

SHRP2 R16 ANNUAL MEETING

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Beloit, Wisconsin

FRA JOINT RAILROAD/TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION INSPECTIONS

Items being looked at:

- Has preempted crossing had a comprehensive inspection in previous 12 months?
- Does railroad have traffic signal authority contact information readily available?
- Does traffic signal authority have railroad contact information readily available?

FRA JOINT RAILROAD/TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION INSPECTIONS

Items being looked at:

- Is preemption system working as designed?
- Overall operation of preemption system.
- Does railroad/highway authority have documentation supporting parameters of preemption system.
- Reviewing all crossings for possible need for preemption.

ITEMS FOUND DURING JOINT RAILROAD/TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION INSPECTIONS

- Highway-rail grade crossing with flashing-light signal system located within 200 feet of an intersection not equipped with preemption.
- Many preempted crossings have not had a comprehensive inspection for several years.
- Preemption system not providing proper clearance for highway users.
- Interference with operation of preemption system by railroad or traffic authority.

TYPES OF INTERFERENCE WITH PREEMPTION SYSTEM

- Traffic signal authority modifying preemption circuit due to rail traffic issues.
- Maintenance by railroad causing traffic signals to go into failure.
- Traffic signal authority disabling preemption and not notifying railroad.
- Traffic lights displaying a green signal into activated highway-rail grade crossing providing highway users with mixed signal.

ITEMS FOUND DURING JOINT RAILROAD/TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION INSPECTIONS

- Railroad and traffic signal authority contact information incorrect or missing.
- Lack of understanding of the intent or importance of preemption system.
- Documentation supporting design parameters of preemption circuit not available.
- Traffic lights displaying a green signal into activated highway-rail grade crossing providing highway users with mixed signal.

QUESTIONS TO YOU?

- When the railroad or highway authorities portion of a preemption circuit is not functioning per design does this mean the preemption function at that highway-rail grade crossing is malfunctioning?
- Should the railroad or highway authority take action to protect highway users and trains?



QUESTIONS FOR ME?