Innovative Solutions for Improving Safety

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FRA Data Sources

- Railroads self-report Accident, Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Incidents, and Injuries

- Railroads and States self-report Grade Crossing Inventory information

- Railroads provide several different plans and data as required per regulations (PTC, System Safety Plans, Emergency Prep plans, Critical Incident Stress Plans)

- Inspection reports from Federal and state inspectors via proprietary application

Data Formats

- Electronic (system to system, PDF, CSV, Access, InfoPath, AIRGNET, Word)

- Web based form (new GCIS, followed by inspections this Summer)

- Paper

- Working toward standardized data collection

Positive Train Control

- Mandated by Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2008
- Final rule in January 2010 with Implementation by December 31, 2015
- Affects mostly Class 1 railroads and intercity passenger operations using main rail lines, about 70,000 miles of track
- Defined as communication-based/processor-based train control technology that provides a system capable of reliably and functionally preventing train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, incursions into established work zone limits, and the movement of a train through a main line switch in the improper position
- Think of it as spacing between objects to prevent bumping

PTC Data Initiatives

- Railroads were required to submit plans to FRA for review

- Secure Information Repository (SIR) using Dual Authentication implemented

- Sharepoint also used for internal PTC team use

- Follow-up with all railroads to check implementation

Retroreflectorization of RR cars

- Use of Retroreflective tape on sides of railroad rolling stock

- Ten-year rollout began in 2005

- Need to collect percent of fleet with tape

- Two methods of implementation

- Transcription of data- informed all future data collection regulations

Grade Crossing Inventory System

- National program to provide an inventory database of all highway-rail intersections
- Final rule published January 6, 2015 requiring railroads to submit information about crossings through which they operate.
- Crossing Inventory Form and Guide were revised.
- On-line form is preferred method for submittal or system-to-system uploads.
- Use of Application Programming Interface (API) allows users to access the inventory through a Wright API and submit their forms

FRA Initiatives

- Use of APIs for Grade Crossing Inventory data, accident data, and inspection data

- Going Web- GCIS and Inspection data are or will be located here by end of Summer

- Standardizing data submission formats- long time coming

Questions