



Rail Safety Task Force

May 2025

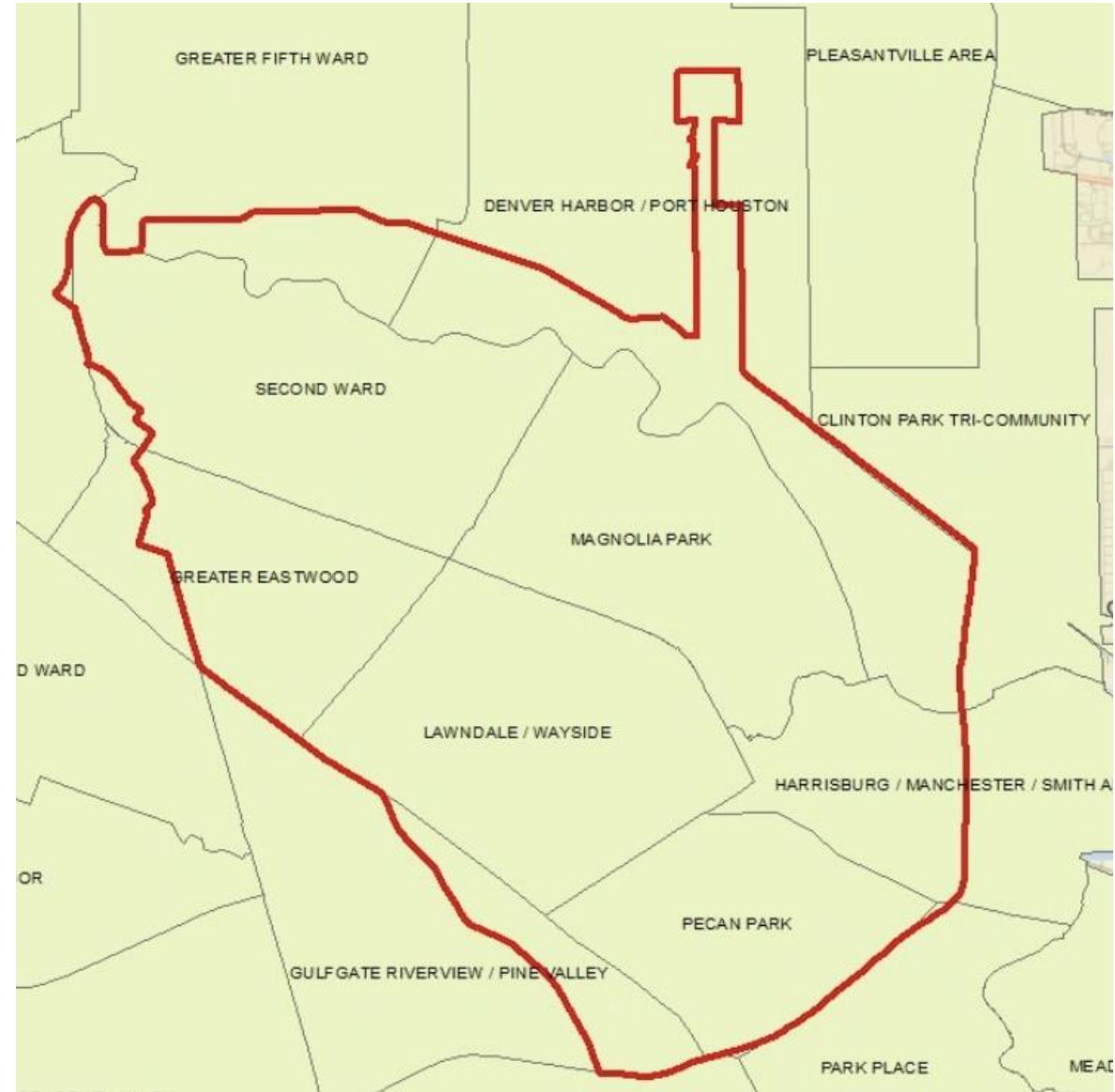
Jack C. Hanagriff, Manager
Road & Rail Safety Program
East End District

Trinity Park, Project Manager
Safe Streets Project
East End District

Rail Safety Task Force

Top 3 Neighborhood Concerns

- Stopped Trains
- Train Horn Noise
- Speeding Vehicles



Rail Corridor Collaborative

Reported Events that affected Safety and Railroad Operations:

- May 2025 - Track Maintenance Project Phase 2
- March 18, 2025 – 2.5 Hour Blockage on Galveston Sub (Train Meet & Track Curfew)
- March 11, 2025 – Track Maintenance on East Belt – no disruption expected
- January 1, 2025 – Track Maintenance in Denver Harbor/Fifth Ward
- December 9, 2024 – Pedestrian Train Fatality (Galveston Sub)



Rail Safety Focus Group

Public and Private Sector entities from the four railroads, city, county, state and federal governments

- Continuity of Efforts
- Information Sharing
- Transparency
- Goal Oriented

<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Mid Term</u>	<u>Long Term</u>
Crossing Prioritization List	Monitoring/Alerting Technology	Infrastructure Improvements
School Proximity List	Pedestrian Access	Legislation
Railroad Operating Practices	Funding	
Communication		
Signage (Wayfinding)		
Public Awareness Campaign		
Crossing Guards		

State, Federal, & City Activities

Texas Senate passes bill to fund safer railroad crossings

- SB 1555 co-authored by Senator Carol Alvarado & Senator Robert Nichols
- \$350 million grant program
- \$10 million appropriated for a memorial pedestrian bridge at Milby High School
- Approves TXDOT to manage projects on non-state highways

Federal Railroad Awarded \$36.9 for underpass along UPRR West Belt

- Underpasses scheduled to be constructed for York Street crossings and the Commerce Street crossing
Harris County Precinct 2 and City of Houston
- Received \$2 million to study the effects of the East End Train Triangle

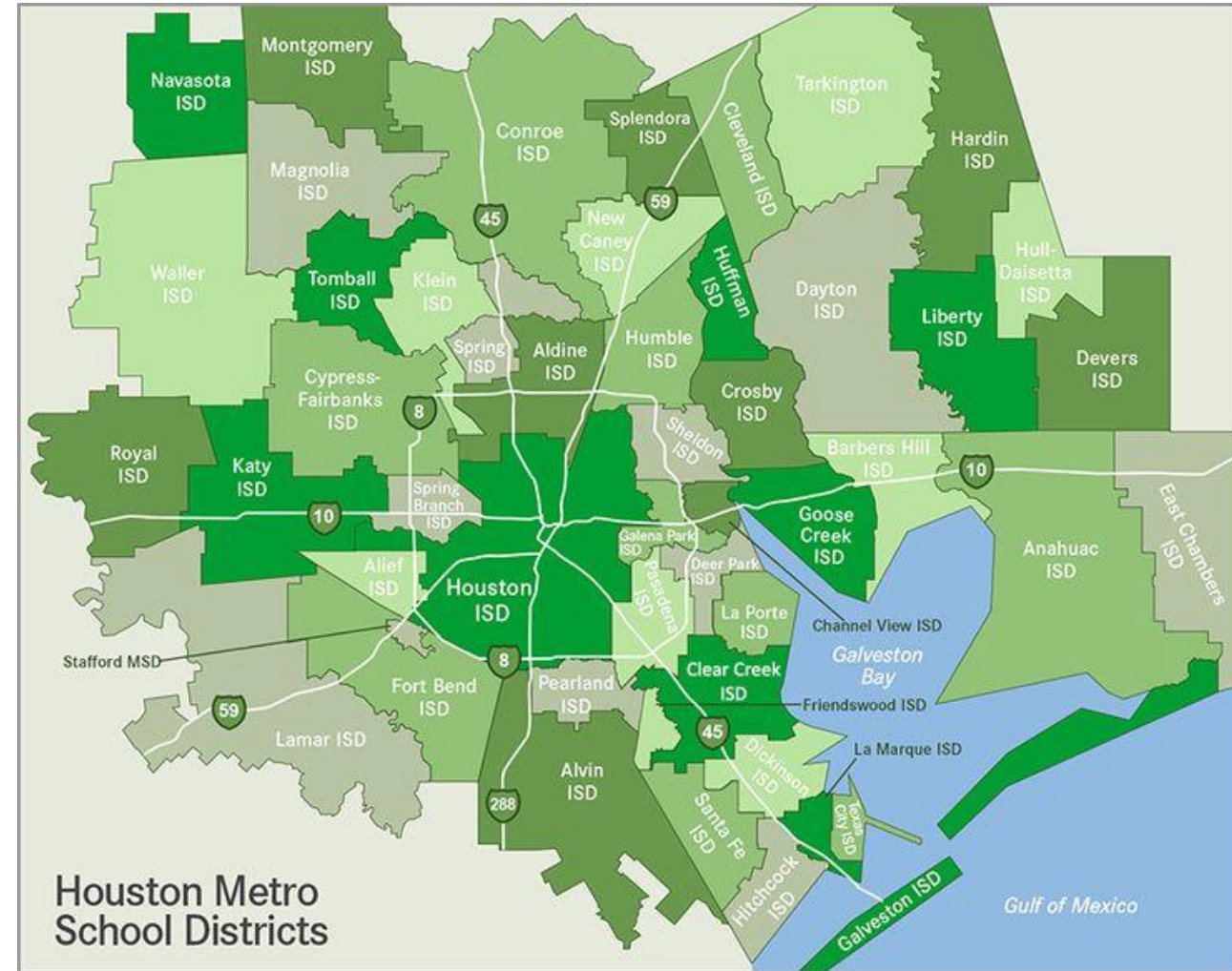
Metro Grade Separation Effort

- Put Lockwood Crossing back on the table for underpass
- Review other "gateway" crossings to the East End
- Leverage funding to improve Preemption Data



Community Safety Strategy

- East End Safe Streets
 - Transportation Safety Coordinator
 - Assess needs, concerns, and guide resources to schools, clinics, and community centers
- Railroad Safety Outreach
 - UPRR
 - BNSF
 - PTRR
 - CPKC



[Report a Blocked Crossing \(Link To FRA Blocked Crossing Dashboard\)](#)

ANTOINE STREET

Blockage Start: 07:18

Blockage End: 08:19

Blockage Start: 13:21

Blockage End: 14:22

FONDREN ROAD

Last Blockage: 10:40

Duration: 4 minutes

HILLCROFT AVENUE

Last Blockage: 10:37

Duration: 4 minutes

CHIMNEY ROCK BOAT

Last Blockage: 10:35

Duration: 5 minutes

LOCKWOOD DRIVE

Last Blockage: 10:25

Duration: 1 minute

POK STREET

Last Blockage: 10:09

Duration: 33 minutes

SOUTH SHAVER STR

Last Blockage: 10:36

Duration: 2 minutes

POST OAK SOUTHWEST

Last Blockage: 10:29

Duration: 8 minutes

SCOTT STREET

Last Blockage: 10:32

Duration: 3 minutes

GENOA RED BLUE

Last Blockage: 10:32

Duration: 1 minute

BRANTLEY STREET

Last Blockage: 10:27

Duration: 1 minute

- Operation Lifesaver
- Questions about Railroad Operations
- Live Trains Video Feed
- BNSF Web
- CPKC Web
- PTRR Web
- UPRR Web

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- PTRR
- UPRR

Avg. Daily Activation (hr)

Avg. Number of Activatio...

Avg. Activation Duration ...
(Minutes)

UPRR Community Ties Program

- May 2025 – Complete Lawndale to Wayside
- June-July 2025 – start sidewalk list

Date	Location	Description	Blocks	Linear ft	Hours
1/23/2025	5100 to 5200 Lawndale- Southeasterly bound	Clear dirt, muck and debris from bike lane; dispose of debris	2	1,024	5.5
2/13/2025	5300 Lawndale- Southeasterly bound	Clear dirt, muck and debris from bike lane; dispose of debris	1	321	5.5
2/14/2025	5300 Lawndale- Southeasterly bound	Clear dirt, muck and debris from bike lane; dispose of debris	1	302	5.5
3/6/2025	5400 Lawndale- Southeasterly bound	Clear dirt, muck and debris from bike lane; dispose of debris	2	1,197	5.5



Data Convergence

Using FY22 SS4A Funding, Texas A&M School of Public Health and TTI is helping to correlate data content from the:

- FRA Blocked Crossing Report,
- Houston Smart Railroad Project,
- HFD Delay by Train Report

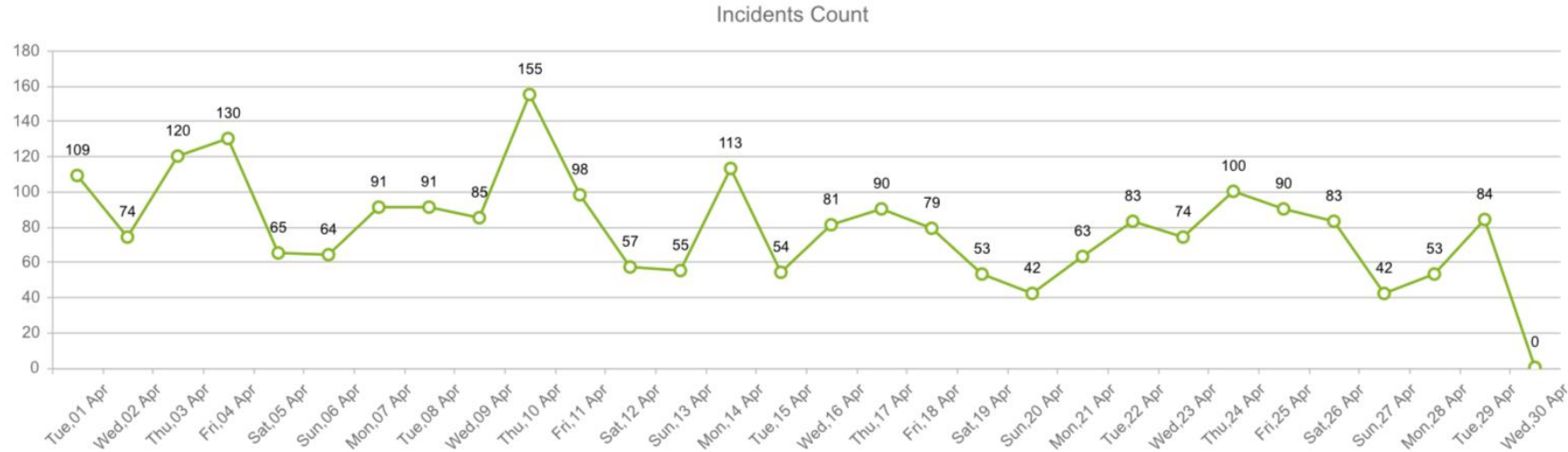
The goal is to identify trends that compound a Stopped Train Event

Evaluating Pedestrian Activity at Crossings



National Blocked Crossing Trends

April 2025



April 2025 – 2,378
March 2025 – 2,486
February 2025-2,015
January 2025 – 1,820

Houston March

- 357-Reported
- 96- Peak Times
- 261– Off Peak

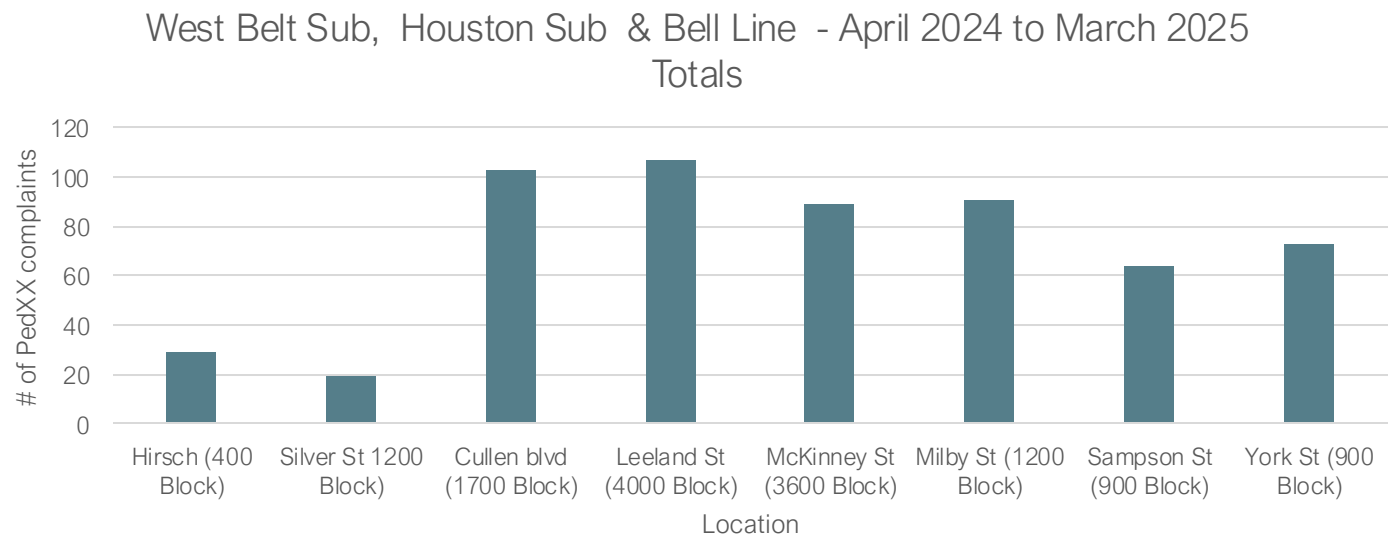
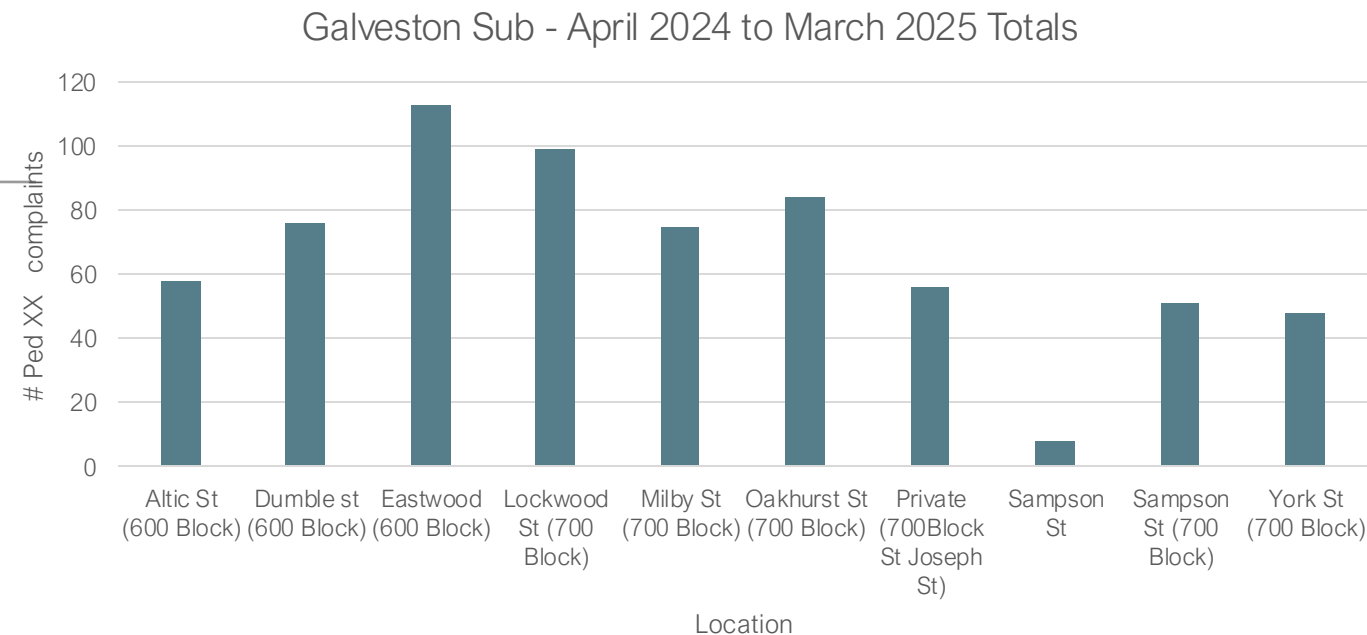
Houston April 25

- 242-Reported
- 41- Peak Times
- 201– Off Peak

FRA Blocked Crossing – Pedestrian/Trespassing Activity

		24-Oct	"Nov 2024	Dec 2024	January-25	Feb 25	March	April-25
location	Street							
859527H	Altic St	1	10	3	3	11	6	1
288221A	Cullen blvd	2	7	5	4	13	9	6
859524M	Dumble st	2	9	4	5	12	4	1
859522Y	Eastwood	3	8	4	7	16	15	8
755640L	Hirsch			2	1	1	0	0
288224V	Leeland St	3	7	5	4	13	10	1
859523F	Lockwood St	2	10	6	5	13	9	1
288227R	McKinney St	3	7	4	4	11	8	2
859518J	Milby St		12	5	7	11	13	8
288226J	Milby St	3	6	5	4	13	9	2
859521S	Oakhurst St	1	9	5	8	10	13	8
859519R	St. Joseph (Private)		2	4	8	12	9	7
859516V	Sampson St		2	3	9	9	9	8
288229E	Sampson St	2		2	3	10	6	2
758545B	Silver St		3	1	0		0	0
288228X	York St	2	6	2	4	11	6	2
859517C	York St		2	2	7	8	8	8

Pedestrian Activity Trend Analysis



East Houston Sensor Activity April 2025

April 2025	Daily Crossing Occupancy	Average Occupancy	Total over 1 hour	Longest Occupancy
Validated: Smart Crossing Technology				
Commerce St	26	9min	4	1.6 Hr 4/25/25 @ 12:24 AM
Hirsch Rd	7	25 min	13	3.1 Hr 4/10/25 @ 11:21PM
Leeland/cullen	26	9min	13	2.1 H 4/12/25 @ 3:45 PM
Lockwood St	9	10 min	1	1.1 Hr 4/4/25 @ 7:30 AM
Market(5900)	17	12 min	11	1.9 Hr 4/26/25 @ 6:37 AM
Polk (5400)	24	3 min	1	1.6 Hr 4/5/25 @ 12:18 AM
York St	10	12 min	3	3.6 Hr 4/27/24@9:43 pm
Un-Verified: Traffic Signal Preemption Data				
Airport Blvd	8	28 min	9	22.0 Hr 4/10/25 @ 11:59AM
Broadway St	4	32 min	2	24.3 Hrs 4/30/25 @ 3:41 AM
Lawndale St	3	11 min	2	4.5 Hr 4/22/25 @ 9:50 AM
South 75th St	n/a			
South Wayside	3	5 min	0	.18 Hr 4/1/25 @ 11:28 PM

*Traffic Signal Preemption –relies on non-sensor data collected at the Traffic Signal Box; track shunting activity could affect time of occupancy

East Houston Sensor Activity -Response Analysis April 2025

Stopped Train Events (Greater than 1-hour)	
Total Operating Practices	7
Local Switching	1
Total Train Meets	6
PTC Challenge	32
Emergency Event	2
Trespassing Activity	4
BNSF Territory (no-response)	8
Maintenance	1
Total During Times	16
Total During Off Peak Times	49

*Traffic Signal Preemption –relies on non-sensor data collected at the Traffic Signal Box; track shunting activity could affect time of occupancy

Houston Fire Department Delays by Train Report

	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025
Total Events Reported	101	86	127	142
Stopped Train	66	54	73	86
Total Slow Train	35	30	51	51
Other	0	2	0	5
Total Impacts to EED	21	18	12	24
% impact to EED	21%	21%	9.45%	16.90%

FY22 EED Safety Action Plan – Ends July 2025

FY24 EED Supplemental Planning and Demonstration - \$895,000

FY24 Houston HFD Post Crash Care - \$3.4 Million

FY25 Houston EMS - Ambulatory Whole Blood Storage Project



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- Tentative for July 22-23, 2025
 - Public And Private Sector Safety Professionals
 - Review Best Practices related to Road and Rails Safety Programs in the Houston-Harris County Area
 - Develop a process for managing railroad safety efforts similar to Chicago CREATE



Thank You
