

HSIP Supports Safer Railway-Highway Crossings

Funding Rail Crossing Safety Improvements

In 2020, there were 163 fatal vehicle crashes at railway grade crossings.¹ The Railway-Highway Crossings Program (RHCP) works to improve safety by funding projects that eliminate hazards at these crossings. Crossings improved by RHCP have seen fatalities decrease by 32 percent from 2000 to 2019.²

RHCP is funded through a set-aside using a legislative formula. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Pub. L. 117-58, also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" [BIL]) set aside \$245 million annually from fiscal years 2022–2026 for the RHCP. Program funds are available for projects at all public crossings, including projects on roadways, bike trails, pedestrian paths, and on at-grade crossings that eliminate hazards caused by idling trains blocking the crossings. The BIL raised the Federal share for these funds to 100 percent and no longer requires a local match.

For more information on eligibility and guidance, visit <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/xings/#policy>.

In 2021

States allocated \$332 million to fund projects that eliminate hazards at railway-highway crossings.

RHCP IN 2021



In 2021, States obligated more than \$332 million in RHCP funds for 1,198 projects that made safety improvements at railway-highway crossings.



States also obligated more than \$21 million in HSIP funds on railway-highway crossing safety projects.



RHCP funded 45 projects that eliminated grade crossings, with a total cost of \$47 million, and 854 projects that installed or upgraded active grade crossing equipment, with a total cost of \$265 million.

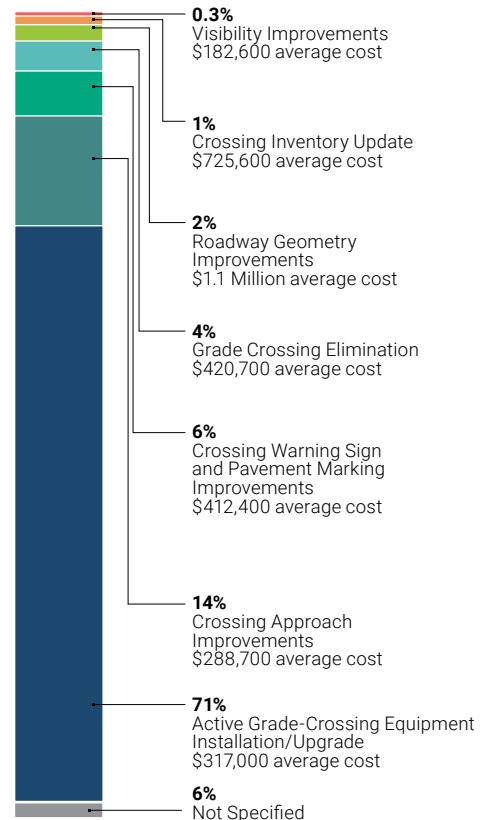


Washington and California represented the largest percentage of RHCP funds obligated to railway-highway crossing safety.



The most common project type was the installation of active grade-crossing equipment (71 percent).

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS DID RHCP FUND?

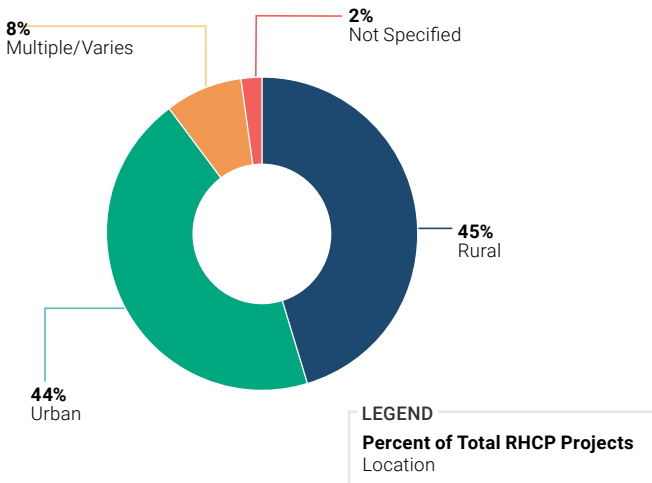


¹ Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS): 2006-2019 Final File and 2020 Annual Report File (ARF), report generated August 16, 2022, <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>.

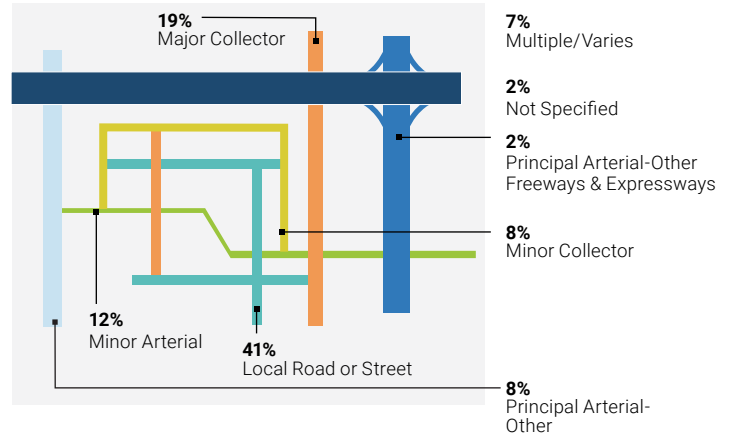
² FHWA, "Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program" (July 2022), <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/xings/>.

RHCP Projects by Location

WHERE WERE RHCP PROJECTS LOCATED?



WHAT TYPES OF ROADS WERE RHCP PROJECTS ON?



RHCP in Action

Rail Corridor Crossing Consolidation and Safety Improvement

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MODOT) AND BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY

In 2017, MoDOT studied a 19-mile rural corridor with 29 at-grade crossings in Southwest Missouri. With 62 incidents since 1975, the corridor had one of the highest incident rates in the State. Rail incidents had killed 14 people and injured another 19. Many community members used these crossings to access other parts of their town and were initially resistant to calls to close crossings.

After an extensive study and community engagement effort to build consensus, MoDOT partnered with BNSF Railway Company to prioritize a corridor project that included five crossing closures and four crossing upgrades. With the help of RHCP funding, the corridor expects to see 23 fewer crashes, including 1.41 fewer fatal crashes and 7 fewer injury crashes, over a 25-year period.³

PROBLEM

Rail Crossing Incidents, Including 14 Fatalities



SOLUTION

Crossing Closures & Upgrades



RESULT

Expect 23 Fewer Crashes



³ FHWA, Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program, "Noteworthy Practice: Empowering the Community to Achieve Consensus: Rail Corridor Crossing Consolidation and Safety Improvement Project in Missouri" (November 2019), <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/hsip/xings/empowering-community-achieve-consensus>.

To find out how RHCP can help save lives in your community, contact your State DOT:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/webstate.cfm>



Have an RHCP success story? Share your projects on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with #HSIPsavesLives.

ZERO IS OUR GOAL
A SAFE SYSTEM IS HOW WE GET THERE



U.S. Department of Transportation



FHWA-SA-22-076

Federal Highway Administration