

Memo to: PBMVC Bicycle Facility Maintenance Policy Workgroup  
From: Arthur Ross, Pedestrian & Bicycle Coordinator  
Subj: Railroad Crossings  
Date: November 7, 2016

At the September meeting, staff was asked if someone could attend a future meeting to discuss railroad crossings. The person in Engineering who generally deals with these issues is not able to attend our November meeting. He asked if there was a list of questions. I responded that there was not. I did posit a few general questions. Below are the questions I asked and the responses I received. Please review this and let me know if you have additional questions regarding maintenance of railroad crossings.

1) Who does maintenance - City or rail owner/operator? If this is split, who does what? –

Railroad operator (WSOR and a few CP crossings) is responsible for the crossing repairs, which includes 4' on each side of the crossing.

2) Is there a regular inspection of railroad crossings by city or owner/operator? –

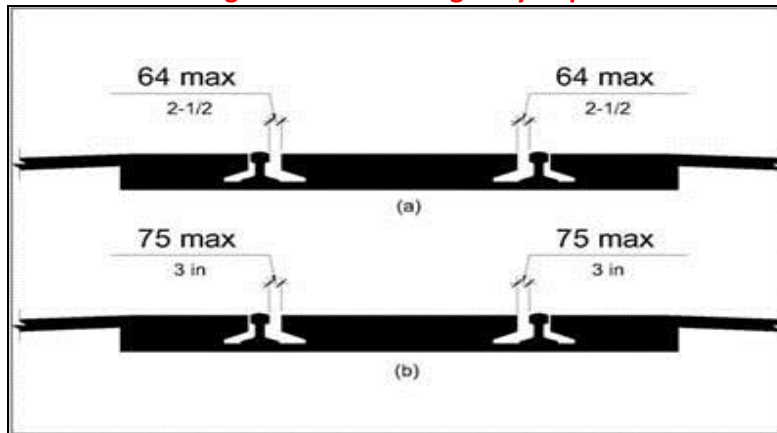
Yes, they are inspected biannually and we notify RR of needed repairs

3) What would trigger a routine maintenance request / action? Is there something similar to ADA where a gap of a certain height is unacceptable where the rails meet the roadway, for example?

Report a problem and complaints

**R302.7.4 Flangeway Gaps.** Flangeway gaps at pedestrian at-grade rail crossings shall be 64 mm (2.5 in) maximum on non-freight rail track and 75 mm (3 in) maximum on freight rail track.

**Figure R302.7.4 Flangeway Gaps**



**Advisory R302.7.4 Flangeway Gaps.** Flangeway gaps are necessary to allow the passage of train wheel flanges. Flangeway gaps pose a potential hazard to pedestrians who use wheelchairs because the gaps can entrap the wheelchair casters

4) Who fills potholes abutting railroad tracks? Railroad

5) Any city specs on when to use or not use certain crossing materials (rubber, concrete, rubber edged, wood should be banned, etc.)?

We will typically request concrete panel crossings- but the Railroad makes the final decision.

6) Any special considerations given for crossings on popular bicycle routes, streets with bike lanes, etc.-

The railroad is responsible for all crossings and repairs.

7) If someone has a complaint / concern about the condition of a rail crossing, who should they contact?

Report a problem- which gets sent to engineering for review and we will then send a request to the RR to repair.

8) Anything else you / Steve can think of that has come up in the past that might be relevant to the workgroup / bicyclists in general.

The Railroad is responsible for all crossing repairs. Engineering will work with the railroad when a street is being resurfaced or reconstructed to request crossing repairs and coordinate the crossing improvement.