
Backgrounder Information

RAILWAY CROSSING FACTS AND TIPS

- There are approximately 55,000 public, private and pedestrian highway-railway crossings in Canada.
- There are still too many fatalities and injuries as a result of highway-railway crossing collisions.
- Approximately 50 per cent of vehicle-train collisions occur at crossings with active warning devices (gates, lights, bells).
- Trains cannot stop quickly. An average freight train travelling at 100 km/h requires about 1.1 kilometres to stop. A passenger train travelling at 120 km/h requires about 1.6 kilometres to stop. That's 14 football fields!
- Look for the crossbuck symbol that indicates a highway-railway crossing. Some more heavily travelled highway-railway crossings have lights and bells or gates.
- Listen for warning bells and whistles. Turn off, or turn down, distracting fans, heaters and radios until the crossing is safely cleared. Opening the window helps you hear better.
- Never drive around lowered gates — it's illegal and deadly. If you suspect a signal is malfunctioning, call the 1-800 number posted on or near the crossing signal or your local law enforcement agency.
- Never race a train to the crossing — even in a tie, you lose.
- Do not get trapped on the tracks. Proceed through a highway-railway crossing only if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing without stopping. Remember that the train is three feet wider than the tracks on both sides.
- If your vehicle stalls on the tracks at a crossing, immediately get everyone out and far away from the tracks. Move in the direction that the train is approaching from to avoid being hit by debris, because the momentum of the train will sweep your vehicle forward.
- When at a multiple-track crossing waiting for a train to pass, watch out for a second train on the other tracks, approaching from either direction.
- Railway tracks, trestles, yards and equipment are private property. Walking or playing on them is illegal, and trespassers are subject to arrest and fines. Too often the penalty is death.

- In 2008, 47 people were killed and 20 others seriously injured while trespassing on railway property.
- Do not walk, run, cycle or operate all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on railway tracks or rights of way or through tunnels.
- Cross tracks only at designated pedestrian or railway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs and signals.
- Do not attempt to hop aboard railway equipment at any time. A slip of the foot could cost you a limb or your life.

November 2009

Background Information

2009-2010 GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING RECIPIENTS

The Government of Canada works closely with railway companies and communities to identify grade crossings that require safety improvements. Transport Canada provides funding for improvement projects at numerous sites every year. Improvements may include installing flashing lights and gates, linking crossing signals to nearby traffic lights, or adding new circuits or timing devices. Transport Canada finances up to 80 per cent of the total cost of the improvements, with the balance provided by the railways, municipalities, or provinces and territories.

These projects are in addition to the projects announced by the Government of Canada on May 12, 2009, which can be found at www.tc.gc.ca/mediaroom/releases/nat/2009/09-h068e.htm.

PROVINCE	LOCATION	ROAD	IMPROVEMENT	FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION (up to)
Alberta	Blackfalds	South Street	Add gates and constant warning time control equipment	\$246,596
Alberta	Strathcona County	Township Road 524	Install flashing light signals, bells and gates, etc.	\$213,440
Alberta	Strathcona County	Township Road 524	Add "Prepare to Stop" sign	\$43,000
British Columbia	Darcy	Pemberton Portage Road	Add active advance warning signs	\$64,000
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British Columbia	Exstew	Yellowhead Highway 16	Install LED lights	\$3,032
British Columbia	Fraine	Kootenay River Bridge Road	Install LED lights	\$4,676
British Columbia	Glade	Glade Ferry Road	Install LED lights	\$4,676
British Columbia	Quesnel	Brownmiller Road	Install LED lights and mast location	\$17,120
British Columbia	Spences Bridge	Highway 8	Install LED lights	\$6,435
British Columbia	Squilax	Turtle Valley-Squilax Road	Install LED lights	\$5,568

PROVINCE	LOCATION	ROAD	IMPROVEMENT	FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION (up to)
British Columbia	Vanderhoof	Burrard Avenue	Add LED pre-signals	\$44,800
Manitoba	Austin	Carrothers Road (64W)	Install flashing lights, bells, gates and constant warning time device	\$238,800
Manitoba	MacGregor	Rosehill Road (59W)	Install flashing lights, bells, gates and constant warning time device	\$199,600
Manitoba	MacGregor	Provincial Road 350	Add and maintain gate barriers and constant warning time control equipment	\$113,267
Ontario	Chatham Kent	Gleason Line	Add bells and flashing light signals	\$160,480
Ontario	East Gwillimbury	Princess Street	Add gates and grade crossing predictors	\$230,000
Ontario	Elmsley	Glenview Road	Replace lights with LEDs	\$20,698
Ontario	Greater Sudbury	Cote Boulevard	Add gates to system	\$247,760
Ontario	Grimsby	Baker Road	Pay associated costs for site restoration following closure of the crossing	\$19,402
Ontario	Halton Hills	Tenth Sideroad	Add grade crossing predictors and gates	\$246,240
Ontario	Halton Hills	Fourth Line Road	Add grade crossing predictors and gates	\$235,520
Ontario	Hamilton	Cochrane Road	Add short cantilever mast and replace flashing light signals with LED lights	\$42,795
Ontario	Ingersoll	Thames Street South	Remove and replace sidewalk, and restore site	\$8,144
Ontario	Muskoka	Muskoka Road	Add four gates and a cantilever	\$249,680
Ontario	Nation Municipality	Faucher/Baker Road	Upgrade automatic warning signal system	\$21,229
Ontario	Stratford	McKones Road	Add short arm gates and grade crossing predictors	\$176,352
Ontario	Twp of South Frontenac	Bradshaw Road	Replace lights with LEDs	\$10,785
Quebec	Coaticook	Rue Court	Add barriers	\$108,000
Quebec	Richmond	Rue Craig	Install barriers and LEDs	\$128,000
Quebec	Rivière Bleue	Route 289	Add barriers and pre-emption circuits	\$267,920
Quebec	Saint-Justin	Route Gagné	Add barriers	\$193,280
Quebec	St Gédéon	Route 170	Install pre-emption circuits, replace lights with LEDs and install gate protection mechanisms	\$80,480
Quebec	St Gédéon	Route 170	Install a "Prepare to Stop" sign	\$24,000
Total				\$3,803,775

