



RAILROAD AND RAIL TRANSIT SAFETY OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION'S ROLE IN RAILROAD SAFETY?

- The Commission regulates all railroads that operate in the State of Colorado for safety:
 - Safety at public railroad crossings
 - Clearance safety requirements
 - Railroad peace officers
 - Allocation of costs of railroad crossing signals, crossing bridges or tunnels
 - Administration of the Highway-Rail Crossing Signalization Fund

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION'S ROLE IN RAIL TRANSIT SAFETY?

- The Commission regulates the Regional Transportation District Light Rail System for safety:
 - Overseeing, investigating accidents and hazards
 - Auditing for safety the rail fixed guideway systems, as required under federal law.

CRITICAL ISSUE: RAIL CROSSING SAFETY AND COST ALLOCATION

- The Commission reviews proposed safety changes at railroad crossings to accommodate changing traffic conditions.
- Municipalities, counties, CDOT and the affected railroads are all involved in cost allocation. Typically the parties agree to an allocation of costs for proposed changes.
- For at-grade crossings, Applicants can request that some costs be allocated to the railroad and some costs to the Highway-rail crossing signalization fund. With allocation to this fund, the statutes require a minimum of 20 percent of the costs be allocated to the railroad with the remaining costs split between the applicant and the fund.
- For grade separated crossings, the applicant can request that the cost of the bridge or tunnel structure be allocated between the railroad and the roadway authority (municipality, county or state).



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Types of railroad crossings

At-grade crossings – vehicles/pedestrians/bicycles and trains are at the same level and only one can occupy the crossing at a time.

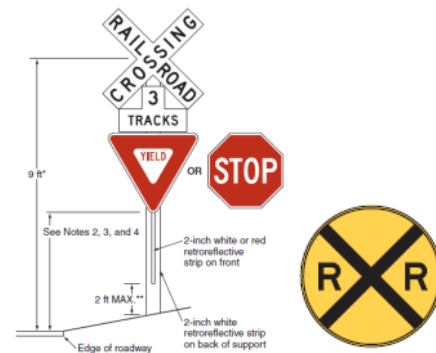


Grade-separated crossings – vehicles/pedestrians/bicycles and trains can use the crossing at the same time with one mode being on either a bridge over or in a tunnel under the other mode.



Types of railroad crossing warnings

Passive warning – only signs are posted including railroad crossing signs and advance warning signs that a driver/pedestrian/bicyclist know that they are approaching a railroad crossing.



Active warning – includes flashing red lights alone or with red and white striped gates that will lower to block the entrance into the crossing, traffic signals, and blank-out signs that will light up when the train is near the crossing.

