

Over \$140 million has been spent on upgrading more than 1,340 rail grade crossing locations throughout the Commonwealth since inception of the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1973.⁹ During 2017, Virginia anticipates spending approximately \$4.0 million, mostly to upgrade active warning devices. Projects funded during 2015-2016, along with the total capital investment for each year's projects, include:

- 2015/2016 (\$3.95 million) – 20 total projects:
 - 10 projects upgrading crossings with only flashing light signals to flashing light/gate arm crossings
 - 10 projects upgrading continuous warning device circuitry on crossings protected by flashing light signals and gate arms

Appendix E contains a listing of major Section 130 projects in Virginia.

Beyond highway-rail crossing safety improvements, DRPT identified specific goals for rail safety and estimated the costs for achieving these goals. These are identified in **Chapter 5** of the Virginia State Rail Plan.

4.6 State-Sponsored Rail Investment Programs

The state-sponsored rail programs identified in this chapter are consistent with VTrans2040, which underscores the idea that potential changes in catalytic factors, such as major economic generators, freight movement, household characteristics, land development patterns, transportation technology, and the natural environment, will require a transportation system that is developed with these factors in mind.¹⁰

In Virginia, the state-sponsored rail investment programs are led by DRPT, with the CTB allocating state funds for the programs. Freight rail funding includes improvements for Virginia's Class I railroads (CSX and NS), nine shortline railroads, the Virginia Port Authority, and businesses expanding or locating on the railroad network. In addition to improving freight capacity, DRPT works to preserve existing freight capacity when accommodating new passenger rail services.¹¹

⁹ http://www.virginiadot.org/business/HSIP_Implementation_Manual_060315.docx

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/rail/rail-overview/>



