



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NOV 25 2011

Mr. Phil Wilson
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Wilson:


As you are aware, Section 202 of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA, Public Law 110-432), requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation to identify the 10 States that had the most highway-rail grade crossing collisions, over a 3-year average, and requires those States to develop a State grade crossing action plan within a reasonable period of time. Section 202 of the RSIA also requires the action plan to identify specific solutions for improving safety at crossings, including "highway-rail grade crossing closures or grade separations, and shall focus on crossings that have experienced multiple accidents or are at high risk for such accidents." The Secretary delegated this effort to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and, in turn, the June 28, 2010, Federal Register (Vol. 75, No. 123, Page 36551) identified these States, which included Texas. FRA notified the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) of this requirement in an August 4, 2010, letter.

FRA has completed its review of the Texas Action Plan, and appreciates all efforts to comply with the congressional requirement and Federal regulations. FRA notes that the Texas Action Plan substantially meets all of the requirements to discuss current and future plans related to highway-rail grade crossing closures, grade separations, and crossings with multiple incidents, and requires no significant changes or corrections. FRA is also pleased that this action plan provides additional information on the State's efforts to demonstrate its holistic approach to enhance safety at or near highway-rail grade crossings. FRA understands that the submitted action plan may be subject to adjustments, based on issues such as, but not limited to, context-sensitive data, incident trends, and regulatory and legislative requirements.

Thank you for Texas's ongoing efforts to improve highway-rail grade crossing safety. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Ron Ries, Staff Director,

Highway-Rail Crossing and Trespasser Programs Division, at (202) 493-6285 or
Ronald.Ries@dot.gov.

Sincerely,


for

Jo Strang

Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety/Chief Safety Officer

cc: Ms. Carol T. Rawson, TxDOT

Mr. William Glavin, TxDOT

Mr. Darin Kosmak, TxDOT