



# MEETING MINUTES

## ITE Grade Crossing Committee Meeting

**Date:** July 18, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 am – 9:30 am PST

### Participants:

Karen Hankinson

Nicole Jackson

Kevin Aguigui

J. Mark Mathis

Byron Stephens

Rick Campbell

Alejandro Chock

Brian Gilleran

Chuck Huffine

Nick Elliott

Jason Field

Frank Perry

Tom Lancaster

Gary Thomas

Antonio Genoese

Gilmer Gaston

Maryam Hedayati

Mark Mathis

Jesus A. Sandoval-Gil

Joanna Bush

Christopher Blain

John Ayers

Katie Johnson

Mike Cynecki

Patrick De Guzman

Paul Menaker

Paul Rathgeber

Shayne Gill

Ousama Shebeeb

Gyan Sinha

Scott Cramer

---

### Introductions

### General ITE News/Events

- International Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Philadelphia (July 21-24)
  - Grade Crossing Committee Session+Tour
  - Committee Session includes: Grade Crossings/Roundabouts, MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition Updates, Cyclists/Grade Crossings
  - There will also be a Traffic Engineering Council Session on emerging trends with other committees
  - Technical tour is full but keep in contact with the ITE Grade Crossing committee officers in case a spot opens. Tour will include three site visits at grade rail crossings to observe good design for safety and operations supporting multimodal use
  - An informal dinner will be held for the annual meeting, let Karen know if



you can attend.

- MUTCD 11<sup>TH</sup> Ed Course (through Learning Hub) – 18 modules
  - ITE is sponsoring this course
  - Learning credits are available
  - It has prerecorded modules regarding all MUTCD and practical applications of the MUTCD; it will cover parts 1-9.
  - Modules begin in September and end in February.

#### Liaison Updates

- FRA (Shayne Gill)
  - New Program Manager for Traffic Engineering and Maintenance, Dennis Palmer
  - FRA will be holding a workshop regarding the corridor identification program.
  - FRA created Railroad Information-Sharing Environment to work on creating a set of definitions for what they have termed planar deviation at grade crossings (profile issues); expected to be released within six months
  - Focused inspection on MUTCD and FRA defects in Georgia was held and completed at the end of June
  - FRA grants are available now on the FRA website (CRISI grants, Grade Crossing Elimination Grants)
  - FRA is working on developing a new FRA data dashboard
  - New GX accident prediction software has just been released
- FHWA (Shayne Gill)
  - FHWA will be holding a workshop on state DOT and railroad coordination
  - Meetings will be focused on rail safety planning, NEPA project delivery, service development, as well as innovations in rail technology success stories.
- RR (Paul Rathgeber)
  - Ability to go wireless for grade crossing predictors is under review
- Canada (Maryam Hedayati)
  - Canada has grade crossing regulations, and all grade crossings are required to be compliant by November; this includes private grade crossings.

#### Committee Products + Task Force Updates

- Cyclists/Grade Crossings Quick Bites (Antonio Genoese)
  - Next task force meeting: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024
    - Contact Nino if you are interested
  - Webinar was held back in February after quick bites were updated on two topics related to cyclists' considerations, and grade crossings within the task force



- A third quick bite is being considered to focus on how to implement improvements, to visibly see what work is being developed
- Another Train Coming Technical Paper (Brent Ogden)
  - Paper will be updated to incorporate comments by Focus Review Group
  - ITE staff will work on the Format per template process to be completed by September
  - The front end of the document has been rewritten; feedback was received on the need for Street View's capabilities, sourcing images, and improving image quality
- Roundabouts and Grade Crossings Task Force (Joanna Bush)
  - 3 meetings have occurred: 18 ITE members in Task Force
  - Data Base developed with locations of roundabouts near grade crossings developed by Jason Vaughn
    - Findings are to help guide which studies or data need to be researched
  - Identification of Quick Bites Topics underway
    - Contact Joanna for more task information
  - Next meeting: August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 12:30-1:30 pm PST
- Traffic Signal Maintenance at Interconnected Crossings Quick Bite (Karen Hankinson)
  - Traffic signal maintenance at interconnected grade crossings draft is underway
  - Peer Review will be given by Joanna and Nicole so the draft can be out by the fall
- Recommended Practice: Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Railroad Grade Crossings + MUTCD 11<sup>TH</sup> Edition Updates Task Force (Nick Elliot/ Kevin Aguigui)
  - 8 Task Force Members based on the last quarterly meeting
  - Changes will be focused on items to be consistent with MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition
    - Contact Nick and Kevin for more information
  - Draft edits underway, targeting the end of August for the review phase; expected to be wrapped up by the end of the year
  - Public Review would follow (incl. AREMA, AAR, FRA, FHWA, etc.)
  - Next Task Force Meeting: July 26<sup>th</sup> 10-11am PST

#### Committee Webinars + Discussion of Technical Content

- MUTCD 11<sup>TH</sup> Edition Part 8 Changes (just completed) (Nicole Jackson)
  - Nicole Jackson presented at the webinar with 178 attendees on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - The committee will take a deeper dive into the changes starting with this quarterly meeting
  - The NPA included a compliance date of 10 years for the evaluation and



installation of appropriate treatment at interconnected crossings. Final rule adopts the compliance date for Sections 8D.09 through 8D.12 with revisions to require only an assessment and determination of appropriate treatment to reach compliance at specific locations. Agencies will be granted the flexibility to determine the schedule for the installation of improvements based on the availability of funding and other safety priorities through systematic replacement and upgrade of traffic control devices

- NPA included a compliance date of 5 years for the new Guidance in Section 8D.16 recommending the installation of Low Ground Clearance and/or Vehicle Exclusion and detour signs for vehicles that might become immobilized on high-profile grade crossings due to undercarriages being too low
  - This only applies to locations with known histories of vehicle hangups occurring
  - Warning signs and regulatory signs for specific vehicle types and combinations should be used in addition to Low Ground Clearance Grade Crossings

#### ITE Traffic Wiki

- Grade Crossings Addition Brainstorming (Committee Review)
  - ITE Traffic Wiki is lacking grade crossing information
    - Maryam volunteered to support on the Wiki page

#### Open Forum

- National Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference: August 20<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, in San Diego

Next Meeting: October 24, 2024, 8-9:30 am PST