

MEETING AGENDA

ITE Grade Crossing Committee Meeting – Thursday, July 23, 2025

Welcome/Introductions

General ITE News/Events (Doug/Karen)

- General Updates
- Annual Meeting – August 10-13, 2025
- ITE Grade Crossing Committee Website Updates

Committee Liaison Updates

- FHWA (Scott unable to join/no updates)
- FRA (Brian/Dee)
- AAR/Railroads (Amber)
- Canada (Maryam)
- AREMA (Karen)
- NCUTCD (Nicole)

Committee Products + Task Force Updates

- Recommended Practice: Preemption of Traffic Signals Near RR Grade Crossings (Nick/Kevin/Doug)
- Cyclists Considerations at Grade Crossings (Nino)
- Another Train Coming Technical Paper (Doug)
- Roundabouts and Grade Crossings Task Force (Joanna)
- Traffic Signal Maintenance at Interconnected Grade Crossing Quick Bite (Karen)
- Queue Cutter Traffic Signal Detection Placement (Mark)

Committee Webinars (Nicole)

- Quiet Zone/Whistle Cessation – October 16, 2025

Operation Lifesaver Highlight (Nino/Karen)

Open Forum

ITE Orlando 2025: Annual Meeting

Traffic Engineering at Grade Crossings Today Session – 8.13.25 10:30 am

Moderator:

- **Nicole Jackson, P.E., PTOE**, Group Manager - Grade Crossing Engineering, Benesch, Fort Worth, TX

Speakers:

- ***Holistic Grade Crossing Reviews with Multimodal Data***
Amber Stoffels, Manager - Industry & Public Projects, Union Pacific Railroad, Denver, CO
- ***Grade Crossing Construction Complexities: Lessons Learned in Florida****
Trent Martin, Herzog Contracting Corp., Orlando, FL
- ***Whistle Cessation in Canada and U.S. Quiet Zones***
TBD Transport Canada, Ottawa, ON and
Tim Oster, P.E., Senior Manager of Special Projects - Grade Crossing Engineering, Benesch, Fort Worth, TX
- ***Enhancing Rail Safety: Innovations in Railroad Crossing and Infrastructure Improvements***
Bjorg Olafs, P.E., Senior Project Engineer, HNTB Corp., Orlando, FL

** *Technical Tour in the afternoon at 2 interconnected SunRail Grade Crossings to complement this presentation*

This session offers a multi-faceted look at highway-rail grade crossing safety. Featuring insights from a Class 1 Railroad, a leading contractor, and regulatory experts, the session covers: holistic reviews using multimodal data, construction complexities with Florida project examples, whistle cessation and Quiet Zone implementation in Canada and the US, and critical traffic signal maintenance at interconnected crossings.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe a holistic approach to highway-rail grade crossing reviews, emphasizing the importance of incorporating multimodal data and stakeholder input to improve safety and project effectiveness.
- Identify the complexities of grade crossing construction projects, and apply lessons learned from recent Florida projects (e.g., SunRail and Brightline) to enhance future grade crossing safety initiatives.
- Compare the regulatory frameworks for railway whistle cessation in Canada and the United States, including the requirements for establishing Quiet Zones under the FRA's Locomotive Horn Rule, and understand the actions necessary for long term success.
- Evaluate innovative approaches to railroad grade crossing safety improvements, using Central Florida examples as a model.

[Conference | ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition](#)

Grade Crossing Committee Products Updates (1 of 3)

ITE Cyclist Considerations at Grade Crossings Task Force (Nino Genoese)

- Feb 2024 Quick Bites available here:
- [Resources - Institute of Transportation Engineers \(ite.org\)](#)
- Contact Nino if you are interested in participating:
agenoese@gfnet.com
- Rekick off meeting occurred in May 2025
- Also reengaged Ped-Bike Standing Committee members.

Active Another Train Coming Signs

Author

Brent D. Ogden, P.E., PTOE, Regional Vice President - Transit, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (F)

Peer Reviewers

Karen M. Hankinson, P.E., Traffic Engineering Lead - Rail Division, Olsson (M)
Nicole Jackson, P.E., PTOE, Group Manager - Grade Crossing Engineering, Benesch (F)
Gyan Sinha, P.E., Associate | Senior Project Manager, Stantec (M)
Joanna Bush, P.E., Senior Traffic Engineer, Mead & Hunt (M)
J. Mark Mathias, P.E., Texas Traffic Engineering Team Leader, TranSystems (M)
Maryam Hedayati, Senior Engineer, Transport Canada (M)
Casey Murdie, P.E., T.E., Project Manager (Traffic) Olsson (M)
Nick Ptak, Traffic Engineer, Mead & Hunt (M)

Will be published this summer!

Grade Crossing Committee Products Updates (2 of 3)

- **Roundabouts and Grade Crossings Task Force (Joanna Bush)**
 - Several meetings have already occurred
 - 18 ITE members in Task Force
 - Data Base Verification underway for locations of roundabouts near grade crossings developed by Jason Vaughn
 - Quick Bite Draft is underway about general concerns/guidance
 - Contact Joanna.bush@meadhunt.com for more task force information
 - Next Meeting: Thursday, July 31st pm PST/3:30 pm EST



Grade Crossing Committee Products Updates (3 of 3)

Recommended Practice: Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Railroad Grade Crossings + MUTCD 11th Edition Updates Task Force (Doug/Kevin/Nick)

- 8 Task Force Members
- Changes are focused to be consistent with MUTCD 11th Edition
- Nick Elliot/Benesch and Kevin Aguiqui/Kimley Horn leading task force.
- Peer Review of Draft – out this month
- Comments would be incorporated/addressed
- Public Review will follow (incl. AREMA, AAR, FRA, FHWA, etc.)

Queue Cutter Traffic Signal Detection Placement Quick Bite (Mark Esposito)

- Draft currently underway
- Peer Review After
- Completion Goal: September 2025

Traffic Signal Maintenance at Interconnected Crossings Quick Bite (Karen)

- Draft Underway
- Peer Review Next (Joanna, Nicole)
- Completion Goal: October 2025

Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Railroad Grade Crossings

2nd Edition

A Recommended Practice
of the Institute of
Transportation Engineers

APRIL 2021

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

2025 AREMA Annual Meeting: September 14-17, 2025 – Indianapolis, IN

- [2025 Annual Conference | AREMA.org](https://www.arena.org/2025-annual-conference)
- Navigating Complexity: Best Practices for Highway Rail Grade Crossing Projects (9.16.25 9:15 am)
(Karen Hankinson/Steven Phillips, Olsson)

ITE Grade Crossing Webinar on Train Horns and Whistle Cessation

- Thursday, October 16th
- Tim Oster/Benesch and Maryam Hedayati/Transport Canada

2026 National Grade Crossing Conference: April 6-9, 2026 - Atlanta, GA

- <https://nationalrailcrossingconference.org/>
- [Georgia Tech Conference Center](https://www.gatech.edu/conference-center)

ABOUT US

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) is a nonprofit organization and nationally-recognized leader of rail safety education. Since 1972, OLI has been committed to preventing collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings, with the support of public education programs in states across the U.S.

View a Directory of [Operation Lifesaver state programs](#).

- [Crossing Safely: Wheels Over Tracks](#) – Educates people who use a variety of wheels (wheelchairs, bicycles, scooters, walkers, etc.) on how to safely navigate crossing railroad tracks at pedestrian crossings.
- [Stay Safe: Be Aware](#)– Educates visually, auditorily and through American Sign Language (ASL) essential rail safety tips on crossing safely at pedestrian crossings.

Operation Lifesaver Highlight



SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN[®] WEEK

Join us Sept. 15-21, 2025 for See Tracks? Think Train[®] Week - formerly Rail Safety Week - in the U.S.

[EXPLORE ASSETS! >](#)

About See Tracks? Think Train[®] Week

See Tracks? Think Train[®] Week (formerly Rail Safety Week) is a concentrated week of rail safety education focusing attention on the importance of making safe choices when driving or walking near railroad tracks and trains. First held in the U.S. in 2017, **this collaborative effort** among Operation Lifesaver Inc., State Operation Lifesaver Programs and rail safety partners across the U.S., Canada and Mexico is now called See Tracks? Think Train[®] Week throughout the U.S. to better reflect the purpose of this week-long observance:

- Preventing railroad crossing and trespass incidents across North America
- Concentrating public attention on the need for rail safety education

See Tracks?
THINK
TRAIN[®]
WEEK



Open Forum

