Rail crossing traveler information system: City of Vancouver case study





Corvallis, Oregon March 5, 2024



Outline

I: Introduction

II: Traffic delays at Venables St rail crossing

III: Implementing a traveler information system

IV: Learnings

V: Conclusion



I: Introduction





II: Traffic Delays at Venables Rail Crossing





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Train sensor in public ROW

Sensors installed within 100 ft of crossing & off rail ROW

Cloud-based data analysis

Predict blockages up to 10 minutes before train arrives

Integration into existing systems

Information delivered to traffic management centers, roadside signs, and emergency dispatchers









Train sensor at Venables St rail crossing





Dynamic message sign on Hastings St





Rail crossing information dashboard & analytics







	Hours of Delay	Vehicles Delayed
Before	7,507	180,660
After		
Change		



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After	5,275	140,519
Change		



	Hours of Delay	Vehicles Delayed
Before	7,507	180,660
After	5,275	140,519
Change	-2,232	-40,141
	-30%	-22%



	Grade Separation	Traveler Information
Cost over 25 years	\$125,000,000	\$300,000



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Cost per 1 hr delay reduction	\$109.59	\$0.87





Poor quality sensors require frequent resetting in the field

Choose your Bluetooth sensor provider carefully to minimize O&M costs. Choose your signs & driver messaging carefully

Match the sign type & size to the message type & length to minimize driver confusion.

Signs support broader information approaches

This solution provides the foundation to support in-vehicle messaging & CV/AV operations.



V: Conclusion

- Increasing train & traffic volumes are decreasing mobility & safety at rail crossings
- Rail crossing traveler information systems improve mobility & safety
 - 30% reduction in traffic delays
 - 22% reduction in vehicle interactions with trains
 - 125x more cost-effective than grade separation
- TRAINFO expanding to other crossings in Vancouver & surrounding areas
- Contact us to learn how FHWA Section 130 funding can cover 100% of the cost of a rail crossing traveler information system





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