Hwy/Rail Crossing
Closures/Consolidation

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LA DOTD Highway/Rail Safety Engineer
WHY CLOSE HWY/RAIL CROSSINGS?
Louisiana Statistics
-- National Ranking

• Nationwide in 2010, Louisiana was:
  — 5th in highway-rail crossing collisions
  — 4th in highway-rail crossing fatalities
  — 3rd in highway-rail crossing injuries
  — 14th in trespass casualties
    (fatalities and injuries combined)
## Louisiana Challenge

-- 95 people injured or killed in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hwy-Rail Collisions</th>
<th>Hwy-Rail Fatalities</th>
<th>Hwy-Rail Injuries</th>
<th>Trespass Injuries</th>
<th>Trespass Fatalities</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Louisiana Railroads

2nd in U.S. for Number of Class 1 RRs

• 6 of 7 Class 1 freight railroads
  – BNSF Railway Co.
  – CN Railway Co. (Grand Trunk Corp.)
  – CSX Transportation
  – Kansas City Southern Railway Co.
  – Norfolk Southern Corp.
  – Union Pacific Railroad Co.

• 11 short line freight railroads
  (local and switching/terminal railroads)

• Plus Amtrak passenger trains

19th in U.S. for Number of RRs (total 17)
24th in U.S. for Total Rail Miles (2,830)
Louisiana Railroads

2,830 miles of track
5,640 crossings (3,026 public/2,614 private)
Prior to 2005

- Close crossings on state routes – public hearing
- Recommend closures to local governing authorities
- Corridor reviews with upgrades – closures not followed through by local authorities
LA Revised Statutes 2005

- **RS 48:390**
  - Railroad grade crossing improvement and elimination

- **RS 48:390.1**
  - Railroad grade crossing elimination; parish and municipal roads
PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES
FOR
Highway/Rail Grade Crossing Consolidation and Closure on State Maintained Highways
09/2011
Revised 2013
Highway/Rail Grade Crossing
Consolidation and Closure Procedures
09/2011
Revised 2013
Input from
- DOTD (accident history, complaints, etc...)
- RR (near misses, expansion plans, speed changes, etc...)
- Local Authorities
- Local Citizens
- FRA
- FHWA
Site Considerations

- Corridors
- High accidents/incidents
- Low ADT
- Number of Trains and speed
- Number of tracks
- Geometry
DIAGNOSTIC REVIEW

- DOTD
- RR
- FRA
- Local Authorities/Elected Officials
- Emergency Responders
- School Board
- FHWA
- Any group having an interest in nearby area
APPROVAL TO PROCEED with CLOSURE/CONSOLIDATION PROCESS (signed by Chief Engineer)
DOTD will encourage local entities to hold public meeting for closures on local roadways. DOTD will participate and assist, as needed. For state routes, DOTD will hold the public meeting in the Open House format. Property owners are to be notified of the closure and methods to provide comments via local publications and a vicinity sign at the crossing prior to the public meeting. (new requirement)
FORMAL CLOSURE/CONSOLIDATION (signed by Chief Engineer)

If the closure is still supported following the Public Meeting, the comments, responses, and other essential information will be presented to the Chief Engineer for a formal decision.
APPEAL PROCESS (if Local Road)

The local entity will be afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision. The Reconsideration Board will render a final decision, if the Chief’s recommendation is appealed.
PHYSICAL CLOSURE OF CROSSING
STATE ROUTE ON-SYSTEM HWY/RAIL CLOSURE
Map of Area

- **US 167**
- **Gated**
- **Signalized**
- **Crossing Site**
- **To Remain**

- **La 456**
- **Proposed Closure Site**

3 1/4 mile
LOCAL OFF-SYSTEM HWY/RAIL CLOSURES
Map of Area for Rev. White Crossing

- Proposed Closure site
- 3,000 Feet
- 2,000 Feet

Signalized Crossing Site to Remain
Map of Area Babb Crossing

La 440 Center St.
signalized and gated
Crossing Site
to Remain

Proposed Closure site

1,000' Feet
Local Concerns

• Emergency Response Time
Local Concerns Are Addressed

• What if there is a derailment?
ISSUES/OBSTACLES
Main Purpose

- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PUBLIC SAFETY
QUESTIONS?