

Rider 49 - Grade Separations Project Study

Lockwood Drive south of Harrisburg Boulevard (DOT #859523F) and north of Clinton Drive (DOT #755646C)

December 2024



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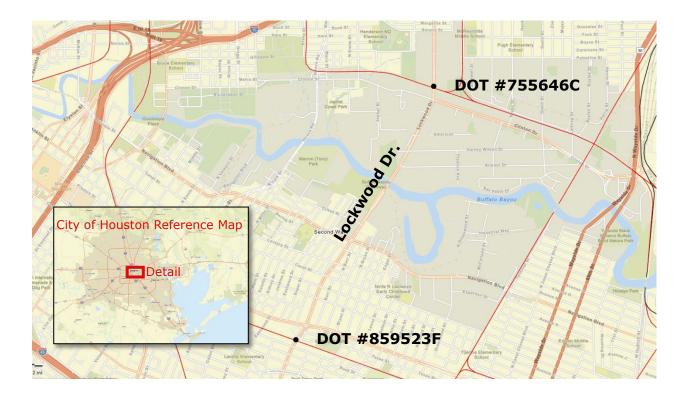
Executive Summary

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) was tasked to conduct a study to determine the feasibility, costs, and benefits of constructing roadway-railroad grade separation at two crossings in the vicinity of Lockwood Drive in Houston:

- Lockwood Drive at Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Galveston Subdivision (south of Harrisburg Boulevard) - DOT #859523F
- Lockwood Drive at UPRR Bell Line (north of Clinton Drive) DOT #755646C

The possibility for a Lockwood Drive/UPRR Galveston Subdivision grade separation was thoroughly reviewed by METRO as part of its METRONext University Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. A grade separation is feasible at this location; however, stakeholder and public input identified a preference for a roadway underpass under the railroad, which adds significant cost and drainage challenges for the grade separation.

A review was conducted for a possible roadway overpass for a Lockwood Drive/UPRR Bell Line grade separation. Some different options were explored, with each option having different combinations of impacts related to access to Clinton Drive, driveway access, and potential right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. It was determined that a grade separation over the railroad but ending north of Clinton Drive was not feasible, but a grade separation over both the railroad and Clinton Drive was feasible with additional impacts.



Lockwood Drive at UPRR Galveston Subdivision

The grade crossing at Lockwood Drive at the UPRR Galveston Subdivision (DOT #859523F) is located south of Harrisburg Boulevard. The following subsections detail existing conditions at the crossing, previous work to date through the METRONext University Corridor BRT efforts, and findings from that effort for a possible grade separation at the crossing.

Existing Conditions

Located in the Eastwood neighborhood, the grade crossing at Lockwood Drive and the UPRR Galveston Subdivision (Figure 1) posts a roadway speed limit of 35 miles per hour for the four-lane, medianseparated, principal arterial. The Greater Eastwood neighborhood was identified by the Texas Historical Commission as a National Register of Historic Places eligible historic district. The district also features an esplanade of trees along Lockwood, considered a neighborhood feature by the Eastwood Civic Association (ECA).



Figure 1: Grade Crossing at Lockwood Drive/UPRR Galveston Subdivision (Google Maps)

General train volumes per day for the single-track railroad are included within the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) 2019 Crossing Inventory Report and Train Count Database, which are summarized in Table 1. See Appendix B for the FRA Crossing Inventory Form for this crossing.

Table 1: Lockwood Drive/UPRR Galveston Subdivision 2019 Train Volumes (FRA)

Name	Total Number
Total Day Thru Trains 6am-6pm	2
Total Night Thru Train 6pm-6am	2
Total Switching Trains	16
Number of Tracks	1
Typical Train Speed of Crossing (Miles Per Hour)	10 to 20

Typical Train Speed of Crossing (Miles Per Hour) 10 to 20

FRA lists public roadway information within its Crossing Inventory database. The data shown in Table 2 shows the existing traffic conditions of Lockwood Drive, reported by the state agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The FRA Crossing Inventory Form is included in **Appendix B**.

Table 2: Lockwood Drive 2019 Crossing Roadway Information (FRA)

Functional Classification of Roadway	Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic (2021)	Estimated Percentage of Traffic as Trucks
Urban, Other Principal Arterial	9,362	3

Previous Work - METRONext University Corridor BRT

METRO, the regional transit authority, serves the project boundary and its facilities. In 2019, the transit authority received voter approval for the METRONext Bond Referendum program. Part of the projects selected under the new referendum include BRT facilities. The largest proposed BRT quideway in the nation, the University Corridor BRT, was selected to traverse Lockwood Drive between Spur 5 and Tidwell Drive. The fixed guideway would send BRT service from one side of the railroad grade crossing to another in a transit system.

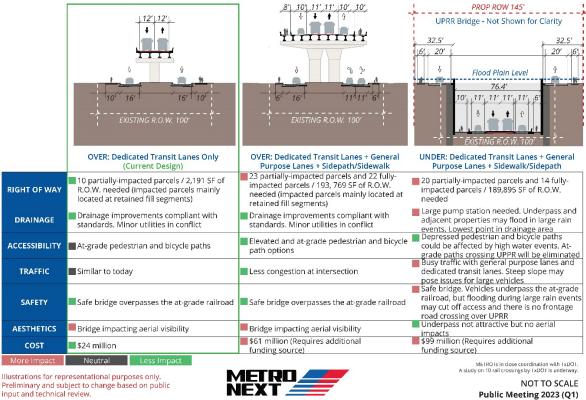
Initially, the planning phase of the BRT line incorporated a roadway overpass in its designs, allowing vehicle traffic to travel above the UPRR railroad. As part of METRO's public engagement with Eastwood residents, the Eastwood Civic Association, and area stakeholders, the design at the Lockwood/UPRR Galveston Subdivision underwent an Overpass and Underpass Feasibility Analysis in 2023. Design challenges identified by METRO in the Underpass Feasibility Analysis include:

- 100-Year flood plain risks south of the UPRR,
- · Substantial property acquisition/right-of-way impacts along Lockwood Drive, and
- Drainage challenges associated with significant rain event and complex infrastructure system requirements.

Figure 2 provides a summary of reviewed options, including the overpass and underpass options for both BRT and general traffic and a BRT-only grade-separated option. It is important to note that all options utilize at-grade crossings UPRR track to maintain local connections.

Figure 2: Overpass and Underpass Alternative Analysis (METRO)

OVERPASS VS UNDERPASS ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS UPRR CROSSING AT LOCKWOOD DR. SOUTH OF HARRISBURG BLVD.



Further public engagement and communication with stakeholders saw justification to change the design from an overpass to an alternative design. The Eastwood Civic Association (ECA) provided a detailed conditional approval letter for BRT guideway along the UPRR railroad citing several design changes, including a desire for an underpass similar in size and scale to the facility at Polk Street and Milby Street, multi-use paths for bike/pedestrian travel, and protection of the esplanade. Several alternatives were discussed, and a BRT-only underpass was chosen to alleviate crossing queues.

In the fall of 2023, METRO began looking at the feasibility of taking all traffic into the underpass rather than the BRT-only lanes. This was based on stakeholder concerns that general purpose traffic being atgrade would not fully alleviate the challenges at the crossing. The response from METRO was to evaluate taking all traffic lanes to below grade. The full underpass contains two general purpose lanes and one reversible BRT lane under the UPRR track. Figure 3 shows a conceptual design image of the full underpass.

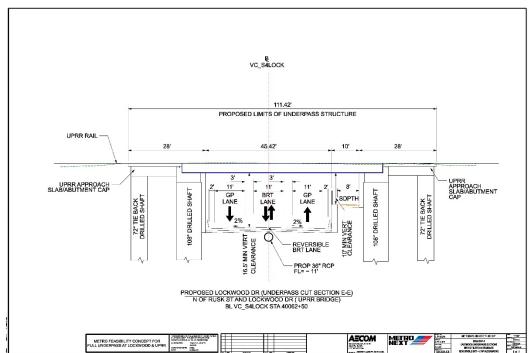


Figure 3: Proposed Full Underpass Conceptual Design at UPRR Galveston Subdivision (METRO)

The underpass would be protected from the 100-year sheet flow Water Surface Elevation (WSEL) on three sides to meet drainage requirements. Additionally, needs such as a mile-long force main outfall and a pump station with multiple pumps would be required for the full underpass. In its analysis, METRO also provided evaluation of traffic and ROW impacts, current and future utility impacts, constructability challenges and cost for the project. See Appendix A for a more detailed typical section and an approach section for this underpass option.

METRO designed a full underpass at Lockwood Drive/UPRR Galveston Subdivision to a 30-pecent completion. This level of design advances a preferred alternative for environmental clearances and reasonable estimates of infrastructure needs and costs. The cost estimate was \$166M in 2023 dollars. The design change resulted in an increase of \$5 million from the 30-percent BRT-only underpass.

Summary of Findings

Benefits of a roadway-railroad grade separation at this location would include travel time savings, increased safety and reduction of crashes, and environmental benefits from a reduction of emissions. Based on previous work from METRO on its University Corridor BRT line a roadway-railroad grade separation is feasible at the Lockwood Drive/UPRR Galveston Subdivision crossing. Public and stakeholder feedback preferred a roadway underpass at the crossing, but this option has challenges and additional costs to alleviate those challenges.

Lockwood Drive at UPRR Bell Line

The grade crossing at Lockwood Drive at the UPRR Bell Line (DOT #755646C) is located north of Clinton Drive. The following subsections detail existing conditions at the crossing, previous work to date through the METRONext University Corridor BRT efforts, additional feasibility review, and findings from those efforts for a possible grade separation at the crossing.

Existing Conditions

The grade crossing at Lockwood Drive and the UPRR Bell Line posts a roadway speed limit of 35 miles per hour for the four-lane, median-separated, principal arterial. Figure 4 details the existing crossing details.



General train volumes per day for the single-track railroad are included within the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) 2022 Crossing Inventory Report and Train Count Database, which are summarized in Table 3. See **Appendix B** for the FRA Crossing Inventory Form for this crossing.

Table 3: Lockwood Drive/UPRR Bell Line 2022 Train Volumes (FRA)

Name	Total Number
Total Day Thru Trains 6am-6pm	0
Total Night Thru Train 6pm-6am	0
Total Switching Trains	3
Number of Tracks	1
Typical Train Speed of Crossing (Miles Per Hour)	5 to 10

FRA lists public roadway information within its Crossing Inventory database. The data shown in Table 4 shows the existing traffic conditions of Lockwood Drive, reported by the state agency and U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The FRA Crossing Inventory Form is included in **Appendix B**.

Table 4: Lockwood Drive 2019 Crossing Roadway Information (FRA)

Functional Classification of Roadway		Estimated Percentage of Traffic as Trucks
Urban, Other Principal Arterial	14,521	3

Previous Work - METRONext University Corridor BRT

METRO, the regional transit authority, serves the project boundary and its facilities. In 2019, the transit authority received voter approval for the METRONext Bond Referendum program. Part of the projects selected under the new referendum include BRT facilities. The largest proposed BRT guideway in the nation, the University Corridor BRT, was selected to traverse Lockwood Drive between Spur 5 and Tidwell Drive. The fixed guideway would send BRT service from one side of the railroad grade crossing to another in a transit system.

The University Corridor BRT line was proposed to be elevated over Clinton Drive and the UPRR Bell Line while leaving other general purpose lanes at grade. The University Corridor BRT efforts did not review the possibility of a grade separation starting north of Clinton Drive over the UPRR Bell Line.

Additional Feasibility Review

HNTB Corporation performed a high-level review for a potential grade separation over the UPRR Bell Line to not impact Clinton Drive. Assumptions used to determine potential feasibility of the roadway overpass include:

The crossing is 330 feet from the track with an assumed UPRR ROW width of 50 feet.

- UPRR requires 23'-4" vertical clearance from top of rail to bottom of bridge structure throughout UPRR ROW. An assumed structure depth of 6 feet would require 29'-4" over the UPRR ROW.
- A 7% maximum vertical grade is assumed based on the 35 mph roadway speed and roadway designation as an urban arterial per the TxDOT Roadway Design Manual.

The above assumptions and vertical curve requirements add up to a distance for a possible grade separation from the UPRR Bell Line track to edge of overpass is 717 feet, which would push the grade separation retained section within the Clinton Drive/Lockwood Drive intersection. This particular option would not appear to be feasible due to that impact.

Another reviewed option was a grade separation over both the UPRR Bell Line and Clinton Drive. While the retained fill for this option would not impact Clinton Drive, it would not provide connectivity from Lockwood Drive to Clinton Drive. Further, this would remove access for at least a couple businesses along Lockwood Drive south of Clinton Drive. A probable construction cost in 2024 dollars for this option is estimated at around \$68 million.

A third option incorporating the grade separation over both the UPRR Bell Line and Clinton Drive but providing at-grade access roads for connectivity to Clinton Drive was also considered. However, this option would:

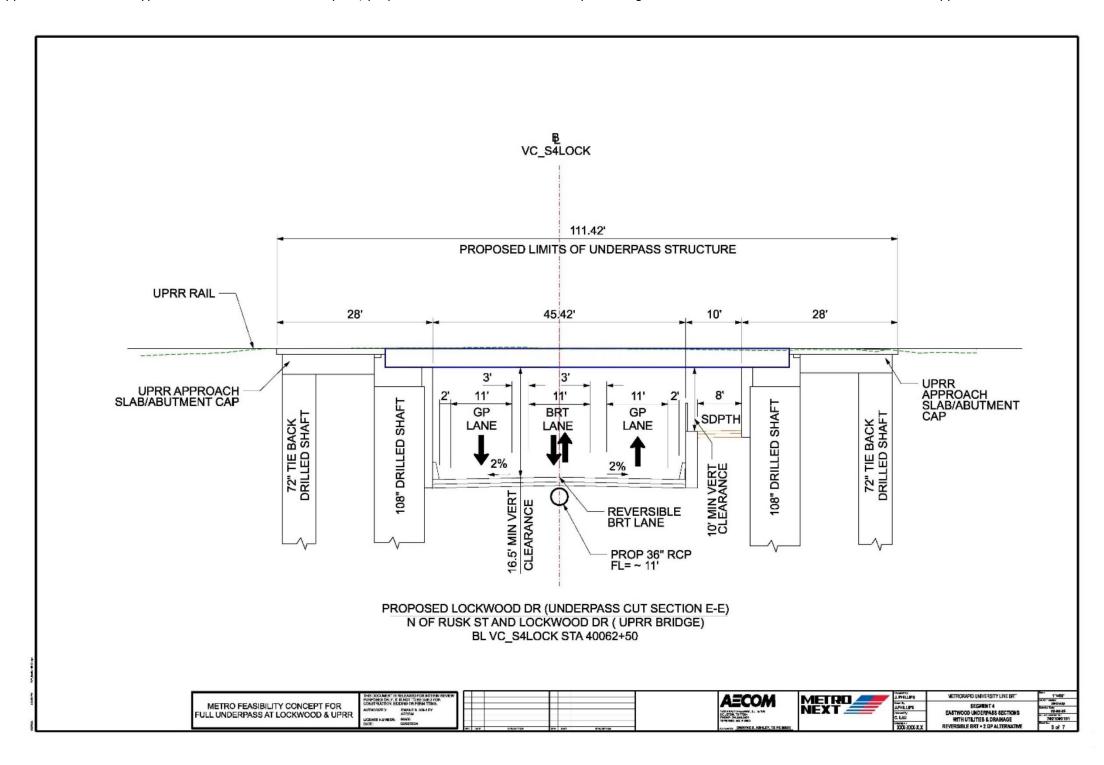
- · Require two grade crossings at the UPRR Bell Line (one for each access road) and
- Require ROW acquisition to accommodate the overpass, access roads, and other bike/pedestrian elements.

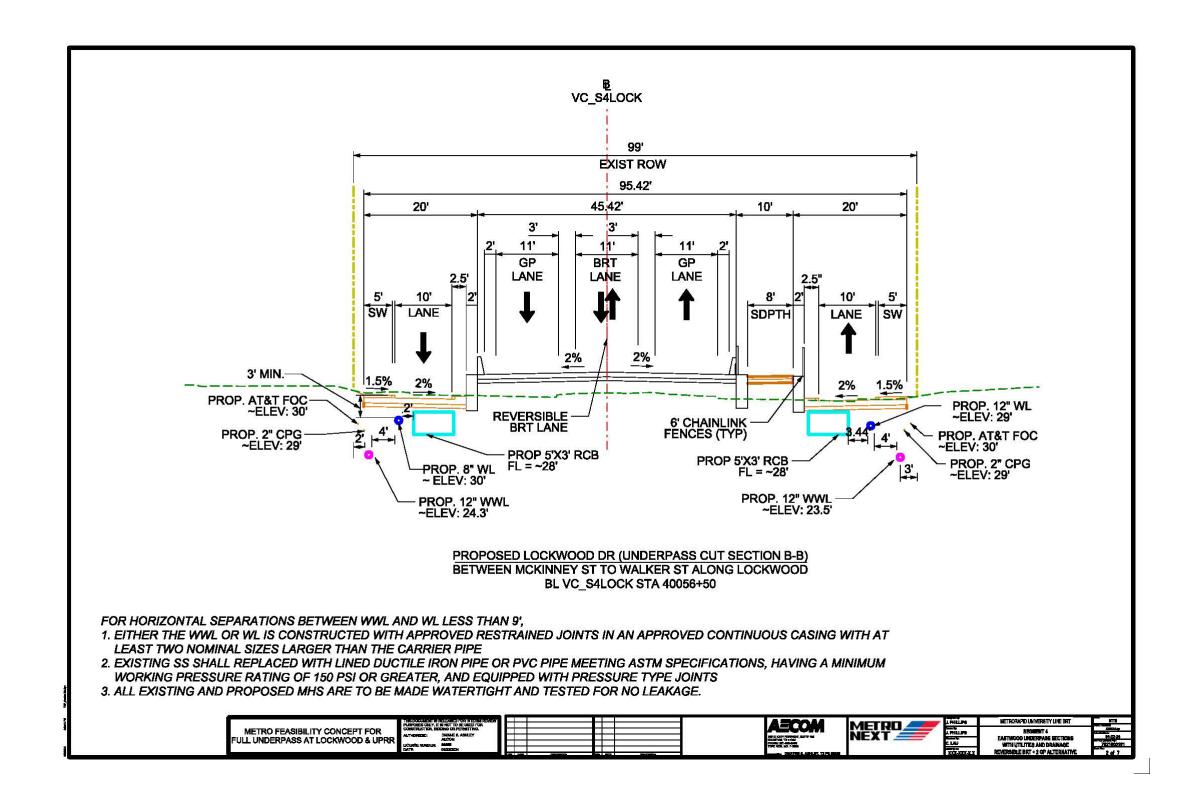
Summary of Findings

Benefits of a roadway-railroad grade separation at this location would include travel time savings, increased safety and reduction of crashes, and environmental benefits from a reduction of emissions. A possible grade separation (roadway overpass) at the Lockwood Drive/UPRR Bell Line crossing is not feasible if connecting the grade separation prior to the Clinton Drive/Lockwood Drive intersection. A grade separation is feasible over both the UPRR Bell Line and Clinton Drive but has impacts related to roadway/vehicle access, property access, and ROW acquisition based on the option.

Appendix A: METRONext University Corridor BRT Full Underpass Typical Section

This appendix contains the typical section for the Full Underpass, prepared for the METRONext BRT system. Figure 3 contains a section cut reference from the Appendix.





Appendix B: USDOT FRA Crossing Inventory Forms

Lockwood Drive at UPRR Galveston Subdivision (DOT #859523F)

U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION OMB No. 2130-0017

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FORM FRA F 6180.71 (Rev. 3/15)

OMB approval expires 01/31/2026

Page 1 OF 2

U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

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FORM FRA F 6180.71 (Rev. 3/15)

OMB approval expires 01/31/2026

Page 2 OF 2

U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION 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, Parts I and II, and the Submission Information section. For changes to existing data, complete the Header, Part I 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 21.5 are required unless otherwise noted. An asterisk ** denotes an optional field.													
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Union Pacific Railr	road Co		T		2. State TEXA	S			3. County HARRIS				
4. City / Municipality	£			/Road Nam ood Drive	ie & Block Nu	mber	ì		6. Highway Ty	ype & No.			
□ Near HOUST	ON		-	Road Name	;)		_ * (Bloc	k Number)	ST 0000				
7. Do Other Railroad	ls Opera	ite a Separate T					Do Other	Railroads Operate O	ver Your Track	at Crossing?	Yes M No		
If Yes, Specify RR						1	If Yes, Spe	cify RR					
9. Railroad Division o	or Regio	n	10. Railroad S	Subdivision	or District		11. Bra	nch or Line Name		12. RR Milepo	est 01.920		
□ None HOUS	TON		□ None _	Bell Line @	<u></u> ∄Houston		⊠ None	a		(prefix) (nni			
13. Line Segment			rest RR Timeta	ıble	15. Parent	t RR (if applicab	le)	16. Crossin	ng Owner (if app	olicable)		
1 *		Station	*		⊠ N/A				□ N/A	UP			
17. Crossing Type	18. Cr	ossing Purpose	19. Crossir	ng Position		lic Acc	ess	21. Type of Train	_		22. Average Passenger		
S2 500	⊠ Hig		☑ At Grad		(if Privat	te Cros	ssing)	Freight □	☐ Transi		Train Count Per Day		
□ Public □ Private		thway, Ped. ition, Ped.	☐ RR Unde		☐ Yes ☐ No			☐ Intercity Passeng ☐ Commuter		Shared Use Transit ☐ Less Than One Per I Tourist/Other ☐ Number Per Day 0			
23. Type of Land Use		tion, reu.	□ KIN OVE		INO			Commuter	□ IUuna	t/Other	□ Number Fer Day -		
☐ Open Space	☐ Farn			☐ Commer		Indus		☐ Institutional	☐ Recreation	onal 🗆 R	R Yard		
24. Is there an Adjac	ent Cros	ssing with a Sep	oarate Number	r?	25.	Quiet	Zone (FF	RA provided)					
☐ Yes 🗷 No If	Yes, Pro	ovide Crossing N	Jumber		×	No [7 24 Hr	☐ Partial ☐ Chica	go Excused	Date Establis	shed		
26. HSR Corridor ID			tude in decima	al degrees			8. Longitude in decimal degrees 29. Lat/Long Source						
1	TT NIZA	MICERA	1 std: nn.nnnn	29.7	646921	1	VGS84 std: -nnn.nnnnnnn) -95.3155325						
30.A. Railroad Use	_⊠ N/A *	(WG304	sta: nn.nnnn	nnnj	Three v	(1/1/	31.A. State Use *						
30.B. Railroad Use	*						31.B. S	tate Use *					
30.C. Railroad Use	*						31.C. State Use * State Phone# updated - date updated: 2018-08-16						
30.D. Railroad Use	*						31.D. State Use *						
32.A. Narrative (Rai	ilroad U	se) *					32.B. N	larrative (State Use)	*				
33. Emergency Notif	ication	Telephone No.	(posted)	34. Railro	oad Contact	(Теіер	hone No.)	i	35. State Cor	ntact (Telephone	e No.)		
800-848-8715				402-544	4-3721				512-416-26	35	*		
					Part II: Ra	ilroa	ad Infor	mation					
1. Estimated Number	r of Dail	y Train Moveme	ents										
1.A. Total Day Thru T	Frains		otal Night Thru	ı Trains	1.C. Total Sw	/itchin	g Trains	1.D. Total Transit	: Trains	1.E. Check if L			
(6 AM to 6 PM) 0		(6 PM 0	to 6 AM)		3			l ₀		One Moveme	nt Per Day ains per week?		
2. Year of Train Coun	it Data ('	ryyy) ——			rain at Crossii			1		HOW many da	illis per week:		
2019			3./	A. Maximum	m Timetable S	Speed	(mph) 10	0 nph) From <u>5</u>	to_10				
4. Type and Count of	FTracks		3.1	3. Typicai 3	peed Kange C	Verci	rossing (iii	pn) From <u>~</u>	10 10	_			
200			. 0		2		1						
Main 0 :: 5. Train Detection (M	Siding 0		ard <u>0</u>	Transit	0	lna	lustry 1						
✓ Constant Warr			Detection []AFO □ P	TC 🗆 DC	□ c	Other 🗆	None					
6. Is Track Signaled?	i.			7	7.A. Event Re						Health Monitoring		
☐ Yes 🗷 No					☐ Yes ☐	¥ No				☐ Yes	₩ No		

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U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

A. Revision Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 10/14/2022 PAGE 2 D. Crossing Inventory Number (7 char.) 755646C												ur.)			
			Part III	: Highway o	r Path	way	Traffic (ontrol De	evice	Info	rmation				
1. Are there	2. Types of Pa	ssive Tr	affic Cont	rol Devices asso	ciated wi	ith the	Crossing								
Signs or Signals?	Z.A. Crossbuck Z.B. STOP Signs (K1-1) Z.C. YIELD SI							2.D. Advar	nce War	rning S	igns (Check al	that apply	; include o	ount) 🗆 None	
☑ Yes ☐ No	Assemblies (co	ount)	(count)		(count))		₩ W10-1		_					
	0		0				2002 200	□ W10-2			□ W10-4		□ W1		
2.E. Low Ground Cla (W10-5)	earance Sign	2.F. P	avement	Markings				nelization			2.H. EXEMP ¹ (R15-3)	2.I. ENS S Displayer	ign <i>(i-13)</i>		
☐ Yes (count 0)	 ⊠ Sto	p Lines	□Dvna	mic Envel	lope	1000	Devices/Medians ☑ All Approaches ☑			(∧13-3) ☐ Yes		✓ Yes	1	
☑ No		2000	Xing Sym				☐ One A		□ Non		I¥ No		□ No		
2.J. Other MUTCD S	igns		Yes ⊠ N	0			2.K. Priva	ite Crossing	2.L.	LED Er	hanced Signs	(List types)			
Specify Type		Co	unt 0 unt 0				318113 (1) }	,,,,,,,,							
Specify Type							☐ Yes	□ No							
	cify Type Count														
3. Types of Train Activated Warning Devices at the Grade Crossing (specify count of each device for all that apply) 3.A. Gate Arms 3.B. Gate Configuration 3.C. Cantilevered (or Bridged) Flashing Light 3.D. Mast Mounted Flashing Light 3.E. Total Co												SET. 16			
3.A. Gate Arms (count)	3.B. Gate Conf	iguratio	on	Structures		r Briag	<i>jea j</i> Flasnir	ig Light			iviounted Flasi nasts) 4	ning Lights		3.E. Total Count of Flashing Light Pairs	
(acam,	☑ 2 Quad	☐ Full	(Barrier)	Over Traff	,	0	_	candescent	133	ncande	900	LED			
Roadway 4	☐ 3 Quad	Resista							⊠ B	ack Lig	hts Included	☐ Side		3	
Pedestrian	☐ 4 Quad	☐ Me	dian Gates	Not Over	raffic Lan	ne <u>0</u>	_ □ LE	D				Included	d		
3.F. Installation Dat	e of Current		Ĩ	3.G. Wayside F	lorn				1	3.H. F	lighway Traffi	c Signals Co	ntrolling	3.I. Bells	
Active Warning Dev				□ Van Inst	alled on (i	****	(////)	1		Cross				(count)	
		Not Red	quired	☐ Yes Inst ☑ No	alled on (i	iviivij t	''')		-	☐ Ye	s ⊠ No			2	
3.J. Non-Train Activ	e Warning		-								Flashing Light	s or Warnir	ng Device:	i	
☐ Flagging/Flagma	n 🗆 Manually O	perated	Signals [☐ Watchman ☐	Floodlig	hting	□ None		Cou	nt <u>0</u>	S	pecify type			
4.A. Does nearby H			Signal	4.C. Hwy Traffi	c Signal Pr	reemp	tion	5. Highway T		re-Sigr	nals			ring Devices	
Intersection have	Interconr							☐ Yes 🗷	No			that app			
Traffic Signals?	☐ Not In			☐ Simultaneo	ue			Storage Diets	anco *	☐ Yes - Photo/Video Recording ☐ Yes - Vehicle Presence Detecti					
☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ For W		(A)	☐ Advance											
				Pa	rt IV: P	Physi	cal Cha	acteristic	S						
1. Traffic Lanes Cros					. Is Roady	way/P	athway	3. Does T	rack Ru	n Dow	n a Street?			inated? (Street	
Number of Lanes			o-way Traf ded Traffi		aved? ☑ Yes	s i	□ No	1	□Yes	×	No	lights wit.		x. 50 feet from □ No	
5. Crossing Surface									-		dth *		.ength * _	104	
☐ 1 Timber ☐ ☐ 8 Unconsolidate					oncrete	□ 5	Concrete	and Rubber	□ 6 ———	Rubbe	er 🗆 7 Me	tal			
6. Intersecting Roa	dway within 500	feet?					7. Smalle	st Crossing A	ngle			8. Is Con	nmercial	Power Available? *	
☐ Yes 🗷 No	If Yes, Approxim	ate Dis	tance (fee	t)			□ 0° - 29	9° □ 30°	– 59°	×	60° - 90°		¥ Yes	□ No	
	, ,,				: V: Pub	olic H		Informat							
1. Highway System			2.	Functional Class				g			sing on State H	Highway		ghway Speed Limit	
					(0) Rural					tem?	D 0		30		
	tate Highway Sy Nat Hwy Systen			(1) Interstate (2) Other Freev	avs and F		(5) Majoi	Collector			■ No Referencing S	cotom (IDC		sted Statutory	
	al AID, Not NHS	1 (11113)		(3) Other Princi				Collector				ystem (Lh3	Noute 10)		
☐ (08) Non-F	THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY.			(4) Minor Arter	ial		(7) Local			LRS Mi	lepost *				
7. Annual Average Year 2019 AA	Daily Traffic <i>(AA</i> DT <u>14521</u>	IDT)		ated Percent Tr		9. Reg □ Yes		d by School B Average Nu		er Day	, 0	_ 10. I		y Services Route No	
Submi	ssion Inforr	natio	n - This	information .	is used f	for ac	lministra	tive purpo	ses an	nd is r	ot availabl	e on the	public w	ebsite.	
Submitted by				Organiza	tion		*				Phone		Da	te	
Public reporting bu	rden for this info	rmatio	n collectic	n is estimated t	o average	30 mi	nutes per i	esponse, inc	luding t	he tim	e for reviewin	g instructio	ns, searc	ning existing data	
sources, gathering a															
agency may not cor displays a currently															
other aspect of this													·	Carrier Control Control Control	
Washington, DC 20														ers erse Littles and demonstrative V	

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