

# NCTCOG FACT SHEET

July 2025

## QUICK TAKE

### What:

Regional Freight Safety Initiatives are developed to create a safer environment for all roadway users: bicyclists and pedestrians, commuters, first responders and commercial motor vehicle operators.

The 2025 Freight Safety Campaign runs from May-August 2025. The campaign uses advertisements and other educational tools to encourage drivers and pedestrians to think more about freight safety on the roadways and at rail crossings. Safety tips are presented through a variety of mediums including social media, podcasts, radio, billboards, and a children's activity book.

### Significance:

Trucks and freight trains take longer to stop than passenger vehicles, making it important for motorists to use caution when encountering them.

### By the Numbers: 422+

The number of miles of truck lane restrictions in Dallas-Fort Worth. Thirty-four municipalities in the region have such restrictions. Following these rules can make the roads safer for all drivers.

## Driver Awareness is Key to Freight Safety

North Texas sees an enormous volume of freight transported every day by semi-trucks and other commercial motor vehicles. These trucks are supplying gasoline, medical supplies, building materials, groceries and more. If you own it, a truck probably moved it at some point.

In the past five years, there has been an average of 338 truck-involved crashes per month in North Texas. The number of crashes has increased each of those years. By understanding the importance of proper driving around trucks, navigating traffic will be safer, faster and more efficient.

As the region's population continues to grow and freight traffic increases to supply the rising demand of consumer product deliveries, there is a greater potential for roadway incidents between automobiles and commercial motor vehicles. Many passenger vehicle drivers do not realize that these vehicles have "blind spots," where the truck driver cannot see passing vehicles. Additionally, heavy-duty vehicles can be difficult to maneuver, and the length of time needed to stop is about 40% greater than cars.

Truck drivers can also help make the roads safer by following the truck lane restrictions, which limit the lanes used by trucks on certain freeway corridors throughout the region.

In these areas, trucks with three or more axles are prohibited from using the inside left lane, except when passing traffic. This eases congestion and reduces the number of truck-related crashes on the freeways. Learn more at [www.FreightNTX.org](http://www.FreightNTX.org).



## Rail Safety

North Texas has a vast rail network that supports three major freight railroads, two short-line railroads, Amtrak, light rail and commuter rail. This creates large train volumes and provides the region with goods movement and public transportation services.

Across the nation, a train strikes a person or vehicle every three hours. To combat this alarming statistic and enhance safety, NCTCOG partners with Operation Lifesaver to improve safety near railroad tracks. Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit, nationwide public education program dedicated to preventing collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail intersections and on railroad rights-of-way. Railroad tracks are private property and it is illegal to be on or near them except at designated crossings.

It is important for North Texans to follow proper safety precautions near the region's 2,400+ at-grade crossings and remember the train always has the right-of-way.

Do not assume you can hear a train coming. Modern locomotives are much quieter than people think, and there are quiet zones established at many of the regional crossings. This means as a train approaches a crossing, it is not required to blow its horn. Always assume a train is coming when approaching a crossing and look both ways. Trains travel much faster

than they appear to and can take up to a mile to stop. Do not try to outrun a train.

Since 2000, when there were 67 incidents in North Texas, the number of incidents has been trending downward. However, there was a significant increase in 2024, when 58 incidents were recorded. To curb this escalation, drivers and pedestrians should heed safety signals and warnings at crossings. Learn more at [www.FreightNTX.org](http://www.FreightNTX.org).

## Safe Rail Crossing Habits

- Freight trains don't travel at fixed times. Always expect a train at each highway-rail intersection at any time.
- Today's trains are quieter than ever. An approaching train is always closer and moving faster than you think.
- Pass through a highway-rail grade crossing only if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing without stopping.
- Wait to cross until you can see clearly in both directions. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains.

Cross a train track only at a designated crossing. It's the only safe and legal place to do so. Anything else is trespassing and could prove fatal.



*Examples of billboard advertisements appearing throughout the region during the 2025 Freight Safety Campaign.*



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