



Railroad-DOT Mitigation Strategies (R16) *An Overview*

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Agenda

- Railroad-DOT Mitigation Strategies
 - Key Issues
 - Product description –
How It Works
 - Examples of Railroad-DOT Innovations
 - Benefits
 - States currently implementing Railroad-DOT Strategies
- Why bother trying?
- Available technical assistance
- Resources



Railroad-DOT Mitigation Strategies – Key Issues

Challenge

Railroad-DOT interaction requires a thorough review of the safety, engineering, and the operational impacts of a roadway project during construction – since it will have lasting effect on the railroad for decades thereafter. Rapid highway construction goals require a new approach that eases the project agreement process for both industries.

Solution

Recommended practices, model agreements, and training materials to help resolve potential conflicts.



How It Works

Uses a collaborative approach to address challenges associated with expediting highway and railway projects.

1

- Identify the challenges.
- Develop solutions to address them – (Product innovations).

2

- Develop effective strategies for dissemination and nationwide adoption.

3

- Develop tools to train and institutionalize these innovative strategies.
- Provide additional resources and opportunities for continued collaboration.

Railroad-DOT Objectives

Phase 1

- Identify strategies and institutional arrangements.
- Research and develop innovative partnering techniques.
- Identify barriers that impact effectiveness and propose remedies.
- Develop draft model agreements and streamlined processes.

Phases 2 and 3

- Conduct outreach and buy-in.
- Create a community of interest.
- Build an environment of partnering.
- Engage the community to facilitate widespread adoption.
- Create champion pairs (DOT-RR).
- Develop tools to institutionalize the use of the R16 products.
- Provide access to resources.

Collaboration and participation by both parties.

Research-Based Approach

- Volpe report
 - Coordination with railroads to facilitate acquisition of Right of Way (ROW)
- Key issues:
 - Indemnification
 - Standard agreements
 - Plan reviews
 - Environmental risk and fees
- Solution



Source: Stan Lims, The Press-Enterprise

Available Materials

- Best practices and streamlined processes
 - Facilitates beneficial relationships between railroads and public transportation agencies
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Innovative partnering techniques
 - Approaches to ensure collaboration
- Standardized (Master) agreements



Examples of Railroad-DOT Innovations

Processes

- Streamlined internal and external coordination
- Single point of first contact and coordination
- Dedicated railroad project managers
- Formal agreed upon points of concurrence
- Formal project management
- Meetings
 - Annual
 - Pre-construction
 - Post-construction
- The 3Cs—frequent communication



More Examples

Processes *(cont.)*

- Process manual
- Standardized crossing improvement contract process
- Streamlining flagging process
- Expediting right-of-way access
- Streamlined agreement processing
- Escalation process to expedite issues
- Partnering processes
- Electronic workflow agreement process

Agreements

- Standardized (Master) agreements
- Partnering Memorandum of Understanding



Benefits of Using Railroad-DOT Mitigation Strategies

- Expedited project delivery
- Better management of limited resources
- Improve communication, cooperation, collaboration
- Streamlined processes
- Transparency
- Improved quality
- Win-win solution
- Less risk!





Accelerating Adoption Solutions and Support Tools

Michael Loehr, PE
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Why Bother Trying?



- Federal focus and funding under the FAST Act for freight rail projects.
- The status quo in some areas is undesirable and expensive in both time and dollars.
- Some DOTs have seen the benefits from improved relationships with the freight railroads.
- Railroads are working more collaboratively than in the past.

Some Examples of Successes

- **Flagging Agreement** (saving \$200,000 annually)
- **Master Developmental Agreement** (reduced time to half)
- **Master Agreement** – CSX and Kentucky
- **NCDOT** – more than \$500 million in projects between:
 - Master Right of Entry Agreement
 - Master Traffic Control Devices Agreement
 - Individual Agreement for Closures CSX and NS
 - Master Preliminary Engineering Agreement
 - Master Construction & Maintenance Agreement

Some Examples of Successes

(cont.)



- **Risk Mitigation:** proactive escalation (BNSF and WSDOT).
- **Landslide Mitigation Group:** full partnership with local agencies and BNSF.
- **Master Right of Entry** (ten days versus months).
- **Partnering Memorandum of Understanding** (agreed-upon list of streamlined processes).
- **Grade crossing best practices** (extends life 3 to 13 years).
- **Routine project improvements** (75 fewer agreements needed to implement 'standard' projects).

Standard Resources (Products)

- Best Practices
 - Improved project consistency
 - Reduced paperwork
- Model Agreements
 - Key Terms
 - Streamlined processes
- Training Syllabus
 - Improved understanding

Technical Assistance



- What issues can be addressed?
 - Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvements
 - Coordination on DOT bridges over Railroads
 - Coordination on RR Bridges over Highways
 - Capital improvements for Freight or Passenger Service
 - Better Master Agreements
 - Understanding why the railroad(s) are so darned _____ to work with
 - Or something else entirely....

Technical Assistance



- Facilitated Workshops
- Peer Interviews
- Contract negotiations support
- Technical support
- Training

Implementation Activities



- **Facilitated Workshops** – Arkansas, PennDOT and SDDOT
- **Peer Interviews** – PennDOT
- **Technical support** – Scope Development for PennDOT
- **Financial support** – Colorado DOT, developing agreements with UPRR and BNSF and an overall project workflow process

For More Information

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The screenshot shows the SHRP2 SOLUTIONS website. The header includes the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration logo and navigation links for About, Programs, Resources, Briefing Room, Contact, and Search FHWA. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Save lives. Save money. Save time." and a "What's New" section with a link to a new brochure. A sidebar on the right promotes "Register Now for Implementation Assistance Webinars".

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