

## **How is the speed of trains regulated? What about the speed of trains at highway-rail grade crossings?**

From the Minnesota Department of Transportation:

The speed of trains is regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and is based on the current condition of the track. As speeds of trains increase, track tolerances become more narrow and inspection frequency may increase. A railroad determines what speed it wishes to travel at and then agrees to meet the FRA track standards to travel at that speed. Speeds at highway-rail grade crossings depend on the type of active warning device (flashing lights/gates) and are determined based on the time it would take for a vehicle to safely get across the track. The State Commissioner of Transportation has the authority to regulate speeds at crossings based on this safety condition. The Commissioner has no jurisdiction to order a change in speed at a crossing with a passive (crossbuck/no signal) warning device.

From Twin Cities & Western Railroad:

The current speed of the TC&W trains entering St. Louis Park from the west is 25 mph, but they slow to 10 mph on the Kenilworth line. The speed on the MN&S line currently is also 10 mph. The MN&S and Kenilworth lines are close to the same length.