

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
PROGRAM—RAILROAD RESEARCH

A. Statutory or administrative authority for the program

The Secretary of Transportation and his Modal Administrations are legislatively required to promote and undertake research and development relating to transportation and safety of the traveling public and employees. See Public Law 89-670, section 4(a) and 9(q).

B. Output

The FRA fiscal year 1968 appropriation provides for contractual research to deal exclusively with railroad safety matters. Emphasis will be placed on conducting research studies relating to railroad safety. Research studies for fiscal year 1968 are focused mainly on railroad highway grade-crossing technology and development of new railroad accident statistical procedures.

FRA railroad research activities for fiscal year 1968 were (a) Entered into a contract with the States of Maryland and Delaware to develop, test, and install track activated advance warning signals on highway approaches to 20 rail grade crossings located on the high-speed rail corridor between Washington, D.C., and New York. The demonstration project will test the effectiveness of new sophisticated railroad timing circuits and train-activated advance warning signals. Railroad research funds expended for this project are \$50,000, and (b) Entered into a contract, amounting to \$35,000 with the Texas Transportation Institute for a study on the reporting of rail highway grade crossing accident data. FRA review of several studies designed to identify factors which contribute to hazardous conditions at grade crossings reveal that the data reported on the FRA form T. and its supplement, lack adequacy for meaningful accident prevention analysis. An improved data file and reporting form is necessary to be able to conduct accident analysis studies at the national and State level and to better meet legislative responsibilities.

C. Official having direct operational responsibility

The Director of the Office of Policy and Program Analysis has responsibility for the expenditure of rail and research funds.