

HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING STUDY

Presented by:

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CAC Meeting

Agenda Item #7

February 9, 2023



INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of this study is to inventory regional crossings and prioritize crossings for improvement in order to better position the region for the new and existing federal funding sources.

INTRODUCTION

- Federal Railroad Crossing Programs
- Study Outline
- Railroad Crossing Inventory Summary
- Current Status/Next Steps



RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM

- New discretionary program included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/BIL) that promotes highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods
- \$3 billion available over 5 years
- Eligible applicants include States, Cities, MPOs, and Port Authorities
- Applicants must provide a minimum of a **20% match** from non-Federal public or private sources

RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM

- Eligible project types include:
 - Grade separation or closure including through use of a bridge, embankment, or tunnel
 - Track relocation
 - Improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures to improve safety related to a separation, closure, or track relocation project
 - Other means to improve the safety if related to the mobility of people and goods at highway-rail grade crossings
 - The planning, environmental review, and design of an eligible project type

RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM

- **Evaluation and Selection Criteria:**
 - Technical merit of application
 - Project benefits (i.e. safety, mobility, reduced emissions, access, etc.)
 - Meeting departmental goals (i.e. equity, sustainability, etc.)

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- **Railway-Highway Crossing Program – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**
- **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) - Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**

WHAT WILL THE STUDY COVER?

- Introduction
- Federal Funding Programs
- Railroad Crossing Inventory
 - Summaries
 - Total in region overall
 - At-grade vs. Grade-separated
 - Public vs. Private
 - Total by locality
 - Total by railroad
 - Total crashes (since 2000)



WHAT WILL THE STUDY COVER?

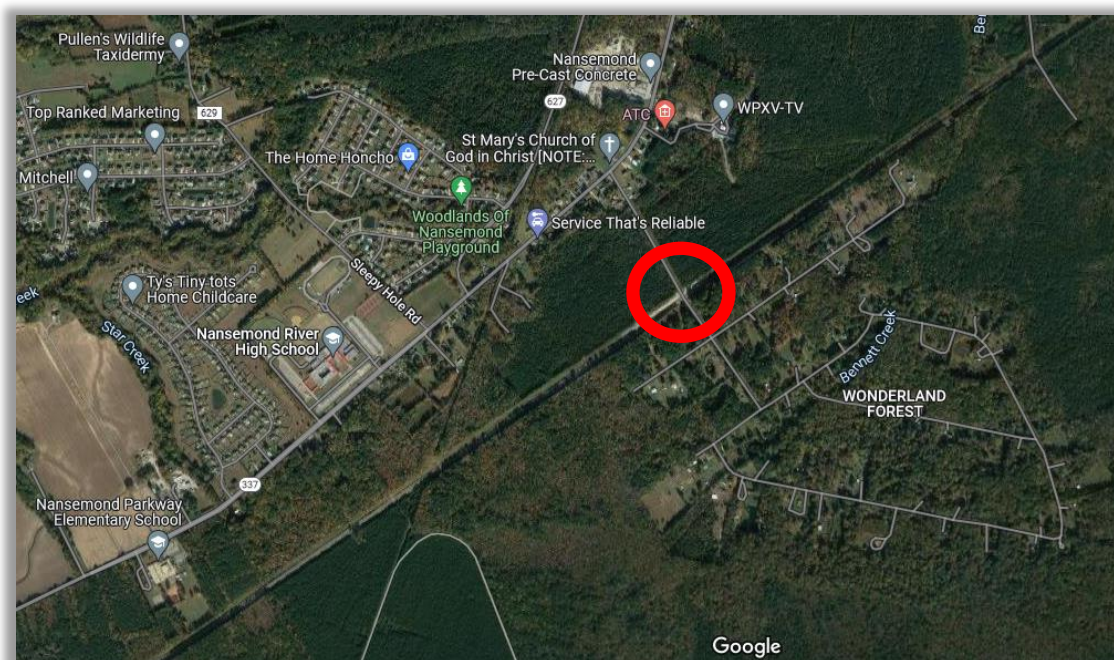
- **Railroad Crossing Inventory (continued)**
 - **Crossing Locations/Details**
 - FRA Crossing ID
 - Facility Description
 - Crossing Type (at-grade vs. grade separated, public vs. private)
 - Locality
 - Railroad
 - Equipment at crossing
 - Number of trains each day
 - Train travel speeds
 - Traffic volumes
 - Age and vertical clearance for grade-separated crossings
 - Crashes (2000-2021)
 - Equity factors

WHAT WILL THE STUDY COVER?

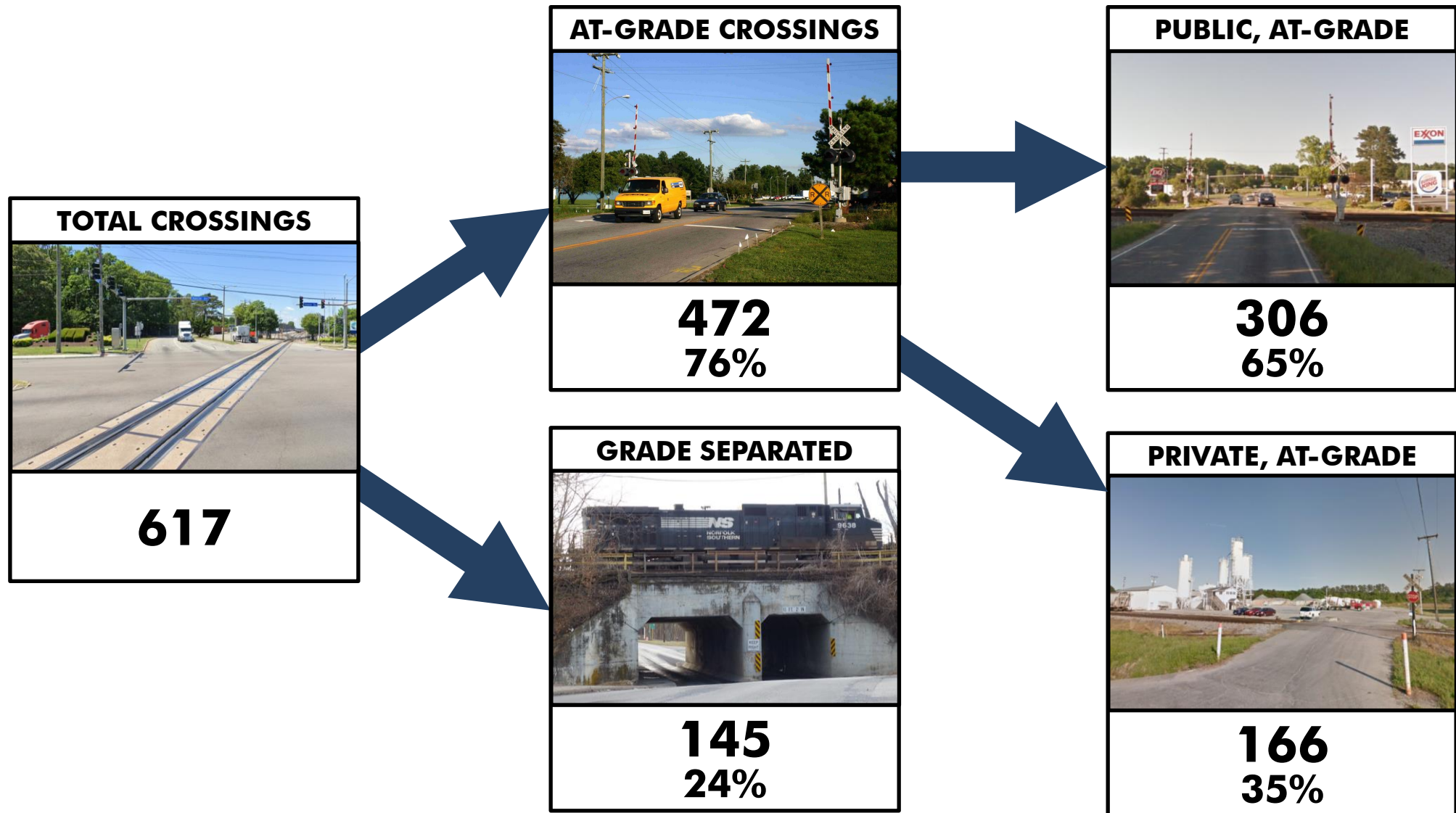
- **Projects**
 - Recent Rail Crossing Elimination and Improvement Projects
 - Upcoming Funded Projects
 - Projects included in the LRTP
- **Prioritization**
 - Virginia State Action Plan
 - DRPT efforts
 - Prioritize at-grade crossings based on federal criteria (traffic volumes, train volumes, safety, etc.)
 - One-page summaries for top prioritized locations

ADDITIONAL STUDY FOCUS

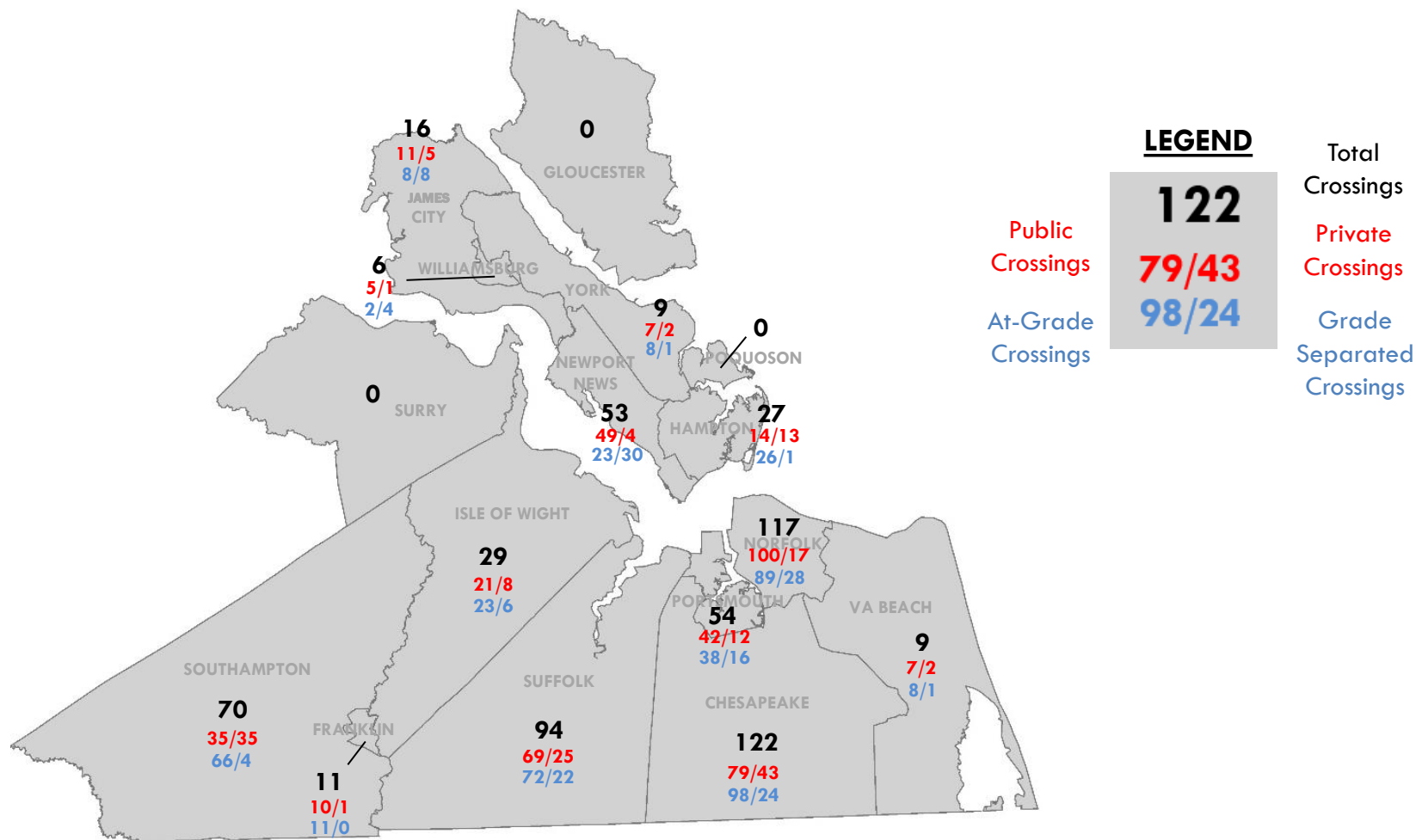
- Identify areas (neighborhoods or commercial) with only one access that is crossed by a railroad.



HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING INVENTORY



HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING INVENTORY



RAIL CROSSINGS IN HAMPTON ROADS BY LOCALITY

Source: HRTPO analysis of FRA data. Data as of September 2022.

HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING INVENTORY

NORFOLK SOUTHERN



227
37%

CSX



210
34%

NORFOLK & PORTSMOUTH BELT LINE



60
10%

COMMONWEALTH RAILWAY



32
5%

BUCKINGHAM BRANCH RAILROAD



21
3%

CHESAPEAKE & ALBEMARLE RAILROAD



25
4%

NORTH CAROLINA & VIRGINIA RAILROAD

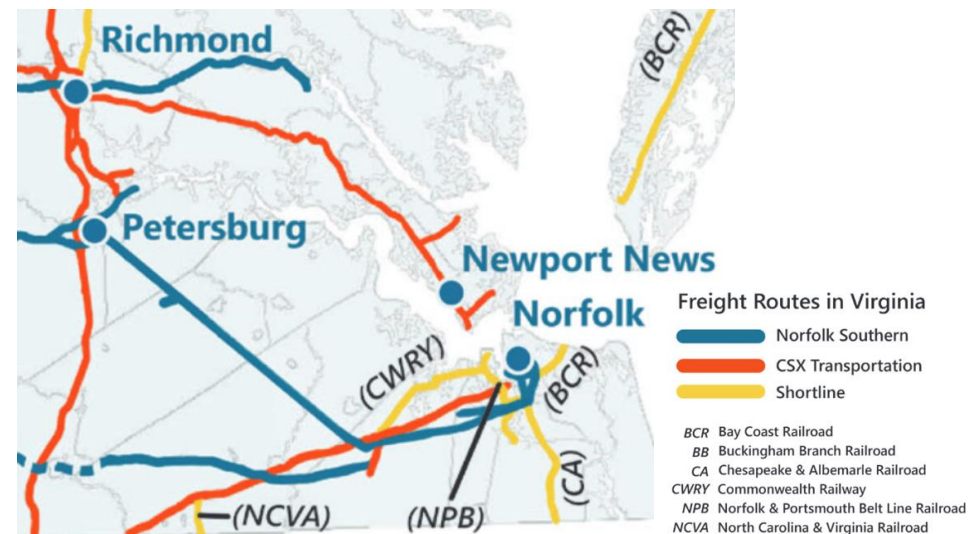


3
1%

OTHER

HRT
Port of Virginia
Dept. of Defense

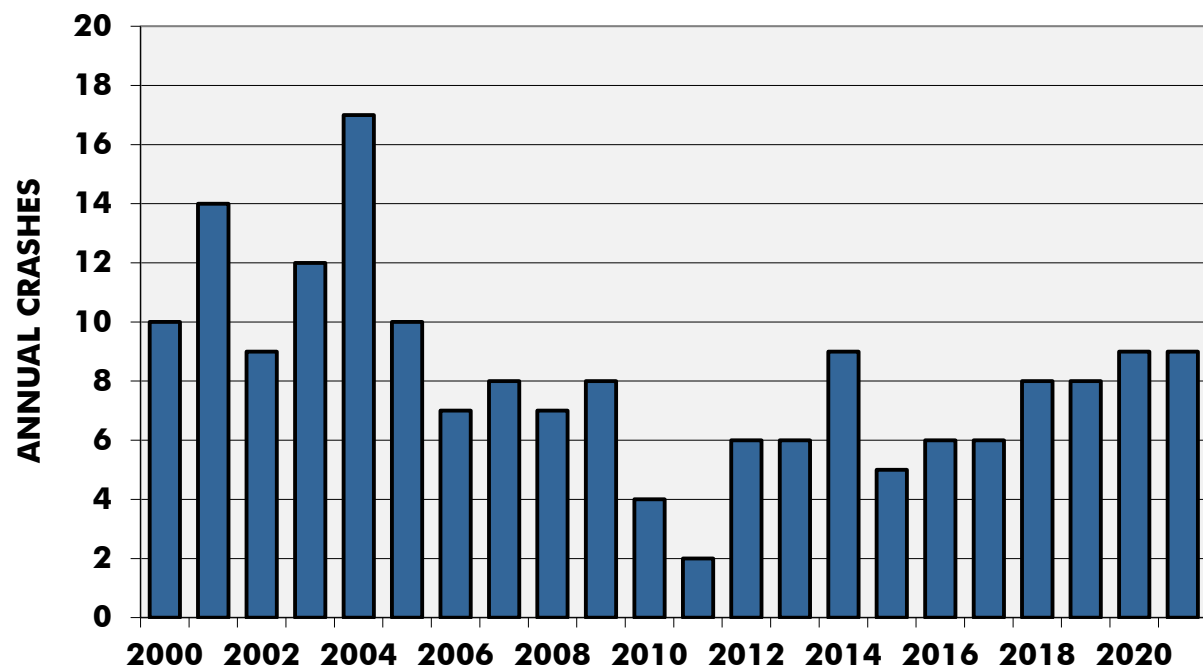
39
6%



RAILROADS OPERATING IN HAMPTON ROADS

Source: Virginia State Rail Plan.

RAIL CROSSING SAFETY



TOTAL CRASHES AT RAIL CROSSINGS IN HAMPTON ROADS – 2000-2021

Source: HRTPO analysis of FRA data.

CURRENT STATUS/NEXT STEPS

- **Railroad Crossing Inventory and Regional Summaries are complete.**
- **Projects will be documented.**
- **Prioritization methodology for crossings will be developed.**
- **Prioritized list of crossings will be produced.**
- **Information will be used to assist with obtaining funding for projects.**

HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING STUDY

Study Project Team

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