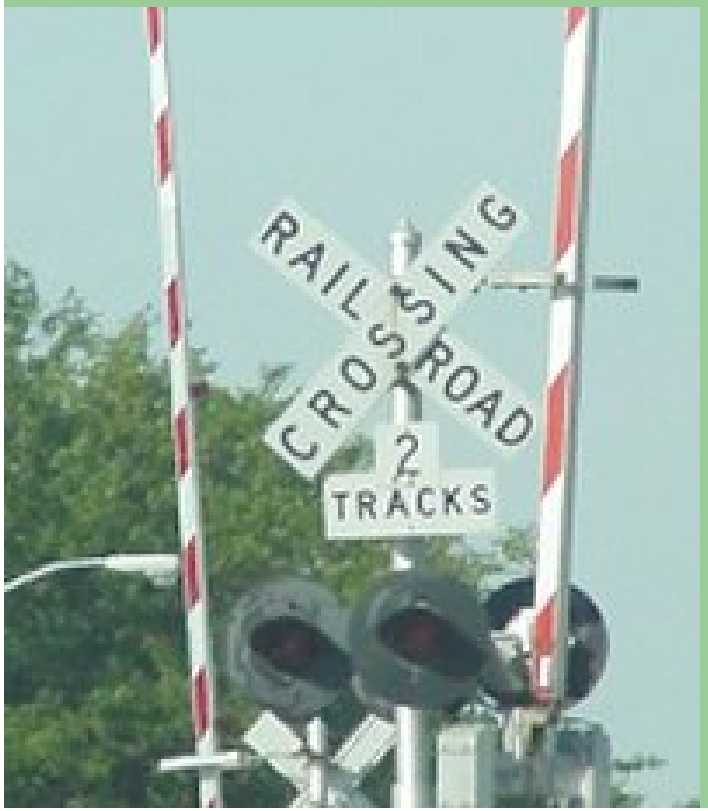
Railroad Crossing Issues



City of Houston

Town Hall Meeting

What Is a Blocked Crossing?

- A train stopped upon a crossing for more than five minutes
- No movement
- Additional movement stops the time keeping
- A slow moving train is not a violation

How Big Is the Problem in Houston?

- Traffic congestion
  - HEC Center receives 150 complaints a month
  - DPS
    - 54 train complaints a month
    - 84 malfunctioning signals a month
- Children crossing tracks
  - 36 HISD schools in proximity of railroad
  - 17 HISD schools considered critical

Residents

- Residents or motorists are encouraged to report a blocked crossing incident to 311
- 311 Operator will immediately transfer call to Houston Emergency Communication Center

Protocol Initiated

- Houston Police will:
  - Dispatch a patrol unit
  - Contact railroad
- Railroad to notify any affected schools

Train Watch

- Railroad Nuisance Issues
  - Continuous Blocked Crossing
  - Loud Noise
  - Diesel Fumes
- E-mail: **trainwatch@cityofhouston.net**
  - Time and location of incident
  - Operating railroad
  - Engine number
  - Rail car number

Greetings Council Member Carol Galloway!

This is to inform you that Union Pacific has once again parked a locomotive engine behind the residential homes in the 8800 Candy St. I became aware of the problem at 3:00 AM. After 30 minutes, I called the Baytown Rail Yard Manager to inform him of the disturbance. I was advised that it would be investigated ASAP. At 3:57 AM, no relief from the noisy diesel engines and vibration that was causing acerbation of vertigo for me. I called again and spoke with the MYO, who said that he would get a crew to move it by 4:30 AM. ***I have a video/audio taping of the this incident.*** I called the Senior MTO for Union Pacific at 6:02 AM to inform of the lack of resolution for this situation. He stated that he had been notified at 5:00 AM about the problem. He had taken steps to fire the crew that was responsible for leaving the locomotives (ID#2683/8715) parked and idling between Laurentide St. & 610 East. I am certainly appreciative of any assistance that you can give to alleviate the disruption of our lives during these disturbances. I have received information from your office that you are working on a solution and I want to thank you for your diligence in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at any time. Best regards,

Jaunetta Johns

"The evidence of God's presence far outweighs the proof of His absence." - Unknown

Monitoring by Camera

- Real Time Information
- Assist in documenting the problem
- Two Cameras Available
- Additional 16 to be placed by May 2005

Lawndale RR from Telephone 2005-03-09 06:42:37.34
6:42 a.m.

Lawndale RR from Telephone 2005-03-09 07:41:37.31
7:41 a.m.

Lawndale RR from Telephone 2005-03-09 07:42:37.31
35
7:42 a.m.

Lawndale RR from Telephone 2005-03-09 07:44:37.28
7:44 a.m.

Lawndale RR from Telephone 2005-03-09 08:16:37.68
35
RE-UPHOLSTERY SE
8:16 a.m.

Enforcement

- HPD
  - assist in clearing crossings
  - issue citations
- FRA
  - Inspect Identified Crossings
  - Conduct Sound Studies