## PLANNING & ASSET MANAGEMENT





# Planning-Rail Section



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# Highway-Rail Crossing and Signal Programs

- The rail section analyzes public at-grade rail crossings and develops a prioritized listing of signal and surface projects.
- The rail section prepares responses to inquiries on rail signal, surface projects, crossing closures and rail activities.
- Maintains statewide railroad crossing inventory data and coordinates rail GIS layer for RIMS Viewer.
- We assist with the development of local road authority sponsorship of all at-grade crossing projects statewide. This can entail preparing urban/county agreements.
- Helps coordinate highway construction projects where railroad crossings are involved.













# New From BIL

- USDOT will continue to set aside \$245,000,000 of the funding authorized for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for the Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.
  - ND's share of this is just over \$5,000,000
- The FHWA determined by raising the federal share to 100%, it would allow states the flexibility to serve the underserved the 10% local match requirement.
- Increase the amount of state's incentive payment for at-grade crossing closures from \$7,500 to \$100,000. The state is allowed to match the railroad payment up to \$100,000. The federal funds shall be used for safety projects within the road authority's jurisdiction. Definition of safety projects expanded.









# NDDOT's Rail Loan Programs

#### System Critical

Railroads and rail authorities only eligible

These projects are critical to a railroad's existence. They maintain or expand service, improve system connectivity, and/or enhance financial stability. They also may include rail relay, major structure rehabilitation or construction, new rail connections, track realignment, etc. Loan terms are 0% interest with a rail cost share maximum of 80% and repayment in 15 years.



#### Economic Development

All applicants eligible

These projects may include new sidings, siding extensions or upgrades, switches, loop and ladder tracks, access roads, active warning devices for new facility crossings, equipment – locomotives, maintenance of way equipment, roadway safety improvements adjacent to existing rail infrastructure, etc. They may improve safety and result in decreased trucking impacts on state and local roadway infrastructure. Loan terms are half of prime (never more than 4.5%) interest with a rail cost share maximum of 70% and repayment in 10 years.

#### Infrastructure Improvement

Railroads, units of government, and rail authorities only eligible

These projects may include structure repairs, tie and ballast replacement, switches, short segments of rail replacement, etc. Loan terms are half of prime (never more than 4.5%) interest with a rail cost share maximum of 80% and repayment in 15 years.



# Grant Program Applications

- Grants are nationally competitive, and projects often address safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and state of good repair while promising to achieve national objectives.
- involve coordination with several people across NDDOT, local and federal partners, and politicians.
- NDDOT has been awarded five RAISE grants: 1) Minot NE bypass \$14.1M, 2) Devils Lake Rail Grade Raise \$10M, 3) Improving Resiliency of Rural ND Roads \$22M, 4) Transportation Management Center and Smart Corridor Planning Project \$550K and 5) Tribal Safety Project \$19.5M.
- NDDOT was awarded a \$16.75M INFRA grant in 2021 for US-52 Rural Freight Passing Lanes.
- NDDOT was awarded a \$30M RCE grant in 2023 for a grade separation at 42<sup>nd</sup> street and Demers in Grand Forks
- Other grant programs offer additional funding opportunities.







# Questions





### Thank You



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