



RAIL-HIGHWAY CROSSING PROGRAM

Purpose

The purpose of the Rail-Highway Crossing Program (RHCP) is to enhance safety at public rail-highway crossings throughout the State of Idaho and to promote rail safety education.

Legal Authority

The Department shall be responsible for executing the RHCP in accordance with:

Idaho Code 40-310 – The Board has the authority to locate, design, construction, reconstruct, alter, extend, repair and maintain state highways and plan, design and develop statewide transportation systems

Idaho Code 40-312(2) – Authority of Board to promulgate rules for the expenditure of all moneys appropriated or allocated by law to the Department or the Board

Idaho Code 40-314 – The Board shall exercise all powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 40 of the Idaho Code and the control of the financial affairs of the Department and Board

Idaho Code 40-317 – Authority to enter into cooperative agreements with the federal government and local governments

Idaho Code 40-702(5) – Establishment of the state highway account to include all federal surface transportation funds received from the United States government

Idaho Code 62-301 and 62-303 – Cost sharing when eliminating or altering crossings of State highways and railroads

Idaho Code 62-304A, B, C, D – Railroad Grade Crossing Protection Fund

Idaho Code 62-306 – Construction and Maintenance of Railroad Grade Crossings

Idaho Code 63-2412 (c) – State Fuel Tax distribution to the Railroad Grade Crossing Protection Account

Title 23, U.S. Code Section 130 – Railway-Highway Crossings - the cost of construction of projects for the elimination of hazards of railway-highway crossings, including the separation or protection of grades at crossings, the reconstruction of existing railroad grade crossing structures, the relocation of highways to eliminate grade crossings, and projects at grade crossings to eliminate hazards posed by blocked grade crossings due to idling trains, may be paid from sums apportioned in accordance with federal law from the federal funds set aside by this section.

Funding

The RHCP is comprised of two dedicated funding sources:

- Federal set-aside (Title 23, U.S. Code Section 130) from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) apportionment
- \$250,000 annual allocation (Idaho Statute 63-2412 (c)) to the State Railroad Grade Crossing Protection Account.

Selection and Programming of Projects

The Director shall establish a committee to nominate and assess projects on a statewide basis utilizing a data-assisted evaluation process. The committee shall estimate costs, prioritize, compile and present a recommended list of projects to the Board for approval.

The Director or delegate annually shall provide a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the State's Railroad Grade Crossing Protection Account to support public education and safety programs which promote awareness of public safety at rail-highway grade crossings.

Program Management

The Director or delegate shall coordinate with the districts when advancing and delaying projects based on project readiness. Delays and advances must conform to the available funding for a given year and be presented to the Board for approval.

Annually a status report of the RHCP shall be submitted and presented to the Board.

Approved by the Board on:



Bill Moad
Board Chairman

Date 12/11/24