



Rail Safety Task Force

October 2025

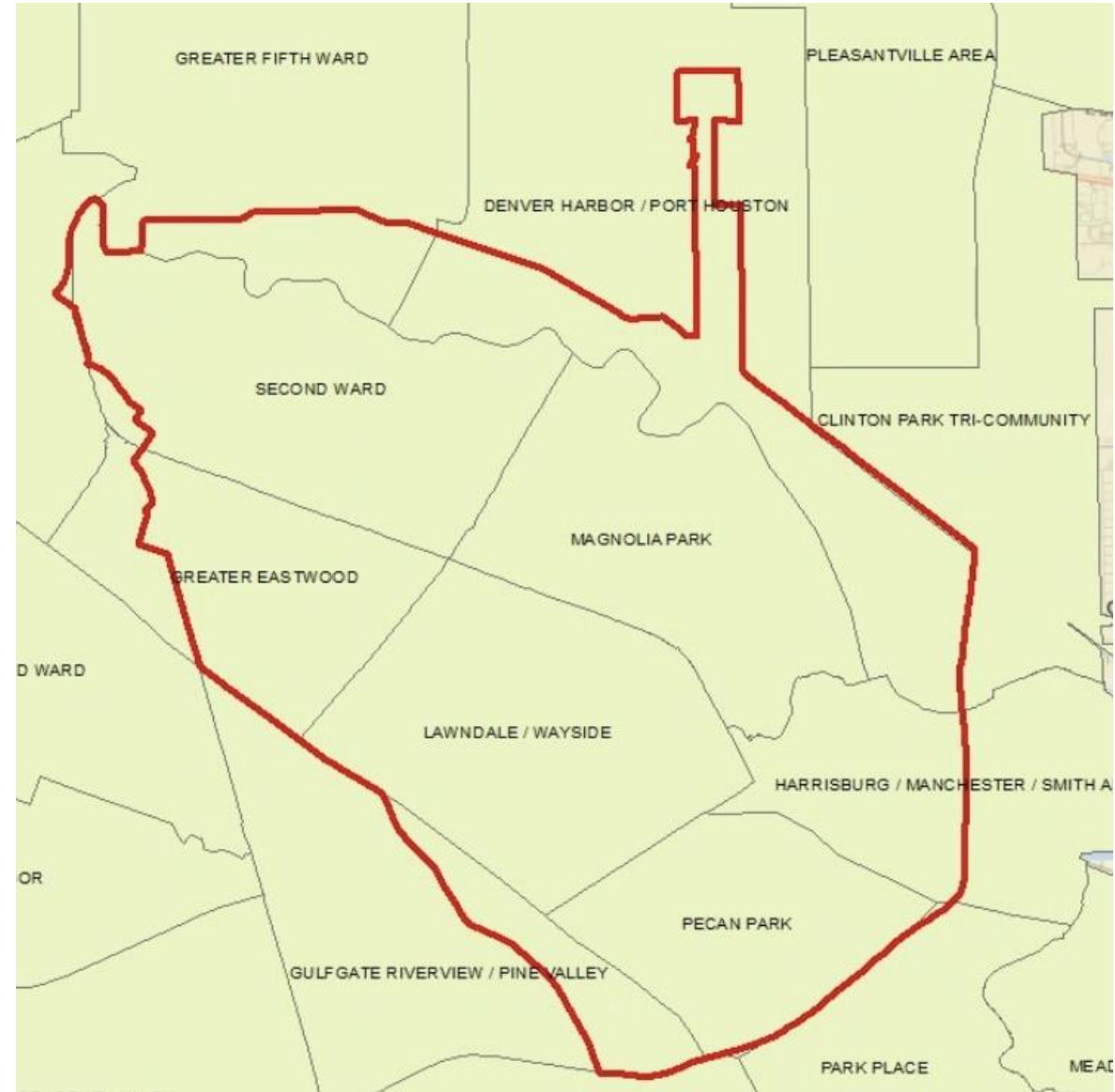
Jack C. Hanagriff, Director
Transportation Safety Services

Trinity Parker, Project Manager
Safe Streets Project

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:

- October 6, 2025 – Stopped Train Event (Market/McReynolds)
- October 3, 2025 – Stopped Train Event (San Felipe)
- August 19-October 2025 –East Belt Maintenance
- June 5, 2025 – Congestion Multiple crossings and corridors affected due to track damage
- June 3, 2025 – Derailment (Non-Hazmat/No Injuries)



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

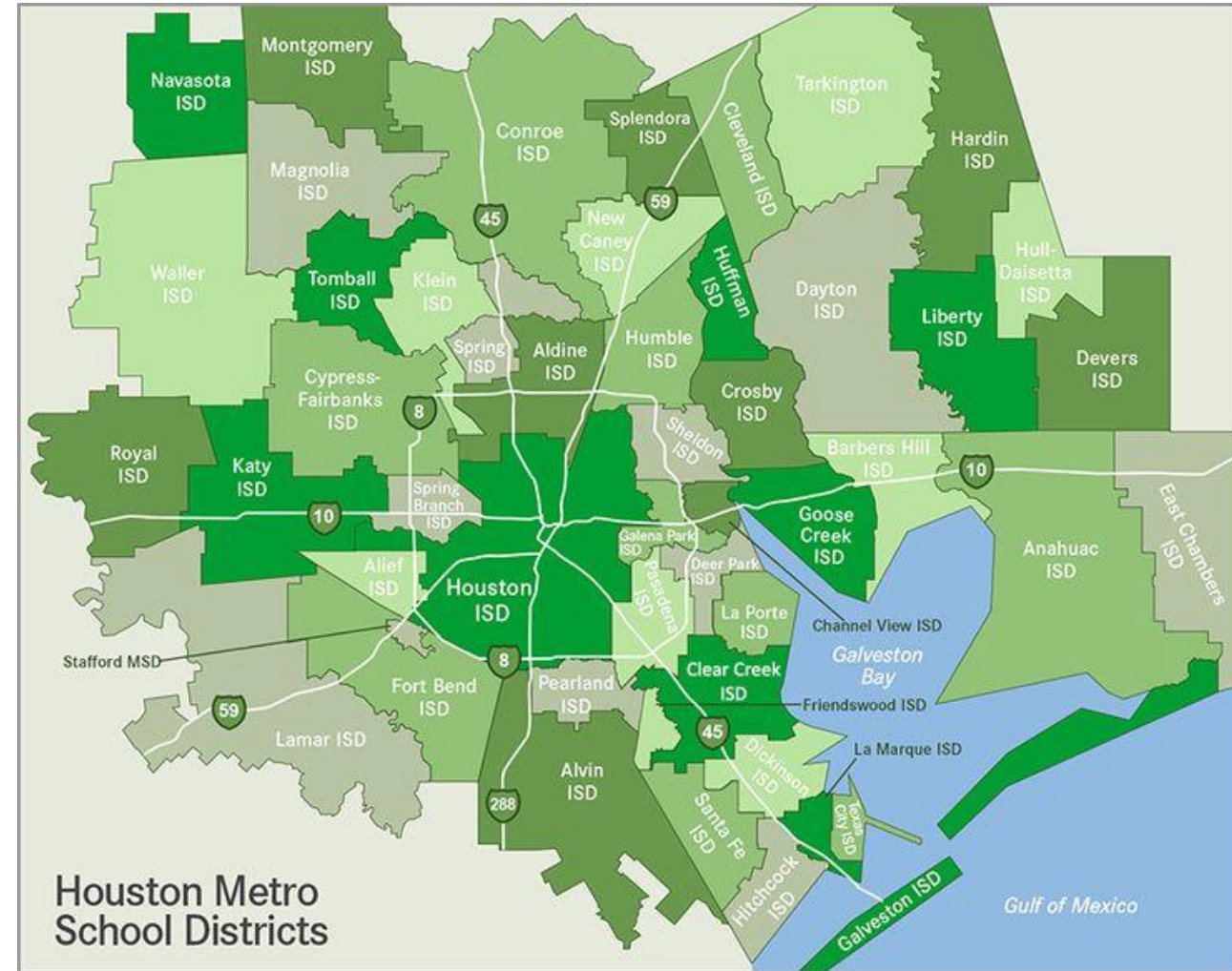
- Underpasses scheduled to be constructed for York Street crossings and the Commerce Street crossing
Harris County Precinct 2 and City of Houston
- Received \$2 million to study the effects of the East End Train Triangle

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



Data Convergence

Texas A&M School of Public Health and the Texas Transportation Institute supported the East End District to develop a process to correlate data content from the:

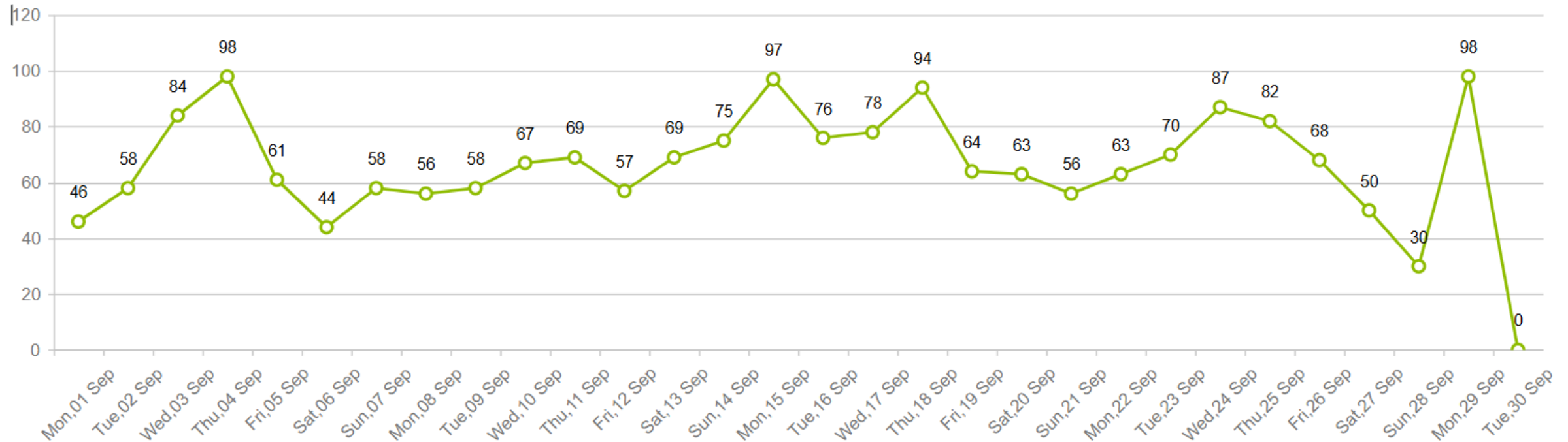
- FRA Blocked Crossing Report,
- Houston Smart Railroad Project,
- HFD Delay by Train Report

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



National Blocked Crossing Trends

September 2025



September 2025- 1,976

August 2025 – 2,206

July 2025 – 2,418

June 2025 -1,900

May 2025- 1,912

East Houston Sensor Activity September 2025

September 2025	▼ Daily Crossing Occupancy ▼	Average Occupancy ▼	Total > 1 hour ▼	Longest Occupancy ▼	location of longest occupancy ▼
Validated: Smart Crossing Technology					
Commerce St	27	9 min	3	1.78 Hr 9/6/25 @ 5:31 AM	288129A
Hirsch Rd	8	28 min	34	2.97 Hr 9/19/25 @ 8:35 AM	755640L
Leeland/cullen	28	9 min	9	9.32 Hr 9/28/25@2:47 AM	288224V
Lockwood St	9	10 min	1	1.57 Hr 9/18/25 @ 1:23 PM	859523F
Market(5900)	14	13 min	8	1.57 Hr 9/9/25 @ 8:58 PM	755709E
Polk (5400)	9	10 min	7	3.52 Hr 9/21/25 @10:33 PM	288039B
York St	4	9 min	1	1.96 Hr 9/18/25 @ 10:29 PM	859517C

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 EED Supplemental Planning Bike/Ped Access -2nd Ward



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- July 23-24, 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
