



Florida Rail Safety Coalition Charter

Purpose

The Florida Rail Safety Coalition (FRSC) was established in 2024 as an initiative of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to improve public safety around rail operations throughout Florida. Recognizing the critical role of railroads in America's economy and communities, the Coalition seeks to address safety challenges through collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

Vision

FDOT's vision is to be the national leader in rail safety by eliminating fatalities and injuries involving Florida's railroads. To be successful, we know we have five areas of focus:

- Rail crossing safety
- Trespassing prevention and enforcement
- Standards
- Innovation
- Partnerships

Membership

The FRSC is comprised of stakeholders with an interest in rail safety. Coalition members represent railroads, agencies and organizations at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as law enforcement and safety advocacy groups.

The membership of the FRSC shall strive to include one representative from each freight railroad or railroad holding company, FDOT members from each District and Central Office, law enforcement from various jurisdictions, one representative from each commuter railroad, and one representative from each passenger railroad. Each organization shall have only one representative participate in voting.

FRSC membership is voluntary, and members receive no compensation for services. All coalition members must be approved by the FDOT Freight and Rail Office.

All potential coalition members will be asked to complete a coalition application before their membership status is considered. Delegation language will be included in the application for alternates. Submission of an application does not guarantee coalition membership, except organizations already identified that the FRSC shall strive to include.

Coalition members serve at the discretion of FDOT. FDOT will review membership applications and may approve membership based on individual qualifications and benefits.

Continued membership in the coalition will be based on:

- Attendance and participation at a majority of the coalition meetings each year (3 of 4)

- Active participation in any assigned FRSC focus areas/subgroup(s).

Governance

FDOT oversees the FRSC. The State Freight and Rail Manager shall serve as the Coalition Administrative Director, with the Freight and Rail Office providing leadership and administrative support to ensure the coalition's objectives are met.

The FRSC will strive to meet in person three times a calendar year in the months of February, June, and November. One virtual meeting shall take place in the month of August for the purposes of establishing and coordinating a message for Rail Safety Week.

Subgroups

The FRSC may establish subgroups to focus on specific areas of work, including:

- Policy
- Outreach
- Standards, Innovation, & Engineering
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health

These subgroups can include representatives from any relevant entity that has an interest in or knowledge of the subgroup goals and further the FRSC issues. The champion of each subgroup must be a member of the FRSC. Subgroups may meet as frequently as necessary to conduct their work and to gather information. All recommendations and decisions based on the information collected will be made during full FRSC meetings.

Evaluation and Reporting

The FRSC shall implement a systematic evaluation process to measure the effectiveness of its initiatives. Coalition Members shall develop milestones to determine progress on action items and subgroup tasks.

An annual evaluation report will be prepared by the Coalition Administrative Director, highlighting accomplishments, a statewide safety overview, and future strategic directions. This report will be presented and distributed to all stakeholders annually for transparency and accountability.

Funding and Resources

The FRSC shall operate without planned external funding, and participation shall be voluntary. Members are encouraged to contribute their expertise, time, and resources to support the coalition's activities, with no expectation of reimbursement. Implementation tasks may be funded on a case-by-case basis.

A goal of the FRSC is to improve the accessibility of funding opportunities. Availability of funding will be considered in the prioritization of projects and initiatives.

Adoption

Effective as of: August 29, 2024