Rail assets in Vermont

- Total Active Railroad Assets in VT
  - 578 miles of active railroad line
    - 305 miles state owned
    - 273 miles privately owned

- State owned Rail Assets
  - 305 miles of active rail line
  - 149 miles of railbanked line
  - 178 VTrans responsible rail bridges on active rail lines
  - 400 public rail crossings
  - 4 rail stations
Railroad Impacts in VT

- VT railroads are networked nationally and internationally. VT sits between the port of Montreal and Atlantic seaports.
- 150 to 200 rail cars move on VT railroads everyday.
  - That would translate to over 600 addition tractor-trailer trucks on our roads per day.
- 90% of VRS products either originate or terminate at a VT business. (over 22,000 rail cars annually)
- VT railroad companies employ over 200 VT based jobs.
- Provides competitive pricing for large commodities such as road salt, feed products, fuel oil, propane, stone products, lumber and other grain products for VT businesses.
- Passenger Rail Service to NYC and DC.
Strategic Plan and Goals

- Provide for safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
- 286,000lbs weight capacity for freight.
- Maintain assets at a state of good repair.
- Extend the Ethan Allen Amtrak service to Burlington.
- Extend the Vermonter Amtrak Service to Montreal.
VTrans Rail Section Org Chart

- Property Management handles Right of Entry issues  
  (for state owned rail lines)

- License agreements
- Lease agreements
- Crossing agreements
- Encroachment/enforcement
Staying Safe

- Active Rail property is PRIVATE PROPERTY

- Entering railroad ROW’s without a written Right Of Entry is considered Trespass
- Current law makes trespass a Criminal Offense as well as a fine.
- Trains can come at anytime of day or night.
- Trains can come from any direction at varying speeds.
- Train noise is in the back of the train and you may not hear it coming.
Operation Lifesaver of Vermont

- There is a person hit by a train every 3 hours in America.
  - Railroad safety/Education.
  - Started in 1972 in Idaho and then Nationally in 1986.
  - It takes a train traveling at 55mph 18 football to stop (about 1 mile)
  - OL program in all 50 states.
  - “See Tracks, Think Trains”.
Vermont/Fed Rules

- Vermont law allows Licensed Surveyors access to private property.
  - FRA rules control railroad worker.
  - FRA rules control “fouling the track”
  - FRA will fine you if you do not have a “track Warrant”
  - For your safety and for the safety of the railroad workers: the Railroad needs to know you are there
  - Flagging protection is required every time you foul an active track.

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The Vermont Statutes Online
Title 27 : Property
Chapter 001 : Estates In Real Property
§ 4. Right of entry for survey

In cases wherein the title to lands, tenements, or hereditaments may come in question, or in order to establish boundaries between abutting parcels, a licensed surveyor with the necessary assistants employed by any of the parties to such disputed title, may enter upon such lands or real estate or other lands for the purpose of running doubtful or disputed lines and locating or searching for monuments, establishing temporary monuments and ascertaining and deciding the location of the lines and monuments of a survey, doing as little damage as possible to the owners of such lands. (Amended 1985, No. 116 (Adj. Sess.), § 2.)
Access to State owned RR’s

- Access is granted through VTrans for state owned RR’s
  - Go to: rail.vermont.gov
  - Fill out “Right of Entry” form and submit electronically.
  - Also find copies of Railroad Val sheets (not survey grade quality - reference only)
Access to Privately owned RR’s (NECR and SLR)

- Access is granted through the Railroads real estate department
  - Go to; NECR or SLR websites
  - Go to Real Estate page
  - Contact Donna Killingsworth at 904-900-6286
  or donna.killingsworth@gwrr.com
Access to Privately owned RR’s - PanAm

- Access is granted through the Railroads real estate department
  - Go to; panamrailways.com website
  - Go to Real Estate tab
  - Real Estate Department; 978-663-6949
Access to Privately owned RR’s Central Maine & Quebec

- Access is granted through the Railroads real estate department
  - Go to: cmqrailways.com
  - Contact General information: at 800-222-1433
VTrans Rail Section
2016 Vermont Society of Land Surveyors

Thank You
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