI membership.	<b>Chris Bruntz, PE FHWA</b>
<b>4:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Open Grade Crossing Engineering Forum Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Expert Panel - States &amp; Railroads</b>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Dinner Reception - San Diego Ballroom (4th Floor)</b> During the evening dinner reception, the Hoy A. Richards Award will be presented for outstanding career achievement in advancing grade crossing safety.	

## Day 4 - Friday August 23, 2024

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>7:00 AM – 8:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast Provided - San Diego Ballroom (4th Floor - all Meals will be held here)</b>	
<b>8:00 AM – 8:10 AM</b>	<b>Morning Briefing and Day 3 Recap - California Ballroom</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
<b>8:10 AM – 8:45 AM</b>	<b>GXAPS Demonstration</b> Demonstration of the new Grade Crossing APS tool replacing WBAP.	<b>James Dahlem, PE FRA</b>
<b>8:45 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>FRA Funding Programs</b>  FRA will provide a high-level overview of the various Discretionary Grant Programs. The presentation will focus on the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program and the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program, share lessons learned, and highlight recent selections made across the country.	<b>Dr. Santiago Cruz-Roveda, FRA</b> <b>Marc Dixon, FRA</b> <b>Jenny Zeng, FRA</b>
<b>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM</b>	<b>Morning Break/Refreshments</b>	
<b>10:15 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Railbikes - A New Trend</b> Panel discussion on various implementations nationwide.	<b>Expert Panel</b>
<b>11:00 AM – Noon</b>	<b>FRA Research Update</b> Connected Rail Crossing Warning project status update.	<b>Sam Alibrahim, PE FRA</b>
<b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Conference Closing Remarks/Adjournment</b> 2026 National Grade Crossing announcement - location.	<b>Executive Committee</b>