

“(i) is dedicated for the use of nonvehicular traffic, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and others;

“(ii) is not associated with a public highway, road, or street, or a private roadway; and

“(iii) crosses 1 or more railroad tracks, either at grade or grade-separated.

“(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means a State of the United States or the District of Columbia.”

49 USC 20101
prec.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 201 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20166 the following:

“20167. Reports on highway-rail grade crossing safety.”

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 130(g) of title 23, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 31 of each year, each State shall submit a report to the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration that describes—

“(A) the progress being made to implement the railway-highway crossings program authorized under this section; and

“(B) the effectiveness of the improvements made as a result of such implementation.

Assessments.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall contain an assessment of—

“(A) the costs of the various treatments employed by the State to implement the railway-highway crossings program; and

“(B) the effectiveness of such treatments, as measured by the accident experience at the locations that received such treatments.

“(3) COORDINATION.—Not later than 30 days after the Federal Highway Administration’s acceptance of each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration shall make such report available to the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.”

49 USC 22907
note.
Time period.

SEC. 22404. BLOCKED CROSSING PORTAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration shall establish a 3-year blocked crossing portal, which shall include the maintenance of the portal and corresponding database to receive, store, and retrieve information regarding blocked highway-rail grade crossings.

(b) BLOCKED CROSSING PORTAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration shall establish a blocked crossing portal that—

(1) collects information from the public, including first responders, regarding blocked highway-rail grade crossing events;

(2) solicits the apparent cause of the blocked crossing and provides examples of common causes of blocked crossings, such as idling trains or instances when lights or gates are activated when no train is present;

(3) provides each complainant with the contact information for reporting a blocked crossing to the relevant railroad; and

(4) encourages each complainant to report the blocked crossing to the relevant railroad.

(c) COMPLAINTS.—The blocked crossing portal shall be programmed to receive complaints from the general public about blocked highway-rail grade crossings. Any complaint reported through the portal shall indicate whether the complainant also reported the blocked crossing to the relevant railroad.

(d) INFORMATION RECEIVED.—In reviewing complaints received pursuant to subsection (c), the Federal Railroad Administration shall review, to the extent practicable, the information received from the complainant to account for duplicative or erroneous reporting. Review.

(e) USE OF INFORMATION.—The information received and maintained in the blocked crossing portal database shall be used by the Federal Railroad Administration—

(1) to identify frequent and long-duration blocked highway-rail grade crossings;

(2) as a basis for conducting outreach to communities, emergency responders, and railroads;

(3) to support collaboration in the prevention of incidents at highway-rail grade crossings; and

(4) to assess the impacts of blocked crossings.

(f) SHARING INFORMATION RECEIVED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration shall implement and make publicly available procedures for sharing any nonaggregated information received through the blocked crossing portal with the public. Public information.
Procedures.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the Federal Railroad Administration to make publically available sensitive security information.

(g) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—If the information submitted to the blocked crossing portal is insufficient to determine the locations and potential impacts of blocked highway-rail grade crossings, the Federal Railroad Administration may collect, from the general public, State and local law enforcement personnel, and others as appropriate, and on a voluntary basis, such additional information as may be necessary to make such determinations.

(h) LIMITATIONS.—Complaints, data, and other information received through the blocked crossing portal may not be used—

(1) to infer or extrapolate the rate or instances of crossings beyond the data received through the portal; or

(2) for any regulatory or enforcement purposes except those specifically described in this section.

(i) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL PUBLIC REPORT.—The Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration shall publish an annual report on a public website regarding the blocked crossing program, including the underlying causes of blocked crossings, program challenges, and other findings. Web posting.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes—

(A) based on the information received through the blocked crossing portal, frequent and long-duration blocked

highway-rail grade crossings, including the locations, dates, durations, and impacts resulting from such occurrences;

(B) the Federal Railroad Administration’s process for verifying the accuracy of the complaints submitted to the blocked crossing portal, including whether the portal continues to be effective in collecting such information and identifying blocked crossings;

(C) the Federal Railroad Administration’s use of the data compiled by the blocked crossing portal to assess the underlying cause and overall impacts of blocked crossings;

(D) the engagement of the Federal Railroad Administration with affected parties to identify and facilitate solutions to frequent and long-duration blocked highway-rail grade crossings identified by the blocked crossing portal; and

(E) whether the blocked crossing portal continues to be an effective method to collect blocked crossing information and what changes could improve its effectiveness.

(j) SUNSET.—This section (other than subsection (k)) shall have no force or effect beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to invalidate any authority of the Secretary with respect to blocked highway-rail grade crossings. The Secretary may continue to use any such authority after the sunset date set forth in subsection (j).

SEC. 22405. DATA ACCESSIBILITY.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Department shall—

(1) conduct a review of the website of the Office of Safety Analysis of the Federal Railroad Administration; and

(2) provide recommendations to the Secretary for improving the public’s usability and accessibility of the website referred to in paragraph (1).

(b) UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after receiving recommendations from the Chief Information Officer pursuant to subsection (a)(2), the Secretary, after considering such recommendations, shall update the website of the Office of Safety Analysis of the Federal Railroad Administration to improve the usability and accessibility of the website.

SEC. 22406. EMERGENCY LIGHTING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to require that all rail carriers providing intercity passenger rail transportation or commuter rail passenger transportation (as such terms are defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code), develop and implement periodic inspection plans to ensure that passenger equipment offered for revenue service complies with the requirements under part 238 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, including ensuring that, in the event of a loss of power, there is adequate emergency lighting available to allow passengers, crew members, and first responders—

- (1) to see and orient themselves;
- (2) to identify obstacles;

Deadlines.
49 USC 20101
note.

Recommendations.

Website.

Deadline.
Regulations.
Requirements.
Plans.
Compliance.
49 USC 20133
note.