BUILDING EFFECTIVE
Public Advocacy Organizations

Twenty Years of the
DuPage Railroad Safety Council

Dr. Lanny F. Wilson, M.D.
Chairman
DuPage Railroad Safety Council

Mission:
Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
WHY the DRSC?

The DuPage Railroad Safety Council exists because Jonathon Goers was so severely injured and Lauren Elizabeth Wilson was later killed at a quiet little railroad crossing in Hinsdale, Illinois. On the stage of life, history has assigned them each the role of inspirer.

MISSION:

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
WHO/WHAT is the DRSC?

VISION:

- Create a culture of collaboration with partners in safety to accomplish our mission.
- The work which we inspire extends beyond the borders of DuPage County.
- The railroad safety improvements and awareness we seek have national and global implications.

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
WORKING together

EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

- The DRSC is more than just one person. DRSC is a group of people.
- People come and go and as new people emerge the group’s energy is churned and re-invigorated.
- We have a consistent core of about 25 people.

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.

DuPage Railroad Safety Council
PEOPLE principles

• A broad range of *perspectives* are voiced in a cooperative and *collegial* manner.

• A good mix of *personalities* enables a well rounded discussion and approach to challenges.

• We strive for a balanced perspective:
  • cost/benefit
  • public/private
  • heart/head

*Prevent deaths and injuries* at railroad crossings and along railways.
We are: rail fans, rail professionals, public health workers, families of those who have been injured or killed in train incidents, vendors, academics, government people, police, educators, legislators, etc.

All this talent helps build effective dialog.
A number of similar organizations have come and gone regionally and nationally for a variety of unknown reasons.

What has made DRSC stand the test of time?
- Reliable leadership, infrequent changes in the Board of Directors
- Consistency every 3rd Saturday (meetings begin and end on time)
- Biennial Conferences
- Tax-deductible, 501(C)3 organization
- Non-partisan approach to problem-solving
Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks

1996 – Railroad Crossing Safety Summit
1998 – Today’s Success...Tomorrow’s Challenge
2000 – Countdown to Zero in the New Millennium
2002 – High Speed Rail (Overcoming the Barriers)
2004 – The Chicago Connection
2006 – Teaming Up for Pedestrian Safety
2008 – Promoting Sealed Corridors
2010 – New Frontiers in Rail Travel: Environmental and Safety Implications
2012 – Safety is Good Business
2014 – GLXS International Symposium

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
Prevent tragedy on the tracks

Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks

Safety is Good Business

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
SUCCESS stories

- Winfield Pedestrian Underpass
- Wheaton Pedestrian Overpass
- Western Springs Pedestrian Underpass
- Belmont Road Grade Separation
- DeLarco Foundation – River Grove (2/23/04)
- UP West Line – Another Train Warning System
- Victor’s Crossing – Glenview (5/25/04)

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
SUCCESS stories

- Encouragement of Crossing Closures
- Photo Enforcement Pilot Program
- Ravinia Park Pedestrian Underpass
- Crossing Violation Fine Levels ($500 or $250?)
- Hinsdale – Monroe Street 4-Quad Project

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
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WHEATON:
1995 to 2007

LORI MOST Pedestrian Bridge over the UP West Line

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
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BELMONT ROAD: BEFORE

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
RIVER GROVE: 2004 - 2010

BEFORE AND AFTER
Removal of Ped Crossings

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
RIVER GROVE:
continued

- Pedestrian Gates Installed
- Pathway Defined
- Far Side Devices Relocated

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
ANOTHER
train warning system

Maywood, Melrose Park, Elmhurst, Villa Park, Glen Ellyn, College Avenue, Winfield and Geneva stations

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.

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Union Pacific
DuPage Railroad Safety Council
The education-ticketing event, held in May in commemoration of the death of Victor Olivera, 11 is in its ninth year.

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
Embracing the new helps maintain enthusiasm and energy. Is it time for more Es, in addition to the traditional focus? (education, engineering, and enforcement)

- Evaluation
- Encouragement
- Emergency Response
- Elimination of Crossings
PREVENT DEATHS AND INJURIES
at railroad crossings and along railways.

4-Quad Gates High Speed Line @ Odell
PROMOTION of innovation

Pedestrian Signage at Galewood Metra Station

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
PROMOTION of innovation

Marquette Road Chicago 4-Quad & Pedestrians

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
PROMOTION of innovation

Yield Crossbuck Upgrade

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
PARTNERSHIP
with:

Metra
- John Zediker – DuPage County Representative
- Don Orseno – Executive Director
- Hilary Konczal – Safety Officer Administrator

DuPage Public Transit Committee
- Liz Chaplin – Chairwoman
- John Noel (in memoriam)

Law Enforcement
Industry
Illinois Commerce Commission
Operation Life-Saver

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
PARTNERSHIP
with law enforcement

Prevent deaths and injuries
at railroad crossings and along railways.
DO NO HARM!

DRSC cannot be successful if alienating the different components of the rail industry. Rail carriers, vendors and the governmental agencies that regulate and promote the industry are all welcome at DRSC.

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
SAFER
for everyone

- We want to make the industry safer for everyone: highway users, rail customers, employees and the public in general.

- We want to learn and put that education to use...helping to avoid repeats of tragic incidents.
We appreciate that changing minds is not an easy thing to do, but we are encouraged when our advocacy helps to change minds.

The example of the ICC’s position of pedestrian gates is a good example.
EVOLUTION is key

- Paradigm shifts occur slowly.

**What’s next?**
- Closed corridors on all Metra lines
  - 4 Quadrant Gates at every crossing
    - Pedestrian gates
      - Appropriate fencing
    - Channelization
  - The eternal search for the “low cost” active warning device and lower cost grade separations?
EVOLUTION is key

- Pedestrian bike underpasses/overpasses in every community.
- Suicide prevention.
- We want to work together to promote what offers the best return on investment.
- Industry and government funds are very limited so a targeted deployment at the riskiest locations is desired.

Prevent deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railways.
EVOLOUTION
is key

Prevent deaths and injuries
at railroad crossings and along railways.
WHAT IS NEXT for the DRSC?

- A challenge for us is developing a succession plan (or a transition plan) so that when I retire, the mission of the DRSC continues.

- Having attained 20 years of advocacy, we all want the DRSC to continue this mission as its goal of zero incidents has not yet been met.
CONCLUSION
the job is not done

The DRSC believes we can make zero fatalities a reality...and we look forward to achieving that goal with our partners in safety here and abroad.

Thank you for your kind attention.
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