Yellow Pavement Markings at a Railroad At-Grade Crossing

Conduct a before and after study to see if the yellow pavement marking help increase driver’s awareness and improve driving behaviors.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

There are more than 212,000 highway-rail grade crossings where roadways intersect railroad tracks in the United States. California alone has over 10,000 highway-rail crossings. Nationwide, over the ten years from 2008 through 2017, there were 21,095 accidents occurred at these crossings, resulting in over 2,500 deaths and over 9,000 injuries. In California alone, 1,393 highway-rail accidents resulted in over 300 deaths and over 750 injuries during this period.

To improve safety at a highway-rail grade crossing, this research will place yellow pavement markings within the dynamic envelope at a railroad at-grade crossing to improve awareness and help decrease injuries and deaths.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

1. The California Department of Transportation, in conjunction with California Public Utilities Commission and University of California, Berkeley are conducting a research to assess a before and after studies on driver stopping behavior.
WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The objective of this research is to assess the effectiveness of yellow pavement markings in influencing safe driver behaviors at a railroad crossing.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This has potential in reducing the numbers of accidents occurring at crossings, especially those resulting from inattentiveness or misjudgment.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Experimentation permission was approved by California Traffic Control Device Committee. Currently the research team is waiting for the Federal Highway Administration's approval.