

# **GLXS 2014**

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## **Global Level Crossing Safety and Trespass Prevention Symposium**

**Hanson Professional Services**



**Aug. 3, 2014**



# RAIL CONSOLIDATION TO ELIMINATE LEVEL CROSSINGS

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## Springfield Rail Improvements Project Springfield Illinois





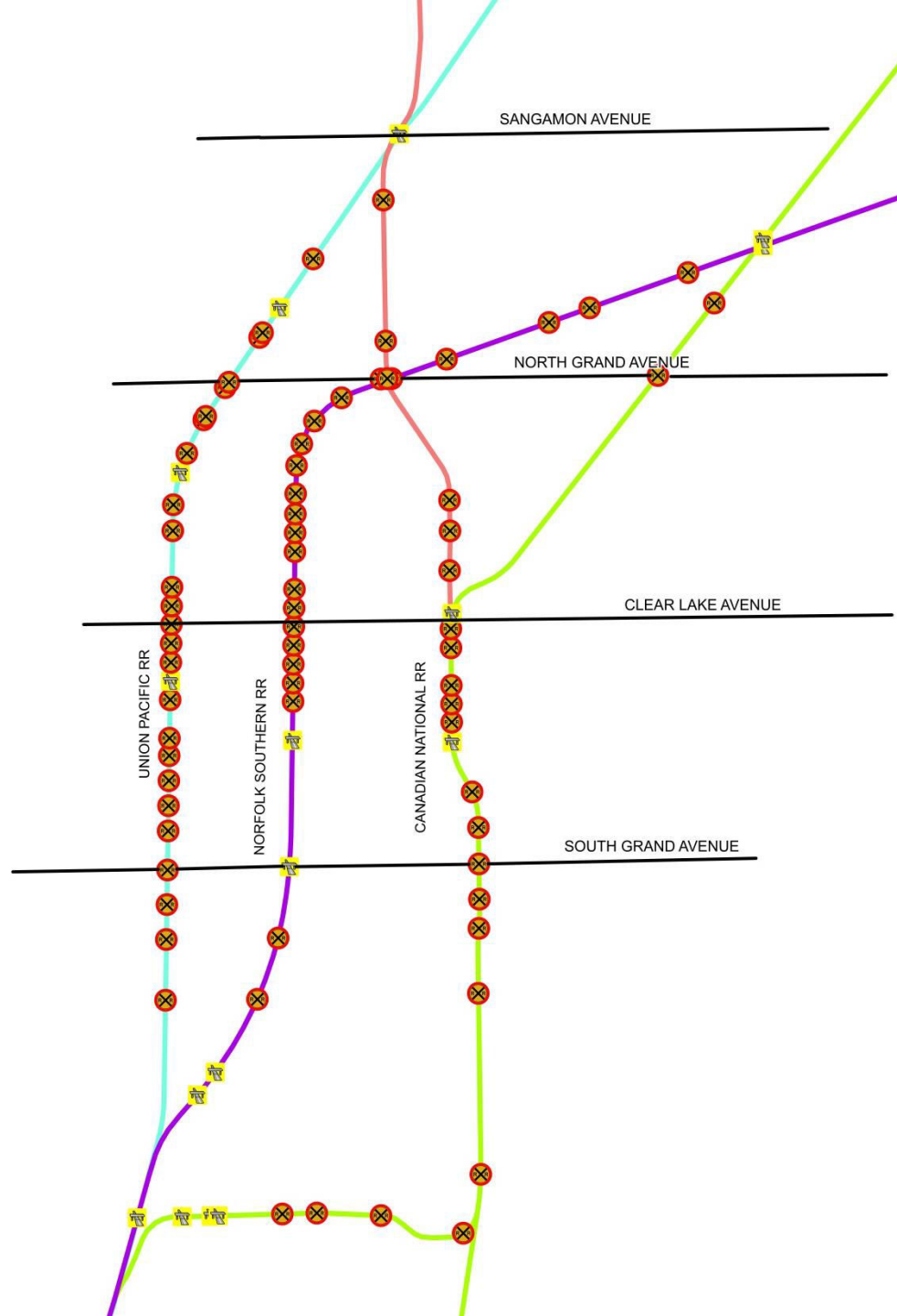
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## Springfield Rail Improvements Project

### Existing Conditions





# PROBLEM STATEMENT

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- **Existing problems**
  - 3 parallel corridors
  - 68 at-grade crossings
- **Changing conditions**
  - Rail traffic will more than double over the next 20 years
  - 40 trains per day on UP will require two tracks
  - Train speeds to double on UP
- **Study objective**
  - Determine best location to accommodate existing and increased rail traffic through Springfield, Ill.











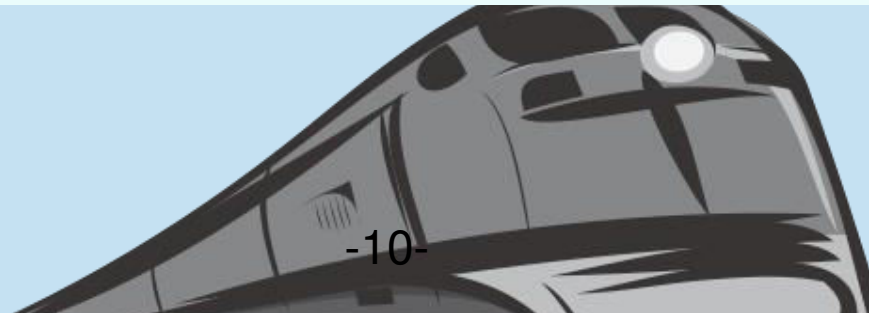








	Current (2010) Rail Traffic	Projected (2030) Rail Traffic (Build)
Union Pacific	10 Passenger 5 Freight	18 Passenger 27 Freight
Norfolk Southern	16 Freight	27 Freight
Canadian National	4 Freight	9 Freight
Total	35 Trains	81 Trains





# VEHICLE DELAY ESTIMATES

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- Constructed a spreadsheet that included each crossing
  - Hourly traffic
  - Crossing blockage time in each hour
- Used the city's traffic model to determine effects of queuing
- Delays are a function of the square of the time the crossing is blocked "T" .



# VEHICLE DELAY ESTIMATES

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- The number of vehicles blocked is the average traffic volume (Vol) multiplied by “T” = (Vol.)(T)
- Average delay per vehicle =  $T/2$
- Total delay =  $(\text{Vol})(T)(T/2) = (\text{Vol})(T^2)$
- A six - minute train causes twice as much delay as two three - minute trains





# VEHICLE DELAYS AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS

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2010

**Total =  
13,800  
vehicle  
minutes**

2030

**Total =  
47,500  
vehicle  
minutes**



# VEHICLE – TRAIN CRASH PREDICTION

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- USDOT crash prediction method
- Illinois DOT Rail – Highway Crossing  
Resource Allocation Procedure
- Estimated crashes per year for each crossing





# VEHICLE – TRAIN CRASHES

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2010

**Total =  
1.58  
crashes /  
year**

2030

**Total =  
2.53  
crashes /  
year**





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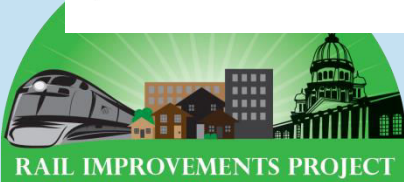
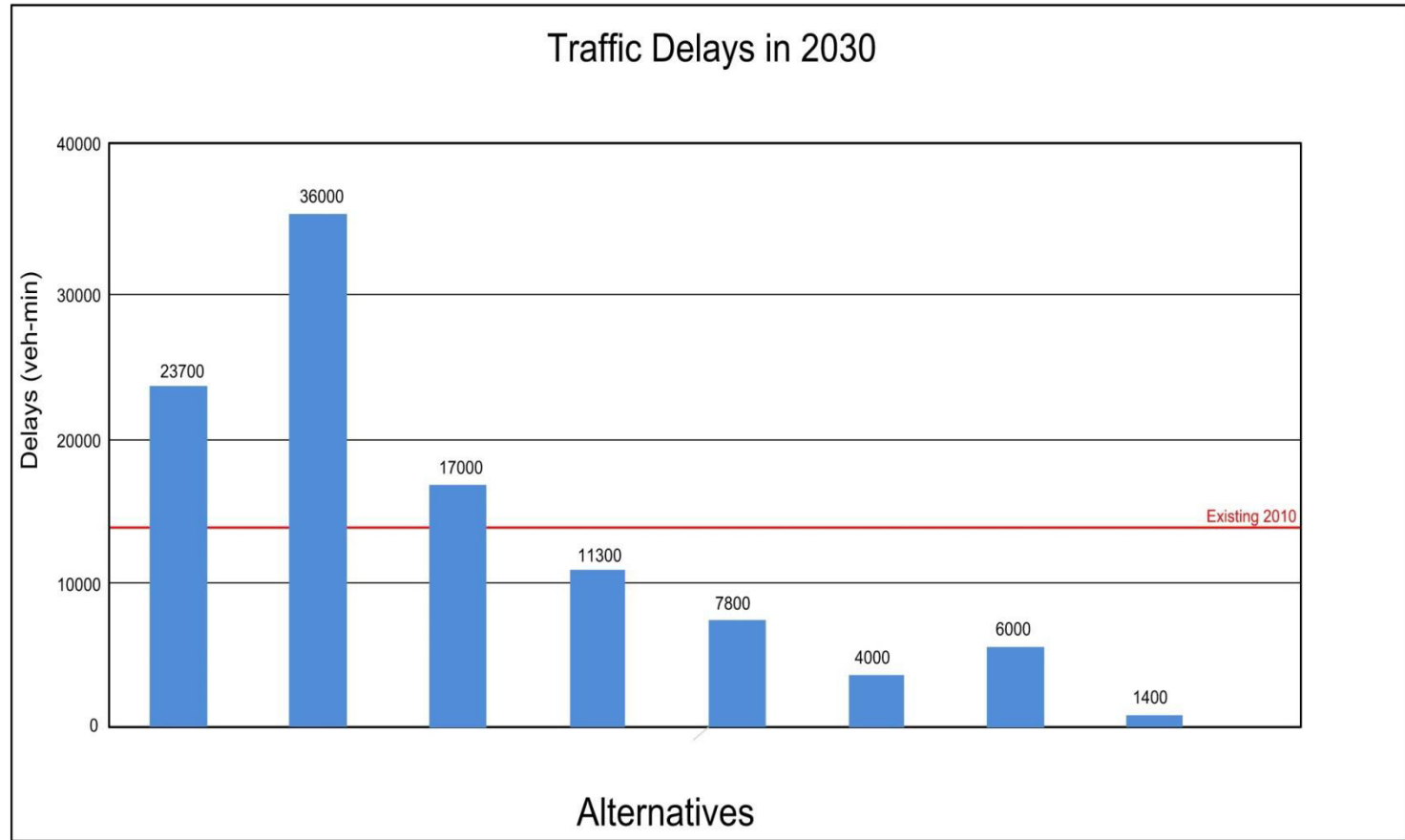


## Springfield Rail Improvements Project

### Existing Conditions

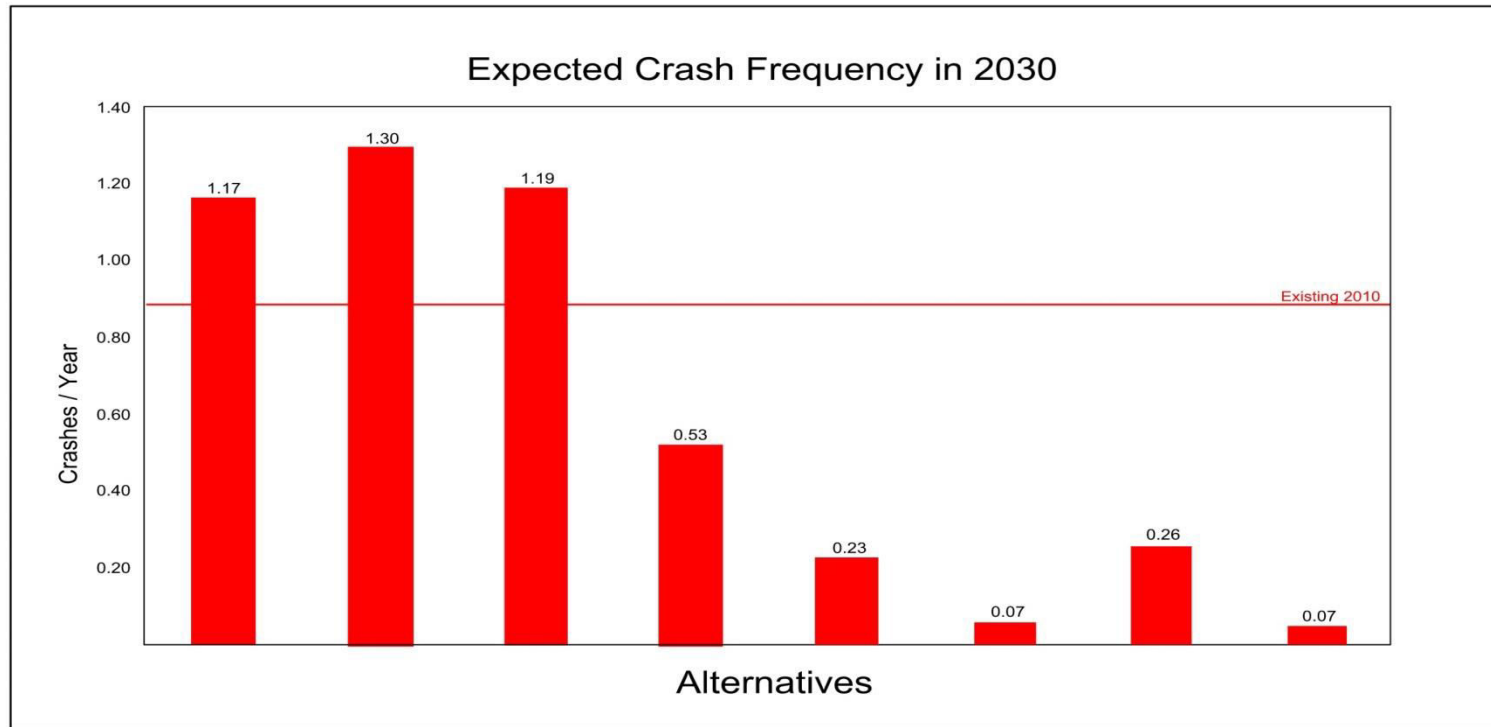


# TRAFFIC DELAYS





# EXPECTED CRASH FREQUENCY



# CONSOLIDATION CAN REDUCE DELAYS AND IMPROVE SAFETY

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- Move tracks to lower traffic corridor
- Double the effectiveness of grade separations or crossing safety improvements



# Engaging the Public





# COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH VEHICLES

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- **Public Engagement Team Developed**

- Informational video
- Web site
- Study newsletter (2)
- Open house postcards
- Open house door hangers
- Open house posters
- Open house fliers
- Traveling kiosks (4)











# Environmental Studies



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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- Community impacts
- Historic structures and archaeological sites
- Noise & vibration analysis
- Section 4(f) impacts
- Special waste sites
- Natural resources





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## Springfield Rail Improvements Project

### Approved Alternative





Estimated Delays in 2030 (Vehicle-Minutes / Day)		
	No-Build	Recommended Alternative
Total	47,500	13,500
Estimated Car-Train Collisions in 2030 (Collisions / Year)		
	No-Build	Recommended Alternative
Total	2.53	0.26



# GRADE SEPARATIONS AT 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET

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# GRADE SEPARATIONS AT 19TH STREET

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# RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

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- Shift UP to new corridor adjacent to NS
- Construct six new grade separations in NS corridor
- Close five crossings in NS corridor
- Build two new grade separations in CN corridor
- Reduce level crossings by 36 from 68 to 32
- Right of way fenced for length of corridor





# RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

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- Total cost \$315 million
- Total displacements 167
- Project built in useable segments
- Carpenter Street underpass is the first useable segment, which begins construction in August 2014
- Future segment depends on funding



