

Ohio Department of Transportation



Best Practices in Railroad Safety

OTEC 2011

Rich Behrendt
Program Mgr. / State Rail Coordinator

**ODOT's Approach
to
effective and proactive
Railroad Coordination**

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in a darker shade of teal, located at the bottom right of the slide.

Public Projects that affect Railroads

- All major bridge maint./rehab. projects (OH & UG)
- New grade separation projects (grade crossing elimination)
- Any project above, below or alongside the RR ROW that might impact RR safety and/or operations
- Resurfacings



Railroad coordination at ODOT

- State Rail Coordinator / Central Office provides a central point of contact between RR and ODOT
- ODOT's 12 Districts provide primary technical interface & construction support & administrative activities
- Central Office is the 'office of record' handling all Agreements, dispute resolution, and added technical interface



Challenges with Railroads

- ◆ Time
- ◆ Personnel

How do you deal with these challenges?

- Understand their concerns/issues
- Work up realistic schedules
- Patience



Railroad Concerns

- ◆ **Safety !**
- ◆ **Impact on existing & future operations**
- ◆ **Future capacity**
- ◆ **Liability**



How to satisfy project objectives & railroad concerns

- Be aware of impact on RR infrastructure (i.e. signal pole lines; lineside signals, signal cases/bungalows; switches; UG fiberoptic; other RR/drainage & utilities)
- For new structures, span ROW line to ROW line to stay clear of operating envelope & maintain future track capacity.
- Future maintenance impacts





Communication - Coordination - Cooperation