



# items

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The Federal Rail Administration (FRA) is proposing new rules for the Use of Locomotive Horns. The Swift Rail Development Act added Section 20153 to Title 49, United States Code. That section requires that regulations be established prescribing that a locomotive horn be sounded while each train is approaching and entering upon each public highway-rail grade crossing. In addition, 49 U.S.C. 20153 provides the FRA the authority to exempt from this requirement, categories of rail operations or categories of grade crossings that: 1) are determined not to present risk with respect to loss of life or serious personal injury; 2) for which the use of a locomotive horn is impractical; or 3) for which supplementary safety measures fully compensate for the absence of the warning provided by the locomotive horn.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) describes the proposed rule which would require that horns be sounded at virtually all public at-grade crossings in the United States. The proposed rule also contains provisions that set a maximum sound level for locomotive horns, limit sound to be directed to the side, prescribe when and how to sound the horn, and provide an opportunity to any community in the nation to establish a quiet zone. These provisions would apply to the use of locomotive horns at all public highway-rail grade crossings, including those currently subject to whistle bans established by local or state authorities.

From a safety perspective, the FRA estimates the proposed rules would prevent 3 fatalities and 39 injuries annually, nationwide.

From a safety perspective, how do these rules impact the State of Illinois and more specifically, Northeast Illinois?

1. Illinois has a proven program of substantially improving RR Crossing Safety. Over the last 12 years, we have reduced collisions by 60%. This comes at a time when train and vehicular traffic volumes have increased substantially.
2. Crossings in Northeast Illinois, regardless of warning device type, are 3.75% less likely to have collisions where whistles are banned.

3. Gated crossings in northeast Illinois have a 4.95% lower collision frequency where whistles are banned.
4. Nearly half of all U.S. whistle ban crossings are in Illinois.
5. This act is likely to divert state funding for upgrades to unprotected crossings and redirect the funds to technologically safe crossings merely to suppress train noise.
6. The FRA estimates the national cost of the act at \$116 million over 20 years. More realistically, the cost is estimated at over \$600 million, all needed in the first three years.

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## ITE - Illinois Section May Luncheon

*Please Join Us at Maggiano's!*

- Date:** Thursday, May 18, 2000
- Time:** Reception at 11:30 A.M.  
Luncheon promptly at Noon
- Speaker:** Dave Collingnen  
Nestor Traffic Systems
- Topic:** Video Detection, Red Light  
Enforcement, & Traffic Vision
- Location:** Maggiano's  
516 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois
- Reservations:** Please call Joe Emry or Joel  
Christell at (630) 773-3900 or fax at  
(630) 773-3975 on or before May 16,  
2000.
- Cost:** \$25 per person  
(\$12 for students)
- Next Month:** Maggiano's in downtown Chicago  
on Thursday, June 15, 2000.
- Speaker:** Peter Lemmon  
Metro Transportation  
Group
- Topic:** Use of Synchro/SimTraffic  
in Traffic Operations



Continued from Page 1

- 7. The cost for northeast Illinois is estimated to be in the range of \$170 to \$235 million.
- 8. The proposed rules do nothing about the 97.9% of collisions that take place at crossings that do not have whistle bans, or about pedestrian accidents, suicides, or people driving into the side of a moving train.

If you want your opinions, either for or opposed to this act, taken into consideration, you can mail your written comments to:

**Docket Clerk**

DOT Central Docket Management Facility  
400 Seventh Street – SW, Plaza-401  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

You must include the following docket numbers in your submission:

NPRM – Docket Numbers: FRA-1999-6439  
DEIS-Docket Number: FRA-1999-6440

Submission should be made by May 26, 2000.

Your President

**Rolf P. Kilian**

Metro Transportation Group, Inc.  
[RPK@metrotransportation.com](mailto:RPK@metrotransportation.com)

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**WEBSITE OF THE MONTH**

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With the construction season underway and in full swing, many Chicago area motorists are experiencing lane closures and detours. This month's featured website provides a construction update for the six county Chicagoland region from the Illinois Department of Transportation (District 1). The site includes information shown below:

- Roadway
- Description of Work
- Estimated Date of Completion
- Additional Comments

All information is categorized by county. For information on construction updates in the Chicagoland area, please check out the website below:

<http://dot.state.il.us/road/update.html>

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**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

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Volunteers are needed to staff the Hospitality Booth at the ITE 2000 Annual Meeting to be held August 5-9, 2000 in Nashville, Tennessee. The purpose of this booth is to provide attendees with information about the 2001 Annual Meeting, which will be held in Chicago. We are looking for people who are planning to attend the meeting in Nashville and are willing to spend a few hours handing out information on Chicago. The more volunteers we get, the fewer hours anyone has to work. So, if you will be attending and can help out, give either **Dawn Marincic** (847-467-1415) or **Kathy Meyerkord** (630-773-3900) a call as soon as possible.

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**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

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The Illinois Section is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Section:

**Gerald Berner** Harry O. Hefter Associates, Inc.

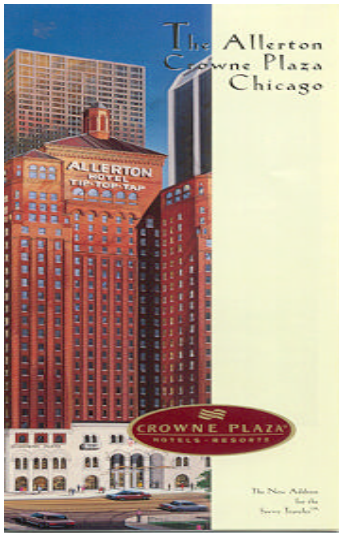
**Gary Rylander** Edwards & Kelcey, Inc.

Congratulations to our new members of the Illinois Section! Please feel free to join any standing committees (see the back of the *ITEMS* for phone numbers) or if you want to create your own committee, call **Dominic Gatto** at (312) 782-1255.

**Clark Dietz**  
ENGINEERING

<b>Champaign, IL</b> (217) 373-8900	<b>Chicago, IL</b> (312) 648-9900
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**The Illinois Section  
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*Conveniently located in the heart of the  
Michigan Avenue shopping district; walking  
distance from Chicago's historic Water Tower,  
Grant Park, Navy Pier and the beaches of  
Lake Michigan*

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Diverse technical program, vendor exhibits, get acquainted party and lunches on the twenty-third floor overlooking Michigan Avenue (just one floor below the "Tip-Top-Tap")

Technical program includes presentations on:

- Millennium Park, an ambitious extension of Grant Park made possible by decking over operating commuter rail, expanding parking and creating an exclusive bus link with McCormick Place
- Illinois/Grand Transportation Management Association, a partnership created to manage growth in the corridor
- ITS, transit and site planning initiatives throughout the Midwest

Social program includes:

- Golf outing at a public course along the Lake, a short ride from the hotel
- Architectural river cruise (see above)
- Free evenings to enjoy the Taste of Chicago, area attractions and fine dining

Technical tours of Millennium Park and the Illinois/Grand corridor

**Plan now to join our holiday celebration. Extended stays are also recommended!**

**For additional information, contact:**

**Robert J. Grady -Conference Chair  
630.355.4228  
e-mail: [gradytransit@aol.com](mailto:gradytransit@aol.com)**

# Illinois Section ITE Baseball Outing



**BATTER UP!** After last years exciting outing at the Schaumburg Flyers game, the Illinois Section of ITE has planned a summer event to see the Schaumburg Flyers in action. Come join us Friday, July 14, 2000, when the Flyers take on the Winnipeg Goldeyes. Game time is set for 7:20 P.M.

The outing includes a picnic (chicken sandwich, potato salad...) which starts at 6:00 P.M. This event is open to family and friends, so bring the whole gang! The price will be approximately \$16.00 per person, which includes the picnic, game tickets and lots of fun! For those of you not familiar with minor league baseball, it's a whole new experience! Come check out the newest game in town!

We have to make our reservations by mid-June, so mark your calendars, and plan on joining us for some summer fun!

Look in next month's issue of *ITEMS* for the sign up sheet and more details.



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Would you like **TWENTY-SIX 3-DAY WEEKENDS PER YEAR?** How about flexible working hours, a great working environment and other excellent benefits? If so, and you possess the skills we need, call us. We have immediate openings for the following positions:

**TRAFFIC ENGINEER & DESIGN ENGINEER**

Metro Transportation Group Inc. has openings for Entry Level Traffic and Design Engineers in their Hanover Park, IL (Chicago Area) and Fort Myers, Florida offices. Growth at Metro calls for a B.S.C.E. or related field. Duties would include conducting traffic engineering/planning studies and/or preparing traffic design plans. A good understanding and use of transportation related software is desirable.

**TRAFFIC ENGINEER**

Metro Transportation Group, Inc. (Metro) has an opening for a Traffic Engineer with a B.S.C.E. or related field with three to six years of experience in conducting traffic engineering/planning studies. Duties call for experience in managing projects, budgets and directing others. A good understanding and use of HCS, Passer II & III, TEAPAC and other traffic engineering software is desirable.

**Contact:**

**Rolf P. Kilian**

1300 Greenbrook Blvd  
Hanover Park, IL 60103-5495

Phone: (630) 213-1000

E-mail: [rpk@metrotransportation.com](mailto:rpk@metrotransportation.com)

or

Visit our website at:

[www.metrotransportation.com](http://www.metrotransportation.com)

**TRAFFIC ENGINEER & SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER**

KLOA, Inc., a centrally located traffic, transportation, and parking planning firm seeks a traffic engineer with 1-3 years of experience and a senior traffic engineer with more than 5 years of experience with a Professional Engineering License in Illinois. We desire self-motivated individuals with high expectations, knowledge, and ambition along with an outgoing personality. Successful candidates will have knowledge of basic engineering computer software and excellent writing and oral communication skills. Public sector experience is a plus. We provide an excellent salary and benefit package. For consideration, please submit your resume and salary range, in confidence, to:

Human Resources  
Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc.  
9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 400  
Rosemont, IL 60018  
Fax: 847-518-9987

Please, no telephone inquiries. KLOA, Inc., is an equal opportunity employer.



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www.patrickengineering.com  
email: [info@patrickengineering.com](mailto:info@patrickengineering.com)

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Fax: 630-434-8400



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## **CITY OF URBANA**

### **Job Announcement**

## **CIVIL ENGINEER**

### **(Transportation Improvements)**

(Full-Time; Civil Service)

The City of Urbana (36,000), home of the University of Illinois, is seeking a qualified individual to serve as Civil Engineer.

#### **The Civil Engineer's responsibilities include:**

- Designs and prepares construction plans for street improvement projects
- Conducts field investigations and traffic studies
- Prepares technical reports
- Monitors construction work
- Supervises Engineering Technician and Engineering Aide

#### **The successful candidate will possess:**

- Knowledge typically acquired through completion of a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering and four (4) years experience in municipal engineering emphasizing transportation and street rehabilitation work
- Knowledge of investigation, design, construction, and documentation phases of engineering projects
- Ability to plan work of technical and paraprofessional personnel
- Knowledge of principles and practices of civil engineering
- Ability to prepare technical reports and present recommendations orally and in writing
- Knowledge and skill in the use of field survey instruments and knowledge of operation of construction machinery
- Knowledge and ability to use a personal computer and software programs including Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, and AutoCAD
- Knowledge and ability to use the internet
- A valid State of Illinois Class D driver's license or ability to obtain within thirty (30) days of employment
- Ability to work with confidential information
- Registration as an Engineer Intern in the State of Illinois or in another state or registration as a Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois or another State

Starting Salary Range Beginning July 1, 2000: \$44,548 - \$47,221, depending on qualifications, plus a comprehensive benefits package.

To apply for Civil Engineer, please complete and return City of Urbana application packet to:

**City of Urbana  
Personnel Division  
400 South Vine Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
(217) 384-2458  
Job Opportunity Line (217) 384-2499  
<http://www.city.urbana.il.us>**

The deadline for submitting application packets for Civil Engineer is **Friday, June 9, 2000**.

The City of Urbana is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



**ITE ILLINOIS SECTION CALENDAR**

May 18	ITE - Illinois Section <b>May</b> Luncheon - Maggiano's
May 25	Deadline for advertisements and articles for the <b>June</b> issue of <i>ITEMS</i>
June 15	ITE - Illinois Section <b>June</b> Luncheon - Maggiano's
July 5-7	ITE – District IV Conference – Chicago

Events are always welcome for this calendar, please contact the *ITEMS* Editors.

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 1300 Greenbrook Blvd.  
 Hanover Park, IL 60103-5482

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