

LOCAL TRAX

Rail Overpass
Program



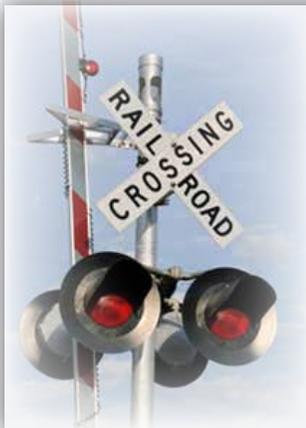
Indiana's Highway-Rail Crossings

Indiana is known as the “Crossroads of America” in part due to the many busy railroad lines that carry both freight and passenger trains across the state. In total, Indiana has more than 8,700 highway-rail crossings, two-thirds of which are grade public crossings. That’s more than in all but four other states.

Many of these crossings have active warning devices; but installation of train-activated lights and gates does not solve the whole problem of vehicle-train crashes at highway-rail crossings. Driver behavior contributes significantly to these crashes, more than half of which occur at railroad crossings equipped with flashing lights and gates that are in place and operating.

To improve safety and reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities at highway-rail crossings, the state has developed a comprehensive Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Action Plan.

The Local TRAX Rail Overpass Program is just one tool aimed at improving safety as well as the quality of life for residents through large-scale rail-related transportation projects.



The Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Action Plan will:

- Reduce the number of public-grade crossings
- Encourage grade separations where possible to bridge over or under busy rail lines
- Accelerate education and enforcement statewide
- Improve passive warning devices to the latest standards
- Upgrade active warning devices at crossings exhibiting the greatest need
- Focus attention on grade crossings with a recent history of multiple collisions

“Creative public-private partnerships that foster open dialogue and collaboration are instrumental in tackling challenging problems. Local Trax is a perfect example of such a partnership. Railroads throughout Indiana are excited to engage with INDOT and local governments to improve both safety and mobility through this innovative program.” – Derek Sublette, Norfolk Southern, member of Indiana Railway Coalition





Working Together to Enhance Safety at Indiana’s Highway-Rail Intersections



The Indiana Department of Transportation is always looking for new ways to partner with local governments, businesses and industry to address transportation needs in Hoosier communities.

In 2018, the Local TRAX program provided grants to cities, towns and counties for grade separation, crossing closure and other safety enhancement projects at highway-rail intersections on local roads. Funding for this program, totaling at least \$125 million, was provided through changes to House Enrolled Act 1002, effective July 2017. Twelve awards were given in 2018.

INDOT will manage Local TRAX projects 100%, from beginning to end. Local input and involvement, however, is critical to project success and will be incorporated every step of the way. INDOT will also fund 100% of project design fees and 80% of total project construction and right-of-way costs. The required local match of 20% can be reached through any local partnerships, including funding from the host railroad.

Project Highlight: Buffington Harbor Gateway Project

Gary’s Clark Road grade crossing is the most dangerous crossing in Indiana. Through Local TRAX, the city and state are collaborating on a creative solution that provides connectivity between two existing roads and closes vehicle access through four railroad grade crossings on Clark Road.

This solution addresses the city’s initial safety and accessibility concerns while providing cost-effective and easy-to-maintain infrastructure. In addition to support by the public sector as well as the railroads, this solution is also supported by private industry leaders for creating additional economic development opportunities for Gary’s West Lakefront.



2018 Local TRAX Awardees

Project Recipient	Grant Amount
Gary	\$15,200,000
Terre Haute	\$13,520,000
La Porte	\$6,238,880
Elkhart	\$12,264,000
Elkhart County	\$14,088,000
Kosciusko County	\$6,489,945
Vanderburgh County	\$5,000,000
Schererville	\$6,040,440
Hammond	\$5,460,070
Wells County	\$4,590,323.99
Hobart	\$5,574,280
Wabash	\$7,147,200



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