

Freight Services & Safety Division Staff

Melvin Williams, Administrator of the Freight Services & Safety Division, (517) 335-2582

Dorothy English, Executive Secretary to the Administrator, provides administrative and secretarial support for the Division. (517) 373-6494

Freight Services Section

Vacant, Section Manager, Manages all activities associated with the continuation of rail freight service and the maintenance/capital improvement of the state owned rail facilities. Oversees passenger rail programs and leads the Department's initiative to divest four legislatively designated rail systems.

Vacant, Secretary, Provides administrative support for the Freight Services Section.

Program Administration Unit

Kathleen Grover, Department Manager, Serves as specialist for the Michigan Rail Loan Assistance Program (MiRLAP).

David Mestelle, Freight Program Financial Specialist, Responsible for the financial administration of the Freight Services & Safety Division programs.

Fernando Zaldivar, Systems Analyst, Manages the Division's automated Grade Crossing Management System.

Jo-Reese Ford, Engineering Technician, Prepares computer-aided plans, charts and maps. Prepares proposal specifications files and drawings. Enters cost estimates into PES (Proposal & Estimate System) for financial billing.

Local Grade Crossing Program Unit

Deb Brown, Department Manager, Manages the Local Grade Crossing Program, by working with railroads and local road authorities to provide funding and technical assistance for safety improvements, including crossing closures and grade crossing enhancements on local roads.

Kris Foondle, Grade Crossing Analyst, Serves as an analyst and liaison to railroads and local government officials to develop and implement local highway-railroad grade crossing safety projects, including crossing closures statewide.

Nikkie Johnson, Grade Crossing Analyst, Serves as an analyst and liaison to railroads and local government officials to develop and implement local highway-railroad grade crossing safety projects, including crossing closures statewide.

Laura Miller, Department Technician, Generates authorizations for railroad construction projects for the Local Grade Crossing Program and the Design Division. Creates payment vouchers for payments to the railroads.

Project Development Unit

Bill Homrich, Licensed Engineer, Supervises the programming and development of rail infrastructure improvement projects.

Mark Robinson, Transportation Engineer, Prepares bid documents for track and bridge improvements, inspects bridges on state owned railways, reviews plans submitted for funding by railroads.

Rosemary Holland, Project Manager, Administers the Freight Economic Development Program and the Local Road/Railroad Grade Separation Loan Program.

Field Support Unit

Vacant, Department Manager, Supervises all track construction/maintenance and signal installation. Also supervises the inspections of projects financed by the Division.

Allen Green, Engineering Technician, Inspects Division financed track and signal projects.

Dave Morgan, Engineering Technician, Inspects Division financed track and signal projects.

Rail Safety Section

Tina Hissong, Section Manager, Supervises all railroad safety regulatory programs, partnering with railroads, road authorities, and labor unions to promote railroad grade crossing safety and rail employee safety through statewide on-site inspections, diagnostic study team reviews, and related administrative services.

Mindy Mazurek, Secretary, Provides administrative support for the Rail Safety Section.

Field Operations Unit

Railroad Safety Inspectors, Inspect Michigan railroads for compliance with state rail safety regulations. Conduct periodic on-site grade crossing reviews, diagnostic study team reviews, formal inspections of yard facilities and walkways, and inspections of applications for less-than-standard rail clearances. Maintain regular contact with local railroads and road authorities to secure corrective action of observed crossing deficiencies.

Steve Nowakowski, Railroad Safety Inspector, Serves Southeast and Northeast Michigan and Western Upper Peninsula.

Wayne Parrott, Railroad Safety Inspector, Serves Western and Central Michigan, and Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Regulatory Support Unit

Nanette Guggemos, Departmental Analyst, Researches and analyzes essential rail safety regulatory issues. Drafts and edits confirming orders for safety improvements at public grade crossings.