



For Immediate Release

FRA, INDIANA RAIL ROAD TEAM UP TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT 321 GRADE CROSSINGS

Indianapolis, IN, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016 – Indiana Rail Road (INRD) maintenance crews will be extremely busy in the coming months as they make safety-minded improvements to 321 public and private at-grade road crossings in Indiana and Illinois.

The project is possible due to matching funds totaling \$129,537 from the Federal Railroad Administration, with INRD contributing \$126,037 and the remainder provided by grants from Vigo, Greene and Sullivan counties in Indiana. The FRA announced the grant on Sept. 12.

The goal is to increase motorist awareness and sightlines at grade crossings by clearing brush, trees and other vegetation. At the 201 public grade crossings on INRD's rail lines, any crossing with gates and/or flashing lights will have brush removed up to 250 feet from the roadway; all crossings not equipped with flashing lights will have brush removed up to 650 feet from the crossing.

INRD will also place warning signs at the 120 private crossings in Indiana and Illinois, which are located on farm or residential roads. Completion of the full project is expected in seven months.

The Indiana Rail Road is considered one of the safest railroads in North America, and has won several rail industry awards for safety over the years. The railroad annually spends more than \$1 million on grade crossing improvements, but avoidable grade-crossing accident rates remain too high. The State of Indiana is ranked fourth nationally in grade crossing accidents, and Illinois is third.

Indiana Rail Safety Week: The FRA's grant is timely, as Indiana Gov. Mike Pence has declared Sept. 11-17 "Indiana Rail Safety Week." Visit Indiana Operation Lifesaver for more rail safety information: www.inol.org

The Indiana Rail Road Company is a privately-held, 250-mile railroad based in Indianapolis, serving central and southwest Indiana, and eastern Illinois. INRD connects to the entire North American rail network via strategic gateways at Chicago, Indianapolis and Newton, Ill.

For more information on the railroad and its community involvement, visit www.inrd.com or find us on Twitter and Facebook.

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