



January 13, 2025

TO THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE:


We, the undersigned officials and organizations, are committed to working with the Legislature to enhance safety and mobility for Texans across the state. A crucial component of Texas' multimodal transportation system is its railroad network, which spans over 10,300 miles of track and connects cities, rural communities, ports, industrial sites, agricultural centers, and many other facets of our economy. Texas railroads also facilitate passenger service with three Amtrak routes connecting Texas to the rest of the country.

However, the size of this system presents significant challenges. The latest data from the Federal Railroad Administration indicates that Texas has the most public grade crossings of any state, with over 11,600 public crossings. In 2023, there were 2,192 highway-rail grade crossing collisions nationwide, with 246 occurring here in Texas. Unfortunately, Texas leads the country in these types of collisions. The sheer scope of the rail network, combined with increasing freight rail demand and rising traffic from motorists and the trucking industry, makes separating Texas' most congested grade crossings a top priority.

To assist in this endeavor, we are calling on the Legislature to support the Texas Department of Transportation's efforts to secure funding for local grade separation projects. These projects would create under and overpasses at road-rail intersections and help our communities improve public safety. Additionally, they will alleviate delays for emergency vehicles responding to requests for police, fire, or EMS assistance. These efforts will also create jobs in local communities across Texas and promote fluidity on both roads and rails, fostering our multimodal transportation system and economic development.

Investments in at-grade separation are essential to protecting Texas communities and ensuring the safe and efficient movement of freight on our rail network. We look forward to working with you to promote public safety and mobility in our transportation network for all Texans.

Sincerely,

 NOV 27, 2024

CC: Texas Congressional Delegation