

America's Rails-with-Trails

A Resource for Planners, Agencies and Advocates
on Trails Along Active Railroad Corridors

The cover features a photograph of a blue and yellow freight train moving through a wooded area. Several cyclists are riding on a gravel path that runs parallel to the train tracks. The logo at the bottom consists of a stylized green and white graphic above the text 'rails to trails co-advocacy'.

Rails-*with*-Trails

2013 Rail-with-Trail Report

- PA DCNR funded
- National scope
- 88 Trail managers from 33 states participated
- Tool for trail managers and advocates



Rails-with-Trails are Common



2013

- 217 trails (nearly 10% of rail-trails)
- 560 miles
- 42 states

2017

- 289 trails (nearly 10% of rail-trails)
- 813 miles
- 43 states

Cotton Belt Trail, Texas

Rails-with-Trails are Growing

60+ rails-with-trails
in development



Five Star Trail, PA

Rails-with-Trails are Safe



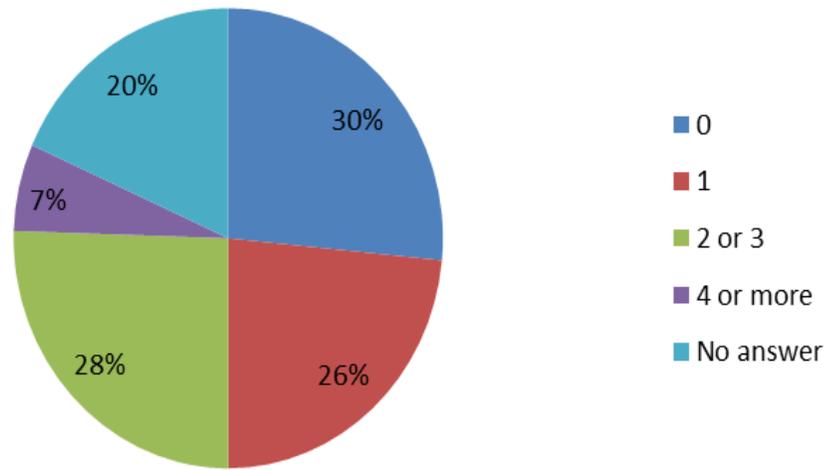
Two known fatalities involving trail user & train on RWT: South Bay Trail in Bellingham, WA (2008); Santa Fe Rail-Trail, New Mexico (2014)



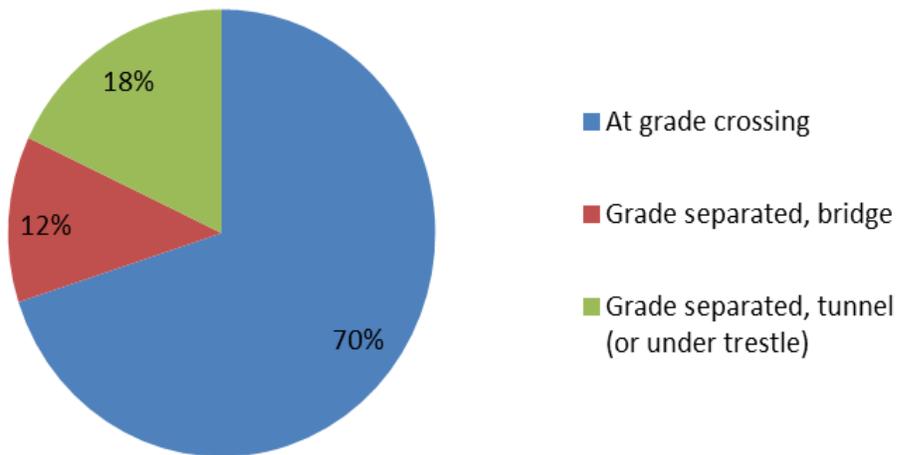
Crossings

Green Bush Link
Wisconsin

Number of Times Trail Crosses Railroad Tracks



Trail/Rail Crossing Type

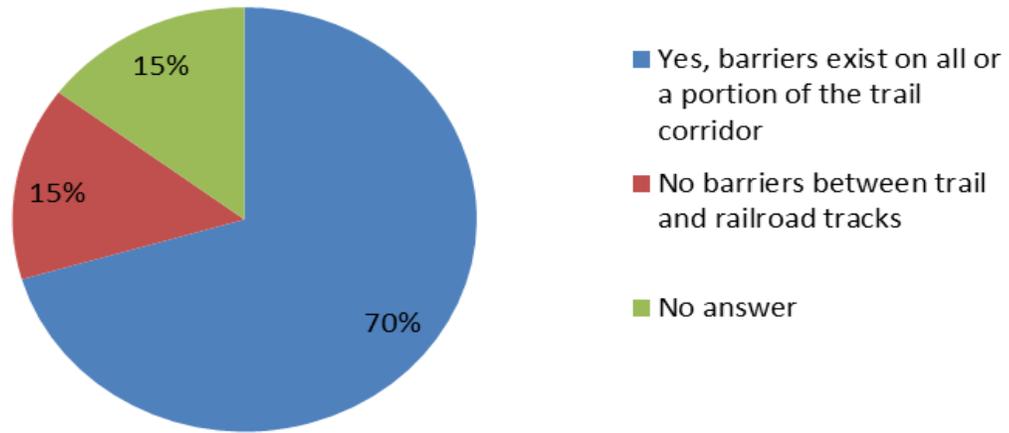


*Multiple crossing types were reported for some trails

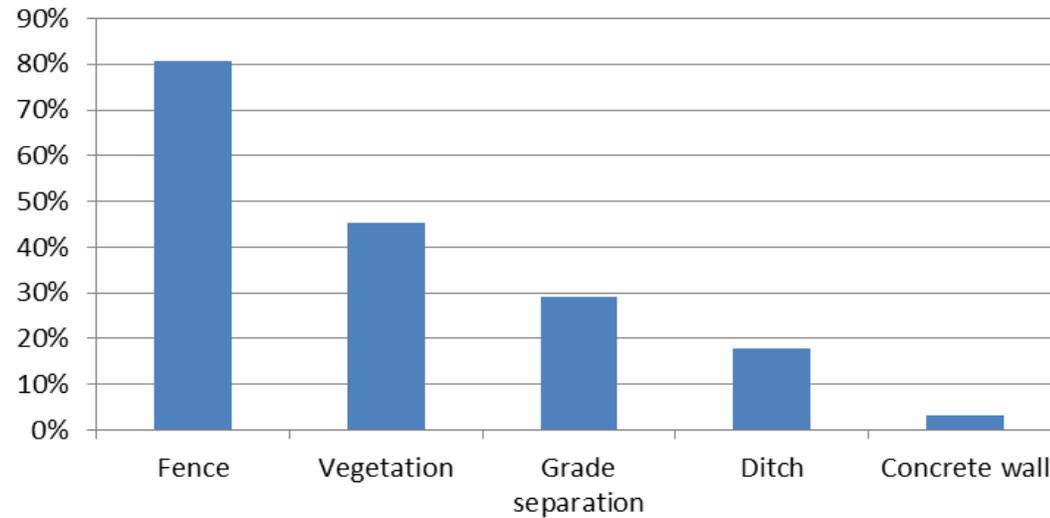
Separation (Barriers)



Existence of barriers between trail and rail



Barrier type

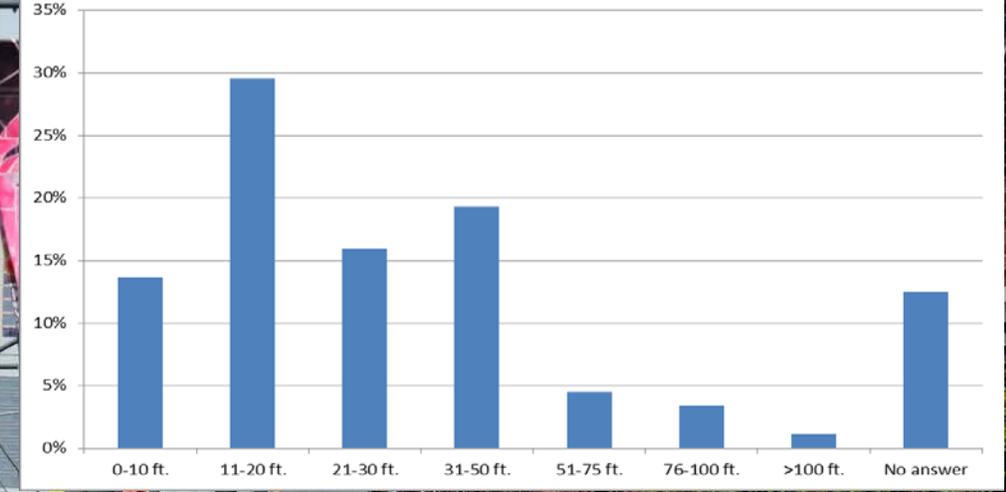


**Several trails reported multiple barrier types*

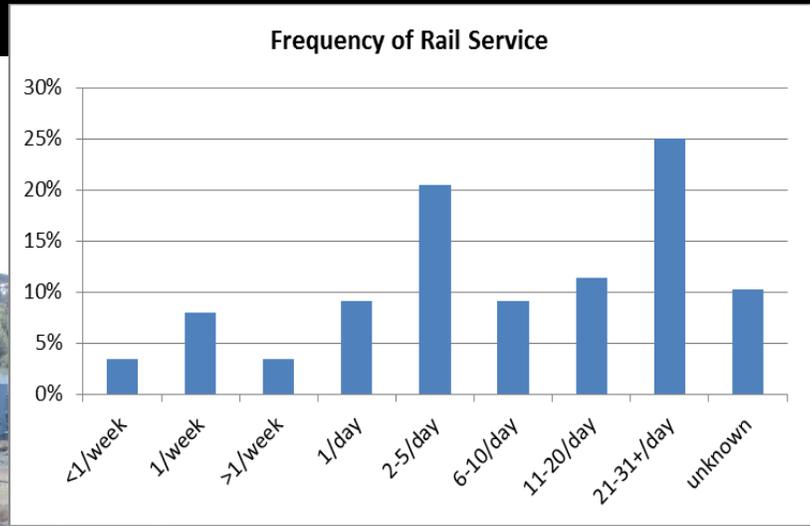
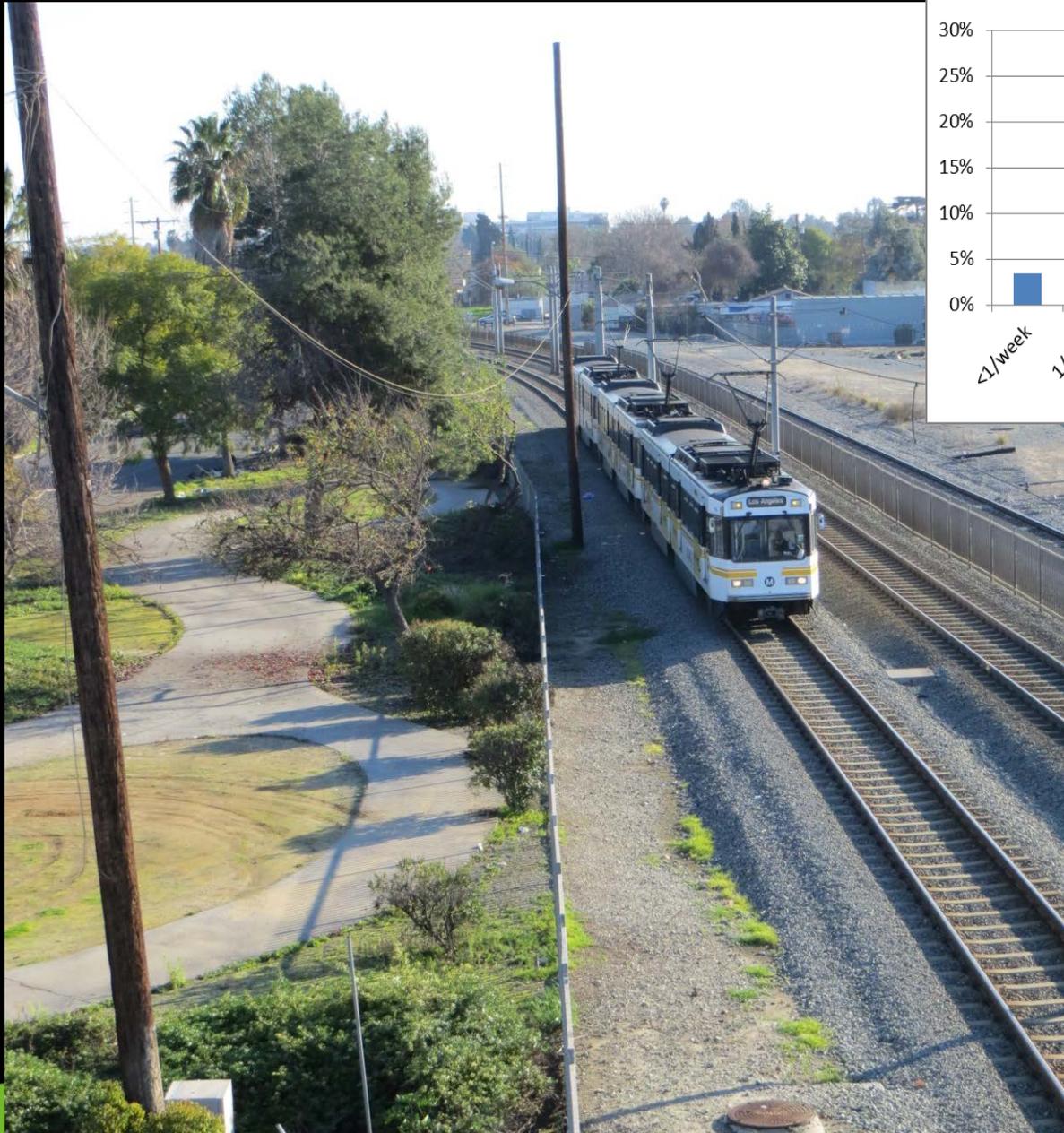
Setback



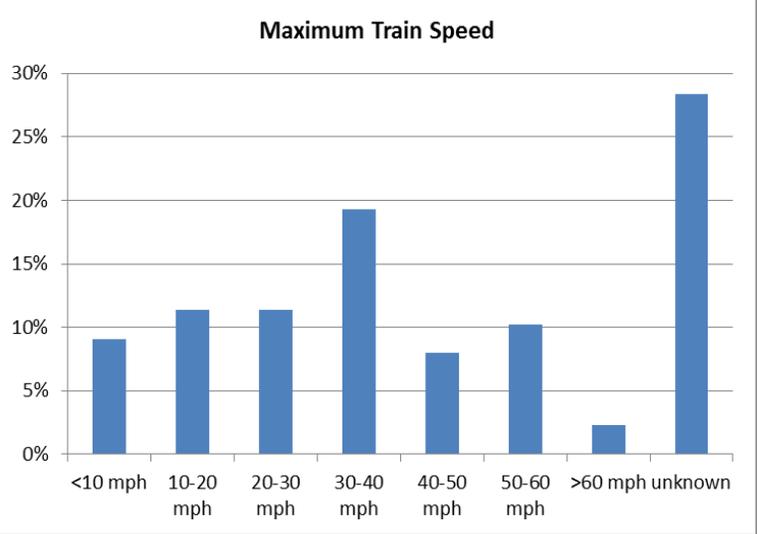
MLK Promenade
San Diego, California



Charlotte Trolley Trail



Watts Tower Greenway
California

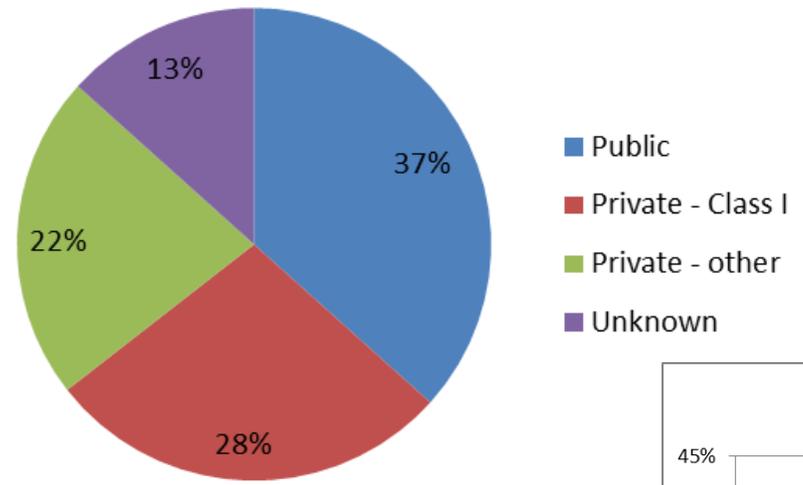


San Clemente Beach Trail

California

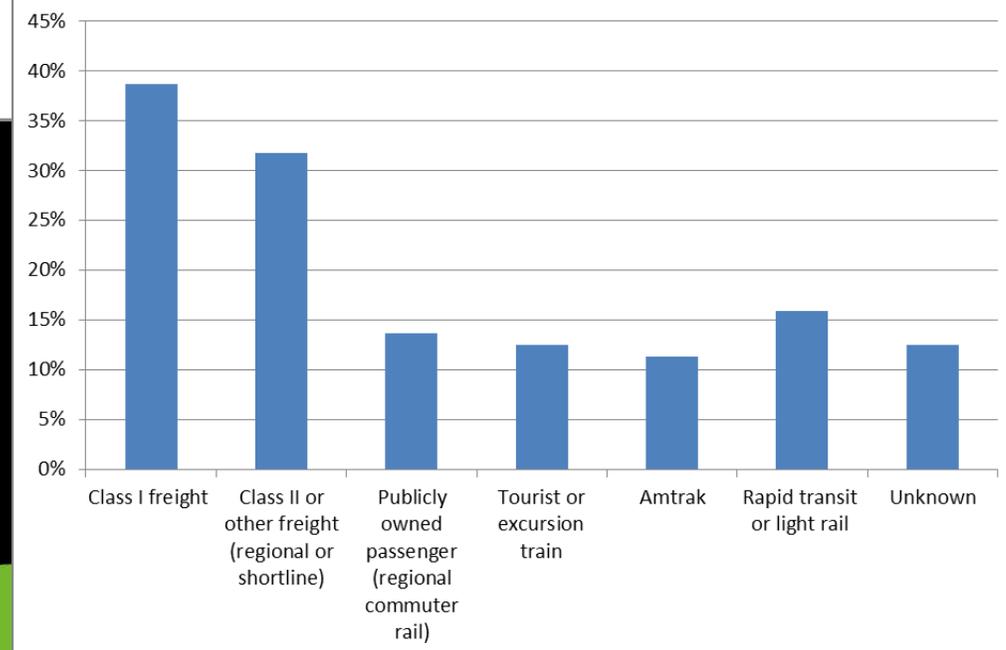


Railroad Corridor Ownership



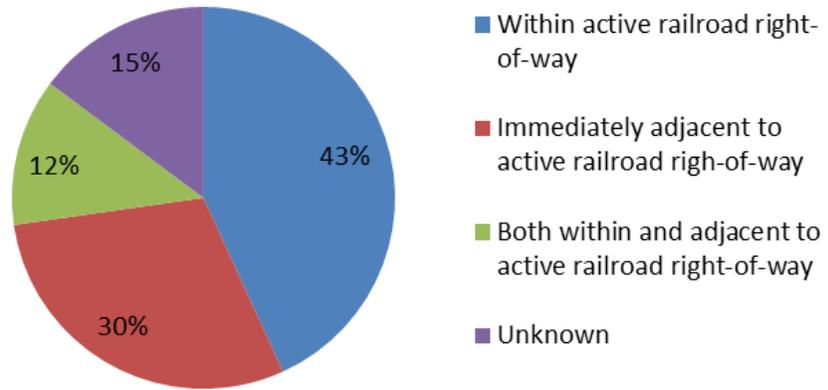
Legal issues: Ownership

Type of railroad operation

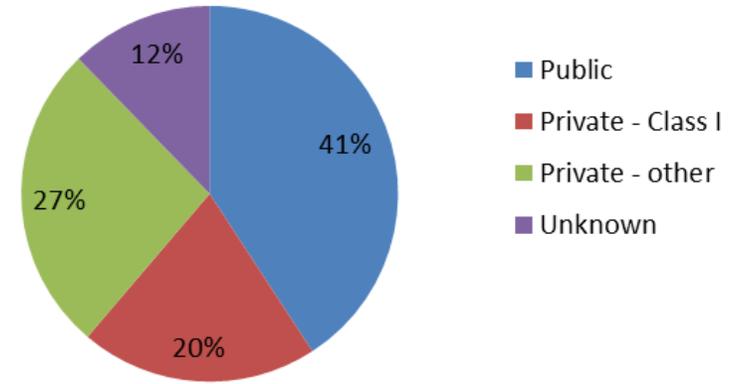


**Multiple types of service exist along many RWTs*

Location of trail corridor relative to active railroad right-of-way



Corridor Ownership of RWTs Within the Railroad ROW



Trail Corridor Acquisition Method

