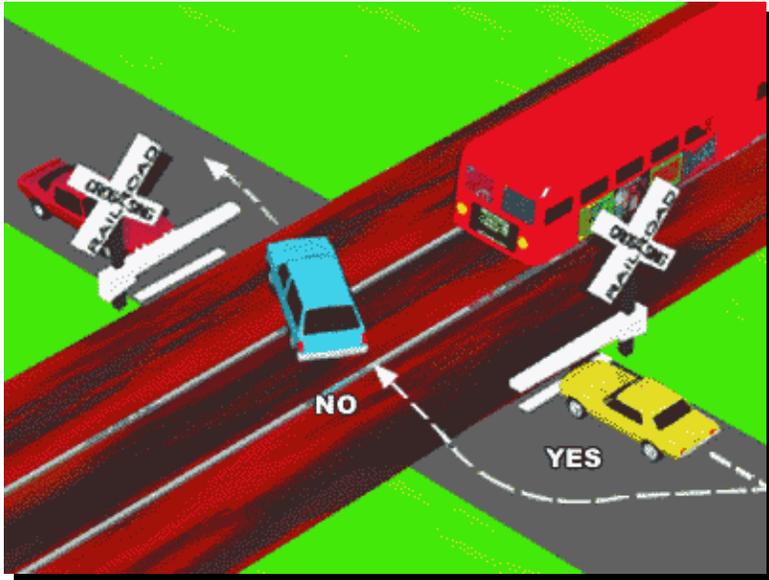


Evaluation of Motorist Behavior at Grade Crossings



Project Description:

Motorist behavior is an important factor in understanding and preventing accidents at grade crossings. Will determine how locomotive alerting lights, freight car reflectors, wayside horns should be designed and operated to maximize their ability to attract motorist attention and foster safe motorist behavior. This project is coordinated with the accident causation project. This project includes lab studies using a driving simulator and naturalistic field studies of motorist behavior

Railroad Impact:

Many elements of motorist behavior at grade crossings remain a mystery: why does compliance with active crossing devices depend on the amount of time prior to train arrival at the crossing; how does the timing of train horn warnings interact with the timing of device activation; etc. These questions have important consequences for how the operation of warnings can be maximized to prevent accidents at grade crossings

FRA Task Monitor: Tom Raslear, RDV32

Cost & Schedule:

- **FY07-08** – Summarize and publish studies of the positive predictive value of timing of crossing device activation
- **FY 08 – 09** – Design and conduct studies of the effect of train horn warnings on motorist compliance with active crossing devices