



The Capitol Report: Sept. 4th, 2002
Provided by The Georgia Railroad Association
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Grade crossing criteria still being worked out.

Last week representatives from DOT, cities, counties and railroads met to continue work on the development of criteria for maintenance and elimination of railroad grade crossings, as required by the legislation passed during the 2002 legislative session. The following is the draft proposal of rules for DOT to use for maintenance criteria:

- (a) The crossing shall be constructed of any paved or panelized crossing surface material compatible with the current practices of the involved railroad, or of such material as the Department may require.
- (b) Specifications and plans concerning the crossing surface material and use shall comply with the manufacturer's recommendations and the involved railroad's current standards and specifications and Department specifications.
- (c) On all tangent crossings vertical elevations of asphalt, concrete and/or timbers shall not exceed (1) inch plus or minus of rail elevations except where track and roadway geometry will not allow.
- (d) Voids in asphalt approaches, timber guards, asphalt or concrete between rails shall not exceed two (2) inch vertical depression, three (3) inch horizontal depression, (3) inch in width.
- (e) Crossings with variable elevations of rail and roadway are considered exceptions and will require an individual engineering analysis.
- (f) Roadway signing and pavement markings will be in accordance with the MUTCD.

The draft criteria above are being circulated for comment. Comments can be sent to Donnie Murphy, State Utilities Liaison Engineer at Donnie.Murphy@dot.state.ga.us

Over the summer, a working group has examined several crossings in various parts of the state to gather information that could be used to establish criteria for grade-crossing maintenance. Members of the working group found this to be a challenging task. The Georgia Railroad Association was represented on this working group by personnel from Heart of Georgia Railroad and CSX Transportation.

Criteria for elimination of railroad grade crossings are not yet complete. They should be completed by the next meeting scheduled for September 25th.

Dates set for GRA Fall Meeting.

The fall GRA meeting has been scheduled for November 11 & 12 and will be held in Americus, GA. We have planned an excursion ride, golf and dinner at the historic

Windsor Hotel. Legislators will be invited so please encourage yours to attend. More details about registration will be sent out soon and will also be available on our website.

Reminders...

- You are urged to attend the SSLRC meeting in Nashville at the end of this month.
- If you have any updates or changes in your company please let us know so that we can update the website accordingly.

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