Railroad Coordination

When coordinating with railroad companies, it is critical on how and when the coordination process takes place. A few other important aspects must be considered when working with the railroads. All railroads own the R/W that they occupy. Any encroachment on railroad R/W will require a permit from the railroad company. Any permanent use of railroad R/W will require a Use Agreement. Both permit and Use Agreement will normally require compensation and will often involve lengthy reviews by the railroad company.

Refer to ***FDM 220*** and the ***Freight and Multimodal Operations Office*** for additional general railroad criteria information.

Railroad coordination and permitting is a very lengthy process that should be initiated as early in the project as possible. Discussions with the District Railroad Coordinator should be held prior to any direct communication with the railroad in question. Railroads usually allow only their own forces or contractors to perform any adjustments to their facilities. Therefore, the maintenance of traffic plan for the project should include appropriate information for railroad contact personnel and any special considerations that the department's contractor needs to consider for the bidding process or during the actual construction of the project.