

## BlackCat Rail

### Rail Data Management System for State DOTs and FRA Compliance

The US freight rail network is the largest in the world, with nearly 140,000 route miles, and moves over 28 billion ton-miles of freight each year. With an aging infrastructure and America's growing reliance on out-of-state and overseas goods, the State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) or State Utilities and rail safety programs are under growing pressure to manage railroad crossing data with greater accuracy, visibility, and coordination. As incidents rise and federal reporting requirements evolve, it's critical to replace fragmented systems and paper forms with a unified, real-time data platform.

In 2024, there were 2,252 rail transportation occurrences (accidents and incidents). Managing the safety, data, and reporting associated with railroad crossings requires accurate and up-to-date sharing of information among multiple stakeholders. Unfortunately, many state DOTs and rail agencies still rely on outdated tools to maintain crossing records or submit reports to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Crossing data may be stored across email chains, spreadsheets, or siloed databases, making it difficult to visualize risks, prioritize projects, or ensure FRA compliance. Without a centralized system, collaboration is delayed, and oversight becomes reactive instead of strategic.

For rail safety planners, analysts, project managers, and specialists, a centralized, integrated solution is essential

for managing the complexities of crossing safety while ensuring ongoing compliance with federal rail regulations. An effective platform should consolidate all data, documentation, and communication into a single, user-friendly interface. Critical features include the ability to track location details, ownership, and precise latitude and longitude coordinates for accurate Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping. It should also support year-over-year tracking of crossing statistics to monitor trends and identify safety risks. Additionally, the system must streamline reporting by offering pre-formatted templates and enabling the direct electronic submission of updates—such as the U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form—to the FRA, significantly reducing administrative burden and improving data accuracy.

BlackCat Rail is a purpose-built data management system that centralizes all highway-rail crossing-related information—location, classification, control devices, highway information, incidents, and project financials—into a single, user-friendly platform. Designed for state agencies, it supports compliance with direct U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form submittals. Robust GIS mapping integration, historical photo libraries, and advanced search tools enable users to visualize locations and filter data by geographical parameters, railroad, crossing type, status, purpose, or position. Diagnostic tools and report templates streamline planning, enhance safety decisions, and improve coordination with railroads and federal partners.



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**40+**

Implementations  
across 27 states



## Key Features

**Crossing Inventory:** Detailed crossing data including location, railroad ownership & usage, traffic control devices, incidents, and highway information and data.

**FRA Submittals:** Direct electronic filing of the U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form via FRA's Grade Crossing Inventory System (GCIS).

**Search:** Search with advanced filters by county, district, railroad operator, and more.

**Statistics & Reporting:** Graphical reports for crossing trends, diagnostic reviews, and incidents.

**Project Tracking:** Track project scope, obligated funds, estimates, drawdowns, and completion status.

**Document Library:** Central storage for agreements, field review photos, and historic crossing documentation.

### Benefits:

- Centralizes rail data management across projects, crossings, and safety reviews in one platform
- Ensures compliance with FRA standards and streamline U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form submissions
- Visualizes crossing safety using advanced search tools, and graphical reports
- Improves coordination between DOTs, railroads, and federal partners with shared, up-to-date information
- Accelerates project planning with access to historical agreements and incident data
- Replaces outdated tools and spreadsheets with a secure, cloud-based solution tailored for public rail programs

## Why BlackCat Rail?

- ✓ **Designed for State DOTs:** Supports federal and state rail programs with intuitive, role-based tools.
- ✓ **Streamlined FRA Compliance:** Meet electronic submittal standards with confidence.
- ✓ **Centralized Coordination:** Improve collaboration between agencies, railroads, and consultants.
- ✓ **Modern Interface:** Easy access, editing, and updates via a secure cloud-based platform.
- ✓ **Data Transparency:** Replace silos with shared visibility for all rail stakeholders.