

OUTREACH MEETING

“A Dialogue to Identify and Explore New Ideas and Ways for Future Improvement”

DOT National Crossing Inventory
and the
Crossing Inventory Website

Thomas P. Woll

Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel, Dallas, TX, November 8, 2001
Wyndham Washington Hotel, Washington, DC, March 5, 2002
Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Chicago O'Hare, IL May 7, 2002

Background

- Original Inventory Started Jan 1, 1975
- March 14, 1999 – New Inventory Form Released included approximately 32 New Fields
 - Input from 5-6 States & 5 Class I Railroads
- Instructions and Procedures Manual(s)
 - Original 1975, 1978 & 1980
 - In Dec. 1996, these were Combined, Updated & Published
 - Guidance for submitting Hardcopy and Electronic Updates
 - Currently, the 1996 Version is being updated to reflect that most updates today are submitted Electronically
- Legislation Pending which will make updating Mandatory

Goals

- Identify processes that States and Railroads use for submitting Updates and How the Procedure can be made more Efficient.
- Identify Standard acceptable File Types and Format Specifications for Submittals.
- Review and Discuss the Primary and Secondary Responsibility for Updating Fields.

We are here to exchange ideas.

What are your Ideas?

- How can we make the product better?
- How can we improve the reporting system on the Website?
- What kind of data printouts from the Website would be helpful?
- What else would you like to see?

New Inventory Form

Data Elements

Updating Responsibilities

New Inventory Form and Data Elements

- New Form
- File Structure
- Instructions

Refer to Handouts

Updating Responsibilities

Refer to handout

- Who is Responsible for updating What?
- States and Railroads respectively are responsible for certain fields
- Some fields have dual responsibility
 - Primary Responsibility
 - Secondary Responsibility
- Some Fields are Required Fields

Discussion of Data Elements

- What additional elements are important, or are there elements that can be deleted?
- Comments regarding the Responsibility for updating specific Fields?
- Comments regarding Required Fields?

Availability of Crossing Inventory Data

How to get Crossing Inventory Data from FRA?

Current Availability of Data

- Website (.dbf file)
 - Current and Historical Records
- GX32 (.mdb Access file)
 - obtain directly from our Contractor INDUS
- WBAPS (Web Based Accident Prediction System)

Website Inventory Data

FRA Office of Safety Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory & Accidents Page

Please click on one of the links below or enter a crossing number, pick the report type and click on the **Generate Report** button to produce the Report.

[Query by Location](#)
[Query by Crossing](#)
[Accident Prediction](#)
[Notice](#)
[Using This Site](#)

Report Type: Inventory Accident

Crossing#

Inventory file as of: 06/30/2001
Accident file as of: 07/31/2001

Website Inventory Data


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Query by Location

State

County City

County/City

Street

Railroad:

Note! You need to specify state and either county or city, street or railroad search pattern.

Website Inventory Data – Download Data


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Downloads

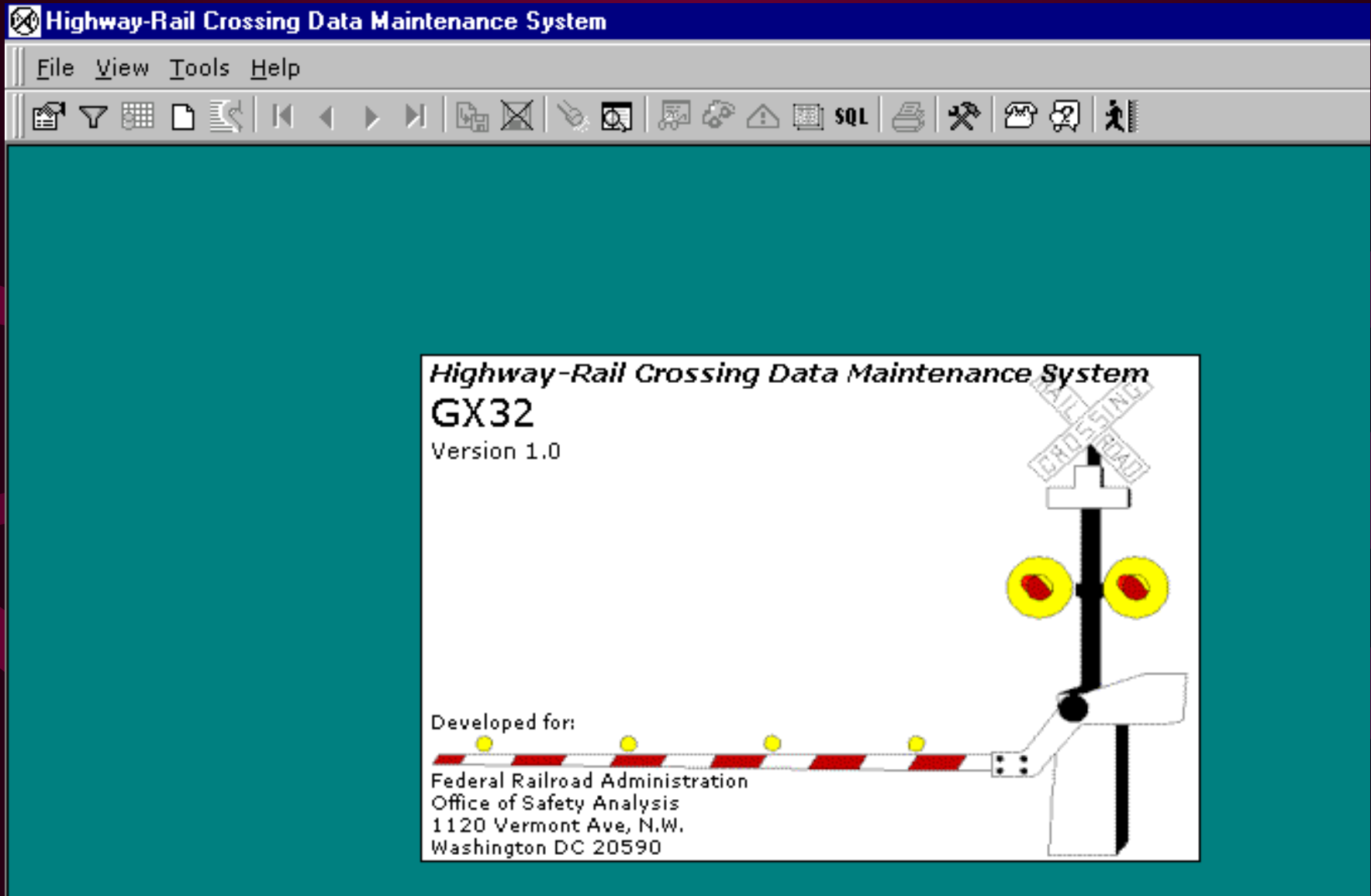
Select the specific download page you wish to go to by clicking on any of the links below.

- [Highway-Rail Crossing Database Files](#)
- [Accident Data on Demand](#)
- [FRA Auxiliary Tables](#)
- [FRA Database File Structures](#)

Current Availability of Data

- Website (.dbf file)
- GX32 (.mdb Access file)
 - obtain directly from our Contractor INDUS
- WBAPS (Web Based Accident Prediction System)

GX32 Software Package



GX32 Software Package

Highway-Rail Crossing Data Maintenance System

File View Tools Help

18571 Crossings - Filtered on: (Pub/Pvt/Ped; At/Und/Ovr Grade; Open & Closed)

Crossing	RR	Division	Subdiv	Branch	Stat	Type	Pos	St	CityName	CountyName	Street	WD
000100E	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	LAGRAN	SS
000101L	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	ELM	SS
000102T	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	BUCKEY	SS
000103A	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Under	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	I-280	NO
000104G	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Under	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	CENTRA	NO
000105N	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	KETCHE	SS
000106V	AA			MAIN	Clos	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	MANHA'	FL
000107C	AA			GALEN	Opn	Pvt	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	PVT.	GT
000108J	ACW			GALEN	Opn	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	MANHA'	GT
000109R	AA			MAIN L	Opn	Pub	Under	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS		NO
000110K	AA			MAIN	Opn	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	MATZIN	GT
000112Y	AA			MAIN	Opn	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	STICKNI	GT
000113F	AA			MAIN	Opn	Pub	Under	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	ALEXIS	NO
000114M	AA			MAIN	Opn	Pub	Grade	OH	TOLEDO	LUCAS	STATE I	GT
001723S	WE				Opn	Pvt	Grade	OH	SHARON C	MEDINA		NO
001762H	NS	WESTEF	PITTSBUR	AC&Y	Opn	Pub	Under	OH	DELPHOS	ALLEN		NO

unmark all View only Selected Records

Current Availability of Data

- Website (.dbf file)
- GX32 (.mdb Access file)
- WBAPS (Web Based Accident Prediction System)

WBAPS – Accident Prediction Model

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website for the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety Analysis. The address bar shows the URL: <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar contains icons for Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, Home, Search, Favorites, History, Mail, Print, Edit, and Discuss. The address bar also includes a Go button. Below the address bar is a Links bar with icons for Best of the Web, Channel Guide, Customize Links, Free HotMail, Internet Start, Microsoft, and RealPlayer. The website header features the Federal Railroad Administration Office of Safety Analysis logo and name, along with links for What's New and Contact, and a visitor count of 191560. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Crossing, Forms/Publications, Downloads, Query, and FAQ. The main content area displays the title "Welcome to the FRA Highway-Rail Crossing Web Accident Prediction System (WBAPS)" and a "STEP 1:" instruction: "Choose to search by Location (State, County, City) and/or Railroad, or by Crossing (Single Crossing or Range of Crossings):". Below this instruction are two radio button options: "By Location/Railroad" (selected) and "By Crossing". At the bottom of the page, there is a "Next >>" button and the stylized text "WBAPS". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Internet".

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Welcome to the FRA Highway-Rail Crossing Web Accident Prediction System (WBAPS)

STEP 1:

Choose to search by Location (State, County, City) and/or Railroad, or by Crossing (Single Crossing or Range of Crossings):

By Location/Railroad
 By Crossing

[Next >>](#) *WBAPS*

Done Internet

WBAPS (continued)


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STEP 2

Choose Location(s) and/or Railroad(s), and choose 'Select'

State:

County City

Railroad:

Selected:

Location:
AL CALHOUN

Railroad:

WBAPS (continued)

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STEP 3:

1. Specify number of records to output in report(s).
2. Select type of reports you want.
3. Choose to View or Download.

Then choose "Next" to view report(s).

How many records?

30 50 100

ALL Specify

Reports

Cover Sheet Disclaimer/Abbrev.Key

Prediction Report Accident History

Crossing Profile Contact Sheet

View Report Download

Done Internet

WBAPS – Ranked List

http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/WBaps/Reports/7728936782.pdf - Microsoft Internet Explorer

PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSINGS RANKED BY PREDICTED ACCIDENTS PER YEAR AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1999*

*Num of Collisions: Most recent year is partial year (data is not for the complete calendar year) unless Accidents per Year is 'AS OF DECEMBER 31'.

RANK	PRED COLLS.	CROSSING	RR	STATE	COUNTY	CITY	ROAD	NUM OF COLLISIONS					DATE CHG	WD	TOT TRN	TOT TRK	TTBL SPD	HWY PVD	HWY LNS	AADT	
								99*	98	97	96	95									
1	0.300867	726755C	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	KELLY LYNN DR	0	2	0	0	1			XB	30	2	79	YES	2	691
2	0.142438	726749Y	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	MILLIGAN ST	1	0	0	0	0			SS	30	1	79	YES	2	691
3	0.099526	726756J	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	DEARMANVILLE D	1	1	0	0	0	10/94		GT	32	1	79	YES	2	2,830
4	0.091181	726759E	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	Chevron Road	0	0	1	0	0			SS	30	1	50	YES	2	110
5	0.082521	726754V	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	DEARMANVILLE R	0	1	0	1	0	05/96		GT	31	1	79	YES	2	879
6	0.064990	727272Y	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	PINE AVE	0	0	0	0	1			XB	5	1	10	YES	2	845
7	0.055338	727276B	NS	AL	CALHOUN	OXFORD	WEST OAK	0	0	1	0	0			SS	4	1	10	YES	2	968
8	0.054815	727285A	NS	AL	CALHOUN	OXFORD	DON LEE MTR CO	1	0	0	0	0			XB	4	1	35	YES	2	542
9	0.049870	639975J	CSX	AL	CALHOUN	WELLINGTON	WELLINGTON DRI	0	0	0	0	0	09/95		XB	10	1	10	YES	2	3,820
10	0.040785	727090M	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	9TH ST	0	0	0	0	0			XB	32	1	45	YES	2	206
11	0.039604	726766P	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	CRAIG RD	0	0	0	0	0			XB	32	2	60	YES	2	135
12	0.037979	727271S	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	CHESTNUT AVE	0	0	0	0	0			SS	8	1	10	YES	2	2,430
13	0.035813	726763U	NS	AL	CALHOUN	ANNISTON	WEST PARK DRIV	1	0	0	0	0	10/97		GT	31	2	45	YES	2	189

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Discussion

- Do you use the National Inventory Database?
- Do you have your own State or Railroad Inventory Database?
- Do you currently View or Download Inventory Data from the FRA Website? Any problems?
- What suggestions do you have for improving the use of the Website?
- Any suggestions for Reports or Printout Formats for the data to make it more useful?

Submission of Updates

Acceptable Formats

Electronic and Other

File Structure

Acceptable Standard Electronic Formats for Submission of Data

- Hardcopy (Inventory Form, letter, lists, tables)
- GX32 Computer Program (provided FREE by FRA)
- Electronic
 - .txt ASCII file, or Comma Delimited
 - .dbf Database file
 - .xls Excel file
 - .mdb Access file

The Submitter must provide these Data in the specified field specification format, field sizes and valid values, etc.

Refer to the “Field Specification Document” when preparing Inventory Data Update Files.

File Structure and Format for Submissions

- FRA File is Historical vs Only Current Record
- Must Follow the File Structure
- As a Minimum, we Need:
 - Initiating Agency
 - Crossing Number
 - Reason for Update
 - Effective Date
 - State (FIPS Code)
 - County (FIPS Code)
 - Railroad
 - and the updated fields

Handling Electronic Updates

Procedures for Processing Updates

Handling Electronic Updates for Current-Record Data Submissions

Usually occurs when the entire file is sent.

- Requires Special Handling for Validation and Exceptions
- May take 3-4 Iterations of Processing
- Data Editing Specifications are available

Proposed Procedure for Updating

- Need to move from Paper to Electronic Submissions
- No Change for NEW Crossings
 - Need ALL Data Elements
 - GX allows for New Crossings if All Data Elements are provided
- Updating for New Warning Device Changes (and Closed Crossings)
 - Union Pacific Example
- Options Proposed for Existing Changes:
 - Allow FRA to be Clearinghouse – just get Data from Internet
 - Each Party to Notify (cc) the other party when submitting updates and provide copy of updated data.
 - *Refer to Handouts*

New Electronic Updating Procedures

- States and/or Railroads submitting updates to FRA would also send a copy to to other entity.
- States and Railroads would run a comparison program to resolve differences.
- They need to contact each other to reconcile differences and/or disagreements.

States can act as Clearinghouse

- States become the primary coordinator for data reconciliation and update submittal efforts.
- Railroads would send all updates to the States – not to FRA.
- States will send all updates to FRA.
- States will be expected to submit updates at least quarterly.

Discussion

- How do you currently update your Inventory Database?
- Does your State act as a Crossing Data Clearinghouse to coordinate updates?
- What medium and procedures are used for submitting updates?
- What problems are encountered with current Inventory Update Procedures?
- What suggestions do you have for improving Inventory Update Procedures?

Additional Discussion: What are Your Ideas?

- What else would you like to see?
- How can we make the product better?
- How can we improve the data sharing system from the Website?
- What kind of data printouts would be helpful?

End

Thanks for attending

