



# Off-System Rail Grade Separation

Application Consideration and Evaluation Criteria



October 9, 2025

## Application Overview

- The application is fillable and submitted online through TxDOT's Rail Division website.
- There is no limit to the number of projects that project sponsors can submit for this Call for Projects.
- This program does not fund rail capacity improvements or the addition of mass transit infrastructure.

Texas Department of Transportation

Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program

\* indicates a required field.

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*Example application (subject to change before November 3<sup>rd</sup>)*

## Project Information

Must include scope elements if applicable, such as:

- ✓ overpass or underpass designation,
- ✓ bridge length and width,
- ✓ number of vehicle lanes,
- ✓ access surface street details,
- ✓ median width,
- ✓ sidewalk or shared-use path width, and
- ✓ other relevant features






## Application Considerations

**Public Safety:** Describe the **public safety concerns** at the project location and **how the project would address them.**

*Factors: 5-year crash history, other documented safety concerns*

### Additional note for rail-pedestrian grade separation projects:

#### Focus On

-  Bike/ped crash count/rate, safety hazards
-  Existing/planned land uses that generate pedestrian activity, along with associated safety risks and exposure
-  How the project mitigates crash history and addresses documented safety concerns

## Application Considerations (continued)

**Traffic Reduction:** Describe the mobility issues at the project location and how the project addresses those issues or reduces barriers.

*Factors: average annual daily traffic (AADT), mobility issues*

### Additional note for rail-pedestrian grade separation projects:

#### Focus On



Average daily pedestrian and bicyclist users



How the project addresses mobility challenges or reduces barriers for people who walk or bike

## Application Considerations (continued)

**Economic Development Enhancement:** Describe how the project supports population growth, enhances job creation and business growth, and improves connectivity for local populations.

*Factors: population and employment density, low-income households, access to major destinations or essential facilities (grocery stores, schools, parks, employment centers, hospitals, etc.)*

### Additional note for rail-pedestrian grade separation projects:

#### Focus On



How the project supports connection to other modes, access to major destinations or essential facilities, such as schools and parks, for people who walk or bike

## Application Considerations (continued)

- **Project Readiness**

- Project lifecycle phase: a) no engineering study, b) study with concepts, c) preliminary engineering plans (30%), or d) final design in progress or completed
- Project schedule and timeline
- Project complexity
  - Right of Way (ROW) and easement needs
  - Utility conflicts
  - Railroad coordination
  - Environmental impacts

## Project Cost

- Provide detailed cost for each project development phase
- Provide the non-state matching fund amounts (minimum 10% contribution)
- Create your estimate based on unit prices within the last twelve months.

Instructions: Please complete the Cost Estimate and Funding table below. A reminder there is a program requirement for a minimum of 10% in matching funds to be provided by the applicant for the total cost of the project.

	Cost Estimate (rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Requested Program Fund	Applicant Match	Railroad Match	Other Non-state Match	Federal Fund	Other TxDOT Fund	Total
Planning								
Design[1]								
ROW Acquisition								
Utility Adjustment[2]								
Construction[3]								
<b>Total</b>								

Example Application Project Cost and Financial Summary table



## Application Considerations (continued)

- **Community Support & Planning:** community support documentation, including but not limited to railroads, elected officials/agencies, and impacted property owner, alignment with local/regional/state planning documents
- **Transformational Elements:** Does the project incorporate transformational elements that enhance its impact or effectiveness (i.e. significant partnerships, elimination of multiple grade crossings)?
- **Non-state Match:** Meet program requirements? Any partnership with railroads?

# Evaluation Criteria

Criteria Category	Criteria Measures	Evaluation Details
Safety	Crash count	TxDOT Analysis
Safety	Fatality and severe injury count	TxDOT Analysis
Safety	Crash rate	TxDOT Analysis
Safety	Predicted collisions from Federal Railroad Administration Grade Crossing Accident Prediction System	TxDOT Analysis
Safety	Documented Safety Issues and Proposed Benefits	Analysis of application response
Traffic Reduction	AADT	TxDOT Analysis
Traffic Reduction	AADT Truck	TxDOT Analysis
Traffic Reduction	Train Volume	TxDOT Analysis
Traffic Reduction	# of Blocked Crossing Reports	TxDOT Analysis
Traffic Reduction	Crossing delay	TxDOT Analysis
Traffic Reduction	Documented mobility issues and proposed benefits	Analysis of application response
Economic Development Enhancement	Population Density	TxDOT Analysis
Economic Development Enhancement	Employment Density	TxDOT Analysis
Economic Development Enhancement	Connectivity to essential facilities, as well as access to emergency routes, supporting adjacent land use and overall development potential.	Analysis of application response
Economic Development Enhancement	Average percent low-income	TxDOT Analysis
Project Readiness	Project complexity, constructability/feasibility, shovel readiness	Analysis of application response
Community Support & Planning	Community support	Analysis of application response
Community Support & Planning	Alignment with local/regional/state planning documents	Analysis of application response
Non-state Match	Meet Program requirements, partnership with railroads	Analysis of application response
Transformational Elements	Significant partnerships, elimination of multiple at-grade crossings	Analysis of application response

## Criteria Weights

Criteria Category	Criteria Category Weights
Public Safety	18%
Traffic Reduction	18%
Economic Development	18%
Project Readiness	18%
Community Support & Planning	18%
Non-state Match	5%
Transformational Elements	5%