

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

2019 Joint SSO and RTA Workshop

Rail Grade Crossing Safety

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Overview

- Trends (2007- June 2019)
- Mitigation Strategies
- Challenges
- Next Steps

Objectives

- Share information on the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) efforts on grade crossing safety
- Review FTA's current activities
- Panel members will discuss grade crossing activities
- We will request attendees to share with the group any of their efforts or initiatives for improving grade crossing safety

FTA Grade Crossing Definition

National Transit Database Glossary

Grade Crossing

An intersection of a roadway and a rail right-of-way that cross each other at the same level (at grade). For street-running operations, each street intersection is considered a grade crossing (excludes driveways and parking lot entrances). Can be found in: A-20, S&S-40

- The NTD data refers to Rail Grade Crossing as (RGX)

Source: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/ntd/national-transit-database-ntd-glossary>

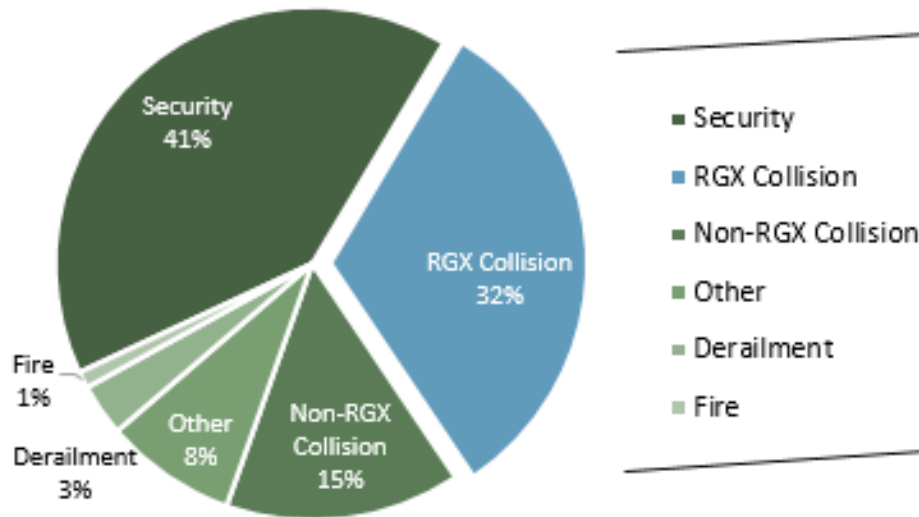
Trends

Sources of FTA Data

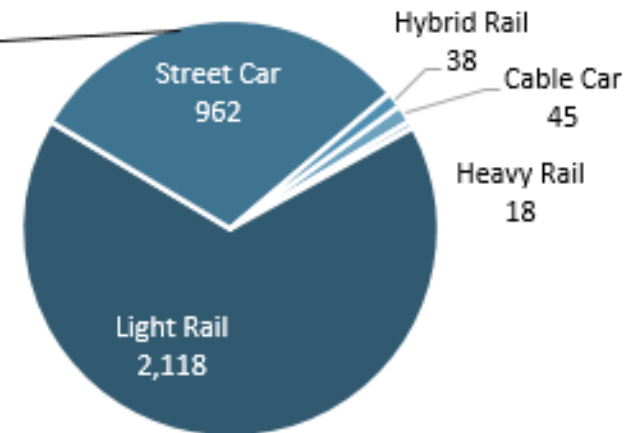
- Annual State Safety Oversight Agency reporting
- Monthly transit agency reporting to the National Transit Database (NTD)

Trends

Rail Events by Event Type Jan. 2015- June 2019



RGX Collisions by Mode Jan. 2015- June 2019

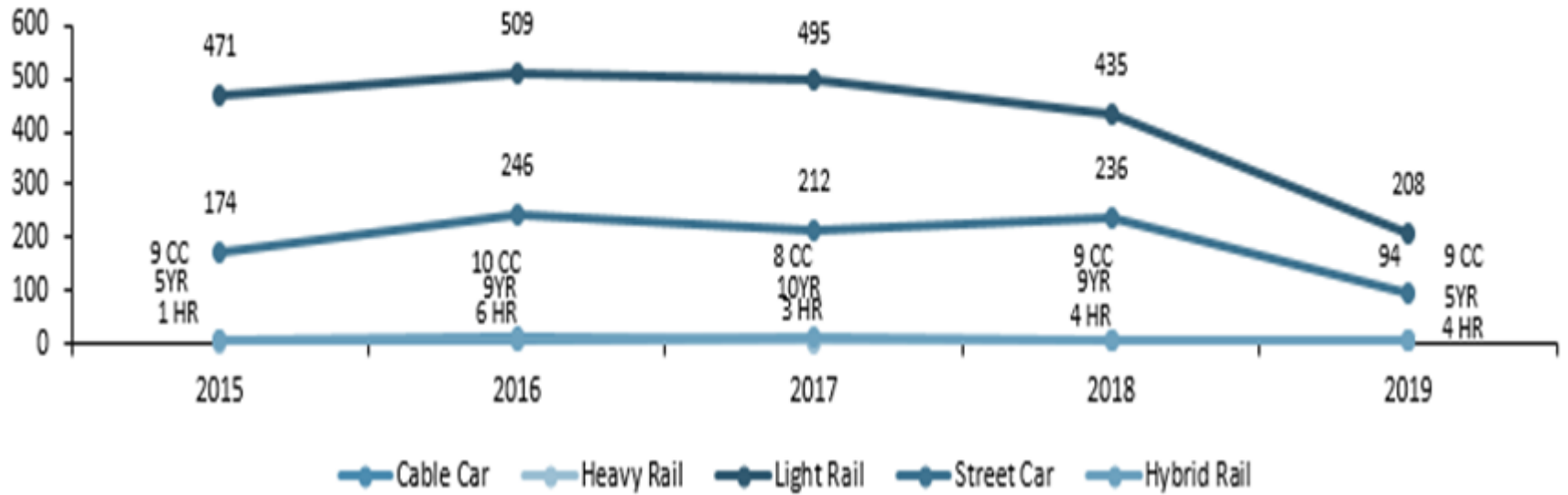


Trends

- Of those events, Light rail and Street car account for 97% of all RGX collisions
 - In 2015 there were 660 RGX collisions
 - In 2016 there was an increase to 780 RGX collisions
 - In 2017 there were 728 RGX collisions,
 - In 2018, there were 693 RGX Collisions
 - So far in 2019, there have been 320 RGX collisions

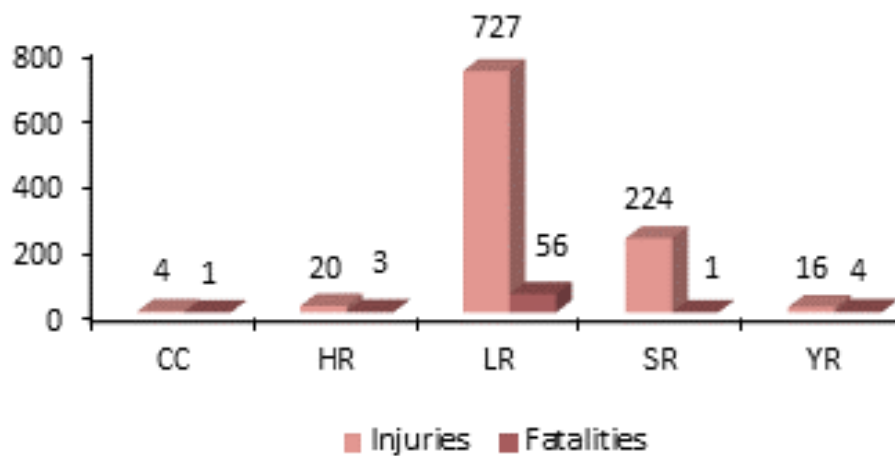
Trends

RGX Collisions per Year
Jan. 2015-June 2019



Trends

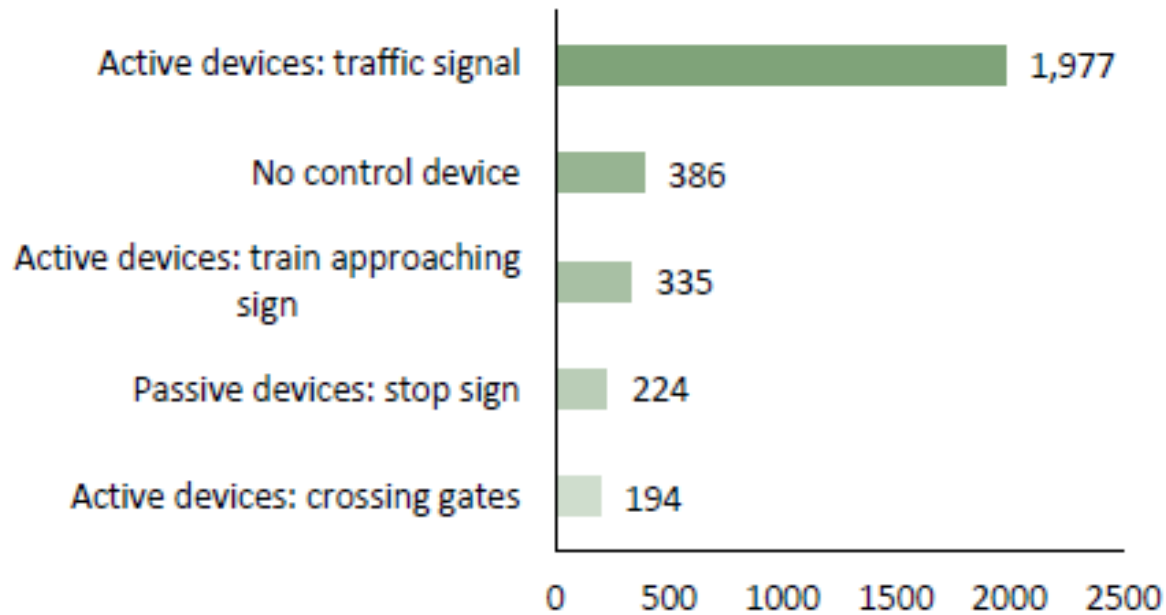
Injuries and Fatalities (RGX Collisions)
Jan. 2015- June 2019



- Light Rail (LR) accounts for 67% of all RGX Collisions and subsequently has the most injuries (727) and fatalities (56)

Trends

Top Five RGX Control Devices
Jan. 2015 - June 2019



Mitigation Strategies

- FTA Funding of Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI)
 - Rail transit safety campaigns at 10 transit agencies received a funding boost thanks to a grant by Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI). The \$175,000 in funding was awarded through OLI, but was provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through a partnership the two entities share going back to 2002.
- FTA Staff serves on the One DOT Grade Crossing Committee
- FTA Staff serves on the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD)
 - And the Railroad and Light Rail Transit Technical Committee (RR/LRT TC)
- Research Studies
 - Connected Vehicle (CV) Safety Technologies
 - Enhanced Pedestrian in Crosswalk Warning application is a warning system for operators of connected vehicles

Challenges

- Mixed-use operating environments
- Intentional violations of traffic laws
- Trespassing
- Unintentional acts

Next Steps

- Implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS)
- Implementation of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Questions?

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