

**Illinois Commerce Commission  
September 14, 2009**

**Transportation Bureau  
Rail Safety Program**



**John J. Blair  
Asst. Rail Safety Program  
Administrator**

**ICC Rail Safety  
Responsibilities**



**Bridges – Cost Range \$4 mil-\$40 mil**



**Illinois Rail Facts**

- 7,200 Miles of Track Statewide (2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Rail Network in Country)
- 500 million tons (1 trillion pounds) of freight move on Illinois' rail systems each year. (Most of any state)
- Chicago is largest rail hub in the U.S. ; 3<sup>rd</sup> largest intermodal container/trailer port in the world. (only Singapore and Hong Kong are larger)
- 41 railroad companies operate trains in Illinois. (3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the nation)
- 20 million tons of chemicals, many of which are hazardous, are transported on Illinois' rail systems each year.
- 11,000+ public highway-rail crossings are located within Illinois. (8000+ grade crossings; 2700+ bridges)



**Illinois Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) 5-Year Plan**

- Develop and Implement Illinois' GCPF 5-Year Crossing Safety Improvement Program Plan.
- The GCPF was Created by the IL General Assembly in 1955 for Safety Improvements at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings and Bridges located on Local Roads and Streets
- The GCPF Increased this year from \$27mil/year to \$42mil/year under the Capitol Bill signed by Governor Quinn. The prior GCPF increase was back in 1999.



**Automatic Warning Devices  
Cost Range \$200k-\$500k**



**Interconnects**  
**Cost Range \$100k-\$400k**

**Crossbuck / YIELD Signs**

**Vegetation Control**

looking east from 50' north of track  
 7-24-75BR  
 by ICC staff, John Blake on 8-27-02

**Crossbuck / YIELD Signs**  
**Cost Range \$1k-\$1.5k**

**Crossing Closures**

Incentive Payments for Voluntary Crossing Closures  
 \$50K-\$70K/Crossing from GCPF  
 \$7,500 from IDOT (federal funds)  
 Payments from RR

**Pedestrian Warning Signs**  
**Cost Range \$500-\$1K**




**Engineering Oversight - Public Highway-Rail Crossings in Illinois**



**Rail Safety Inspections - Signal & Train Control**



**ICC Inspectors:**

- > Inspect Signalized Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossings in IL
- > Inspect New Automatic Flasher & Gate Installations
- > Cooperate with FRA on Focused Inspections

**Innovative Technology**  
**4-Quadrant Gates**  
**Cost Range \$400k-\$600k**



**Rail Safety Inspections - Track**

**ICC Inspectors:**

- > Annually check main line, siding, and yard tracks in Illinois
- > Inspections are conducted by walking track; Hi-rail Vehicles
- > Deviations from the Federal Standards result in RRs cited for defects or violations



**Rail Safety Inspections – Haz-Mat**

**ICC Inspectors:**

- > Inspect Haz-Mat Rail Cars Annually
- > Inspect Shipper Facilities
- > Analyze Shipping Papers & Related Documentation
- > Participate in Inspection of Hazardous Waste & Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments



## Rail Safety Inspections - Railroad Operating Practices

### ICC Inspectors:

- Monitors Rail Operations and RR Employee Facilities for 39 Registered Rail Carriers in IL
- Conducts Investigations of Blocked Crossing Complaints
- Conducts Investigations of Public Complaints concerning Train Horns, Speeds, etc.

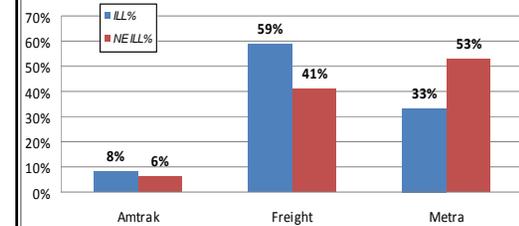


## Crossing Collision Investigations



- RRs Report all Train/Vehicle Collisions & Rail Accidents
- ICC Staff Investigate all Fatal Train/Vehicle Collisions

Percentage of Collisions in Illinois and Northeastern Illinois by Type of Train Operation: 1999 - 2008



## Rail Accident Investigations

### NTSB Investigations:

- NTSB is the Lead Agency
- FRA & ICC Inspectors Assist as Directed by NTSB

### FRA Investigations:

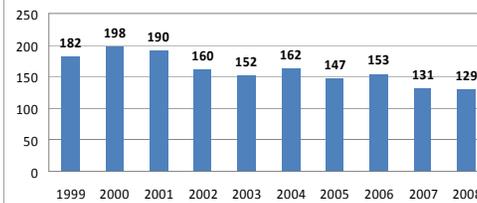
- ICC Inspectors Assist as Directed by FRA

### ICC Investigations:

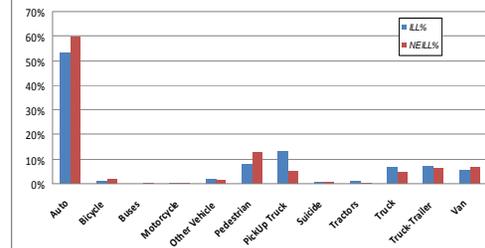
- Assigned by Administrator

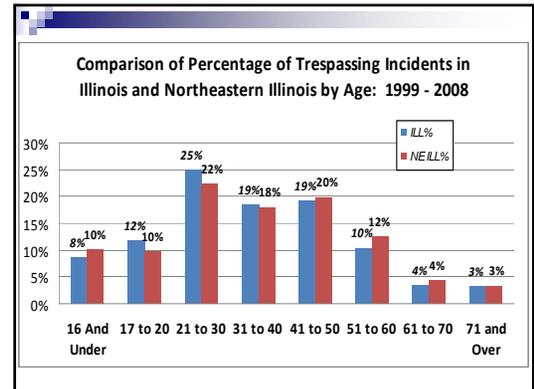
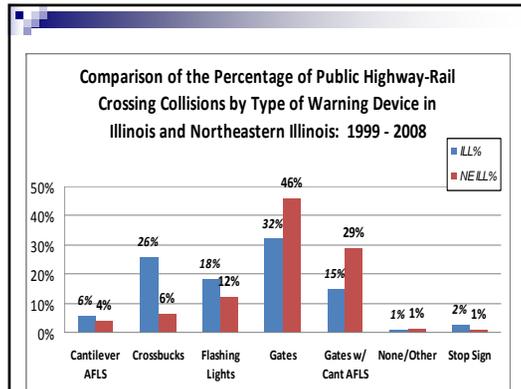
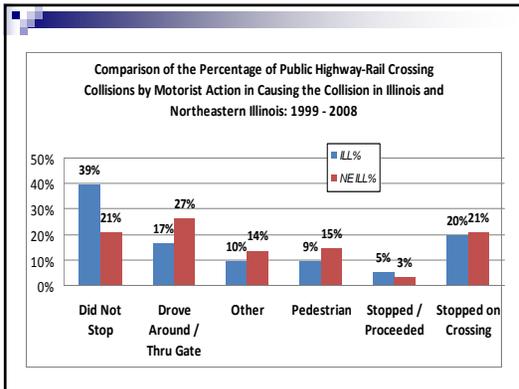
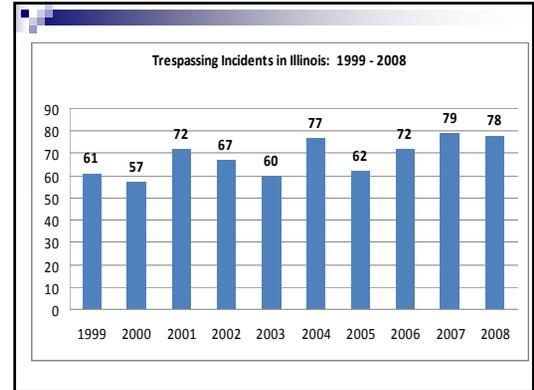
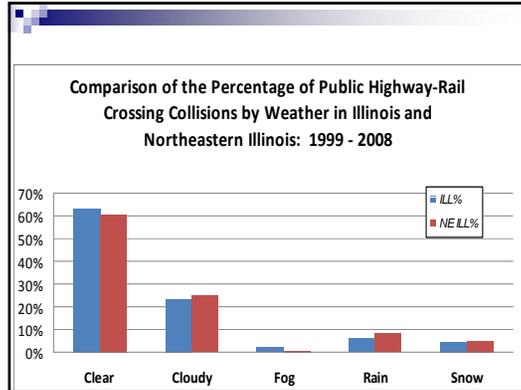
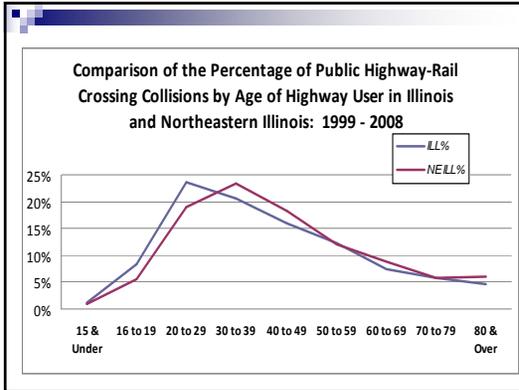


Collisions at Public Highway-Rail Crossings in Illinois: 1999 - 2008



Comparison of the Percentage of Public Highway-Rail Crossing Collisions by Type of Highway User in Illinois and Northeastern Illinois: 1999 - 2008





## Public Education & Enforcement



## Public Education

- Operation Lifesaver Presentations
  - Schools
  - Bus Companies
  - Trucking Companies
  - Civic Groups
  - Senior Citizen Groups
- Public Service Announcements
- Cooperative Safety Blitzes  
(w/RRs & Local Law Enforcement)
- Contact:
  - Chip Pew
  - Rail Safety Specialist
  - (312) 636-3034
  - cpew@icc.illinois.gov

