

# ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION



## Rail Safety Program

### Illinois Rail Facts – 2023

- Illinois has more than **7,300** miles of railroad track, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest rail system of any state in the nation.
- Over 500 million tons (1 trillion pounds) of freight move on Illinois' rail systems each year which is the most of any state in the nation.
- Chicago is the largest rail hub in the U.S. and third largest intermodal container/trailer port in the world, following only Singapore and Hong Kong.
- There are over 60 railroad companies that operate trains in and through Illinois, which is the highest in the nation.
- Approximately 35 million tons of chemicals, many of which are hazardous, are transported on Illinois' rail system each year.
- **10,227** public highway-rail crossings are located within Illinois.
  - 4,073 highway-rail grade crossings with flashing lights & gates
  - 1,344 highway-rail grade crossings with flashing lights
  - 2,084 highway-rail grade crossings with reflectorized Crossbuck signs
  - 49 highway-rail grade crossings with no markings (flagging required)
  - 7,550 public grade crossings
  - 2,677 public grade separated (bridge) crossings
  - 10,227** total public highway-rail crossings - 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation
- Illinois has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of interconnected<sup>1</sup> rail crossing warning systems in the nation.

(<sup>1</sup>rail and traffic signal systems engineered to work together; Ca, Tx, Fl, Il)

## **ICC Rail Safety Responsibilities**

- Investigate highway-rail grade crossing collisions and other rail related accidents & incidents that occur in Illinois; coordinate efforts with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Management of Grade Crossing Protection Fund safety projects (\$39 million annually) and engineering oversight of all improvements & modifications to the State's **10,227** public highway-rail crossings.
- Engineering oversight of all highway traffic signal systems interconnected with railroad warning devices.
- Manage Illinois' Operation Lifesaver rail safety public education program that reaches communities and schools statewide.
- Conduct inspections of railroad track in Illinois to identify defects that can cause derailments. Task assignments are coordinated with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Conduct inspections of railroad hazardous material shipments throughout the State, including radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. Task assignments are coordinated with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Maintain a comprehensive and current highway-rail crossing database and train/vehicle collision tracking system.
- Conduct scheduled and prompted on-site inspections of crossing warning systems throughout Illinois to evaluate maintenance and repair efforts and operating conditions.
- Investigate complaints (citizen, highway agency, public official, etc.) concerning highway-rail grade crossings and other rail safety issues.

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