README for "Railroad Crossing 2008-Present" dataset.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); Bureau of
Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]

2021-02-16

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:
    https://doi.org/10.21949/1520835

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The Railroad Crossing 2008-Present database is from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and part of
the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National
Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). FRA Grade Crossings is a spatial file that originates from the National
Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Program. The program is to provide information to the public, Federal, State,
and local governments, as well as the railroad industry for information and the improvements of safety at
highway-rail crossing.

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

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0. Title of Dataset:
   Railroad Crossing 2008-Present [datasets]

1. Description of Dataset:
   The Railroad Crossing 2008-Present database is from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). FRA Grade Crossings is a spatial file that originates from the National Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Program. The program is to provide information to the public, Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the railroad industry for information and the improvements of safety at highway-rail crossing.

2. Dataset archive link:
   https://doi.org/10.21949/1520835

3. Authorship Information:
   Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information
      Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
      Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590
      Email: ExecSecretariat.FHWA@dot.gov

   Data Distributor Contact Information
      Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)
      Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), The Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV)
      Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590
      Email: ntad@dot.gov

4. Date of data collection and update interval:
   Annually

5. Geographic location of data collection:
   United States of America

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:
   U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) , Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION
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0. Recommended citation for the data:
   U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA);Bureau of
   Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]. (2020). Railroad Crossing 2008-Present [datasets].
   https://doi.org/10.21949/1520835

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:
   These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:
   Yes. The dataset was generated from the FRA grade crossing inventory which populates FRA GIS grade
crossing layer monthly.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S.
Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559 >> and guidelines
suggested by the DOT Public Access website << https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647 >>, in effect and current as
of December 03, 2020.

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C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW
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1. File List for the bts_RailroadCrossings_202102.zip collection

   A. Filename:
    rr_crossings_XXXX.zip
     Short description:
     Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for Railroad Crossings 2008-Present dataset. Listed
     below are the names of the compressed file folders, classified by vintage date:
     rr_crossings_2008.zip, rr_crossings_2011.zip, rr_crossings_2012.zip, rr_crossings_2013.zip,
     rr_crossings_2014.zip, rr_crossings_2015.zip

   B. Filename:
    bts_RailroadCrossings_DMP_20210216.pdf
     Short description:
     A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of
     the data and associated files.

   C. Filename:
    bts_RailroadCrossings_20210216_README.txt
     Short description:
     The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions,
     contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

2. File List for the rr_crossings_XXXX.zip collection

   A. Filename:
    rr_crossings.shp
     Short description:
     A shapefile containing the geopatial data for Railroad Crossings 2008-Present dataset. This includes
     associated files with extensions .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

   B. Filename:
    rr_crossings.txt
     Short description:
     A text file containing key metadata and documentation information such as methodology, procedures, data
     dictionary, etc.

D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION
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1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:
   The Railroad Crossing 2008-Present was created by obtaining the FRA spreadsheet for Passenger Rail Policy
Division.

2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:
   The data and documentation files can be opened with Esri ArcMap and any GIS software package.

E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION
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1. XXXXXX data table
   Data is updated annually. Dataset Manager is contacted to verify changes to data resulting in NTAD update.
The metadata is updated in the same manner. For the most recent data, please visit the NTAD catalog at
https://data-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/

A. Number of variables (columns):
   The data dictionary found in (PDF documentation) provides definitions for the variables

B. Data Dictionary/Variable List:
   Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file
rr_crossing.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

E. Missing data codes:
   None

F. UPDATE LOG

This bts_RailroadCrossing_20210216_README.txt file was originally created on 2021-02-16 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, dominic.menegus@dot.gov

[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-02-16: Original file created