

Agenda

2023 Eastern Crossing Seminar – Grade Crossing Safety

Tuesday, August 22 to Friday, August 25, 2023

The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center

215 Innovation Boulevard, State College, PA 16801

Agenda is tentative and subject to change.

Tuesday August 22

3:00 pm Registration Begins

7:00 pm Welcome Dinner and Reception

You'll want to arrive in plenty of time to meet your fellow attendees and get ready for a full day of informative sessions that begin on Wednesday morning. The reception is formal attire and will be held in the Courtyard, opposite the Registration Desk.

Allan Rutter, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

George Fury, Chairman of the Eastern Region Crossing Seminar

Frank A. Frey, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) – Headquarters

Wednesday, August 23

7:00 am Breakfast – Please join us in the Garden's Restaurant, on the ground floor.

8:00 am Welcoming Address and Safety Briefing

Executive Planning Committee – Eastern Crossing Seminar Chairman, George Fury and Frank Frey.

8:05 am Opening Remarks – Setting the Stage

Keynote Speakers

Amit Bose, Administrator – FRA

Shailen Bhatt, Administrator – FHWA (Invited)

8:30 am Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

Specific highlights on the new revision

Duane Thomas, Civil Engineer – FHWA (Invited)

Rick Campbell, NCUTCD Technical Committee Chair for Part 8 of the MUTCD

9:30 am Blocked Crossing Portal – FRA

Understand how the system works, how FRA addresses the complaints and facilitates local solutions to blocked crossings

Howard Gillespie, Supv. Railroad Safety Specialist – FRA

10:00 am Mid-Morning Break

Refreshments provided, meet with exhibitors

Agenda

- 10:30 am** **Operation Lifesaver, Inc.**
Learn about the latest crossing safety trends and outreach initiatives
Rachel Maleh, Executive Director - OLI
- 11:15 am** **Quiet Zone (QZ) Process and QZ Calculator**
FRA - TBD
- 12 noon** **LUNCH with Exhibitors**
- 1:30 pm** **State Action Plans**
Debra Chappell, Transportation Specialist – FRA
- 2:15 pm** **Wireless Crossings**
Mitchell Beard, Electrical Engineer – BNSF Railways
- 3:00 pm** **Afternoon Break**
Refreshments provided, meet with exhibitors
- 3:30 pm** **Activation Failures and False Proceeds**
Mark Culver, Railroad Safety Specialist - FRA
- 4:15 pm** **Section 130 Funding Program (FHWA)**
Attendees will receive an overview of what crossing improvements & devices are allowed, what are prohibited, learn about best practices and challenges from peers. Each state will receive an update on their available funding levels for obligation.
Esther Strawder, Transportation Specialist – FHWA
- 5:00 pm** **Dinner on your own** – Free shuttle buses will run until midnight to downtown State College
- Thursday, August 24**
- 7:00 am** **Breakfast** – same venue location
- 8:00 am** **Housekeeping, wrap-up from previous day**
- 8:05 am** **Design of Crossings at/adjacent to Roundabouts/Rotaries**
Crossings are experiencing an uptick with roundabouts, why the new trend and is it safer? Experts will debate both sides, you decide.
- 9:15 am** **Volpe Projects - Engineering Updates**
Marco DaSilva, General Engineer – VOLPE
Francesco Bedini Jacobini, General Engineer – FRA
- 10:00 am** **Mid-morning break**
Refreshments provided, meet with exhibitors

Agenda

- 10:30 am Risked Based Online Tools (GradeDec, WBAPS)
Karen McClure, Economist – FRA
- 11:00 pm Top 100 High-Risk Crossing Initiative Nationwide with FRA & State Partners
Jim Dahlem, Transportation Specialist - FRA
Frank A. Frey, General Engineer - FRA
- 11:30 am LUNCH with Exhibitors
- 1:00 pm What's New With AAR, AASHTO, and SCORT
Jeffrey Moller, AVP Transportation Systems & Practices – Association of American Railroads
Shayne H. Gill, Program Director - American Association of State Highway and Transportation
Standing Committee on Rail Transportation - TBD
- 2:00 pm Breakout Sessions with State DOT's/PUC's and Railroads
Each entity will have the opportunity to learn collectively by sharing common information on issues, challenges, and solutions from their peers.
Conference Room C – State officials only
Conference Room E – Railroad personnel only
- 3:15 pm Afternoon Break
Exhibitors/vendors breakdown displays
- 3:30 pm Joint Roundtable Breakout Session – States and Railroads Together
Conference Room E
An opportunity for both the States and the Railroads to get together in one room where all participants can discuss their efforts to improve coordination and communications between state transportation agencies and their respective railroads. A great forum to share best practices, lessons learned, and disclose challenges encountered.
- 5:00 pm Adjourned
- 6-7:00 pm Evening Reception – attitude adjustment hour, all are welcomed, including spouses
- 7:00 pm Dinner Served

NOTE TO EXHIBITORS

YOU MUST BREAKDOWN ALL EXHIBITS NO LATER THAN 10am FRIDAY

Agenda

Friday, August 25

- 7:00 am Breakfast – same venue location
- 8:00 am Report out from Breakout Sessions – States and Railroads
- 8:15 am Bi-partisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) Updates
FRA - TBD
- 8:45 am Show me the Money: FRA and USDOT Grant Programs
FRA - TBD
- 9:15 am Inventory GCIS Website Updates and FRA/State/Railroad Working Group
Jim Dahlem, Transportation Specialist - FRA
- 9:45 am Morning Break
Refreshments provided
- 10:00 am Update from the Joint FRA/FHWA Community Interest (COI)
Christopher Bruntz, Preconstruction Engineer – FHWA
- 10:30 am Latest in New Technologies and Innovations in Grade Crossing Safety
Frank A. Frey, General Engineer - FRA
- 10:45 am OPEN SESSION - Odds & Ends with ENS Sign, Inventory Forms, Railroad Preemption, Humped Crossings, Grade Crossing Handbook, etc...
- 11:15 am Conference Closing Remarks – next workshop
- 12 noon Adjournment
Lunch