

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

For a comprehensive resource of railroad operating rules refer to www.sdrm.org/faqs/rulebook/. A glossary at the end of the site provides definitions for commonly used railroad operating terms.

A comprehensive glossary of railroad track and structure terms is available at the Division of Transportation Infrastructure Development, Railroad and Harbors Section dotnet site. Should you not have access to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation dotnet site, please contact the Railroad and Harbors Section Railroad Project Engineer at (608) 266-0233 to obtain a copy of this document.

<u>TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
AAR	Association of American Railroads
Advance Pre-emption	Notification of an approaching train that is forwarded to the highway traffic signal controller by the railroad equipment for a period of time prior to the activation of the railroad crossing warning devices.
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
AFO	Audio frequency overlay; type of signal circuit for flashing light signals.
AREMA	American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association
Alteration	The action or procedure to change or shift a highway railroad crossing, (also see S.195.29 W.S.). An alteration occurs if: a crossing is relocated; the number of traffic lanes is increased; the highway grade requires a raising or lowering of the track by 6 inches or more.
At grade Crossing	Highway and railroad crossing each other at the same plane.
BSHP	Bureau of State Highway Programs
BFS	Bureau of Financial Services
BHD	Bureau of Highway Development
Clear Storage Distance	The shortest distance between the intersection STOP BAR and a point 8'-6" from the centerline of the nearest track as measured perpendicular to the track. Ideally, this distance should exceed 80 feet.
Continuing Contract	A written agreement or contract between two-parties for service at prearranged conditions and prices on an as needed basis over a specified period of time.
Constant Warning Time Circuitry	Circuitry of a railroad crossing warning device system that includes a predictor unit to provide the same amount of time between the time the warning devices are activated and the time a train arrives at the crossing, regardless of the train speed. This time is usually between 20 and 30 seconds.
Design Vehicle	The longest vehicle permitted without a special permit on the roadway in question.
Devils Strip Area	Area between multiple tracks requiring special attention for adequate asphalt compaction.
Engineering Citation	The auditor's statement for "without profit" railroad's claim for reimbursement work or expense that is either not deemed to be included in the project agreement or not properly authorized.
Exposure Factor	The product of the roadway ADT times the average trains per day (generally over a 30-day period). Computed for both the existing and design year.
Fee Simple Title	Ownership of land without limitation or restrictions on transfer or assignment of interests.
Flagging	Services provided by the railroad at a construction site to assure the safety of train operations.
Force Work Agreement	A contract to have certain railroad work performed by railroad employees at cost and without profit
Federal Aid (FA)	Dollars allocated to the State of Wisconsin by the federal government for the financing of improvements to the highway system.

FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIIPS	Financial Integrated Improvement Program System
Highway Easement	Partial rights in land for construction, operation and maintenance of a highway.
Interlocker	A system of tracks and signals designed to prevent simultaneous train movements on conflicting routes.
Isolated Projects	Projects involving only a crossing, and not part of a highway improvement project
LED	Light Emitting Diode. A type of lamp unit.
Limited Easement	Partial rights in land for a specified highway purpose, such as cut and fill slopes, drainage, etc. It may be temporary or permanent.
Motion Detector Circuitry	Circuitry of a railroad crossing warning device system to activate when a train moves toward the crossing and terminates when the train stops or moves away from the crossing.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MUTCD	Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
OCR	Office of the Commissioner of Railroads
Overpass	A grade separation structure with the highway over the railroad.
PMM	Program Management Manual
RHS	Railroad and Harbors Section
RRC	Regional Railroad Coordinator
Rail/Highway Crossing Project Review Committee	Certain WisDOT central office staff primarily from DTID and DTIM who review all project requests and recommendations for inclusion in the WisDOT Safety Program. The Committee determines the eligibility of projects for funding; allocates available funds to eligible projects; resolves and formalizes annual future year programs of projects.
Rail Weight	The weight of a one yard section of rail; weight is embossed on the web portion of the rail.
Railroad Crossing Improvement	Changes or additions that improve the safety and/or operation of a railroad highway crossing.
Railroad Crossing Repair	To restore a railroad crossing to a safe and sound condition by appropriate maintenance through adjustment or replacement of its parts.
Roadway	Highway travel lanes, shoulders and sidewalks.
Roundel	The curved glass used in a railroad crossing signal also referred to as a lens.
Shoo fly (Run around)	A temporary railroad track constructed to route trains around a construction site.
STB	Surface Transportation Board. A part of the federal government that has authority over rail abandonments.
Stipulation	A broad, conceptual agreement, which may require a later more detailed contract or agreement. An agreement to agree subject to approval of the OCR.
Structure Name	The designated name for a structure, usually the name of the street or highway, the locality or adjacent property owner.
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program (of the MPO)
Tied Projects	A crossing project that is a part of (or tied to) a highway improvement project.
Underpass	A grade separation structure with the highway under the railroad
W.S.	Wisconsin Statutes
Wig Wag	A type warning device at a highway/railroad crossing installed in the 1950's or earlier. It represented a flagman swinging a lantern.