Federal Railroad Administration Risk Reduction Program
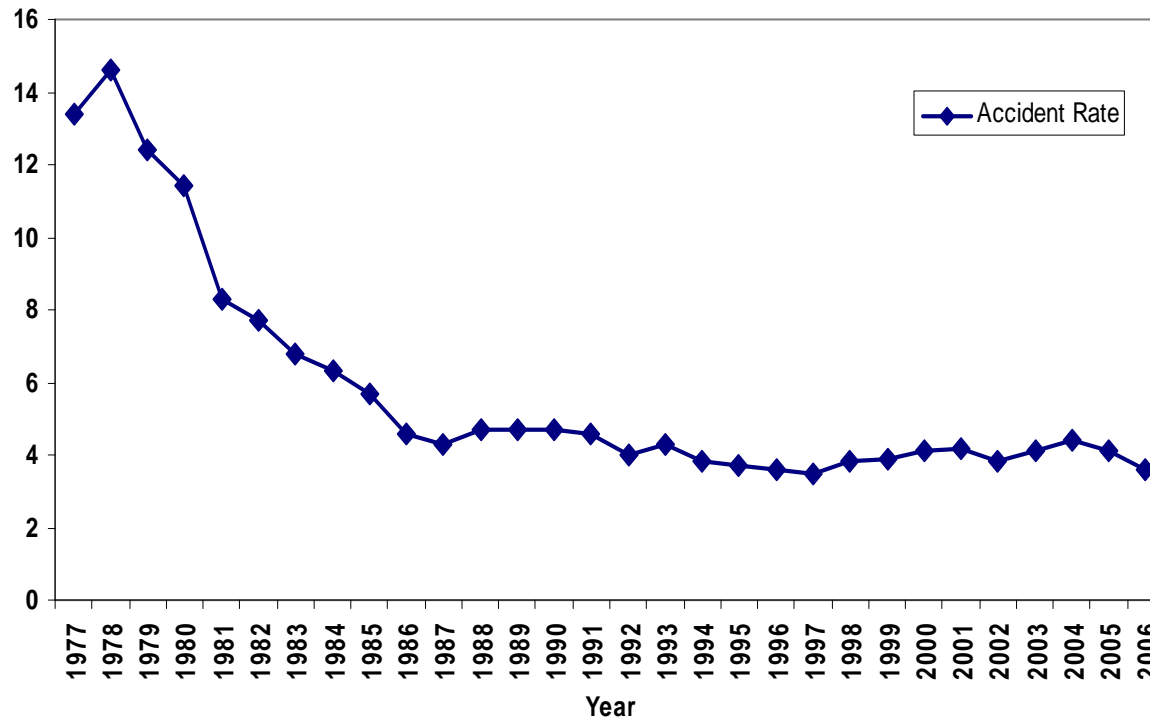
August 12, 2008

FRA Office of Safety

FRA Office of Railroad Development

Meeting Co-sponsored by the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Railroad Operational Safety

Why Is This Program Being Created?

Accident/Incident Rate Plateau

Train Accidents/Incidents per Million Train Miles

- **Over 50% reduction from 1977-85**

- **Little change from 1985 to present**

Graniteville, South Carolina
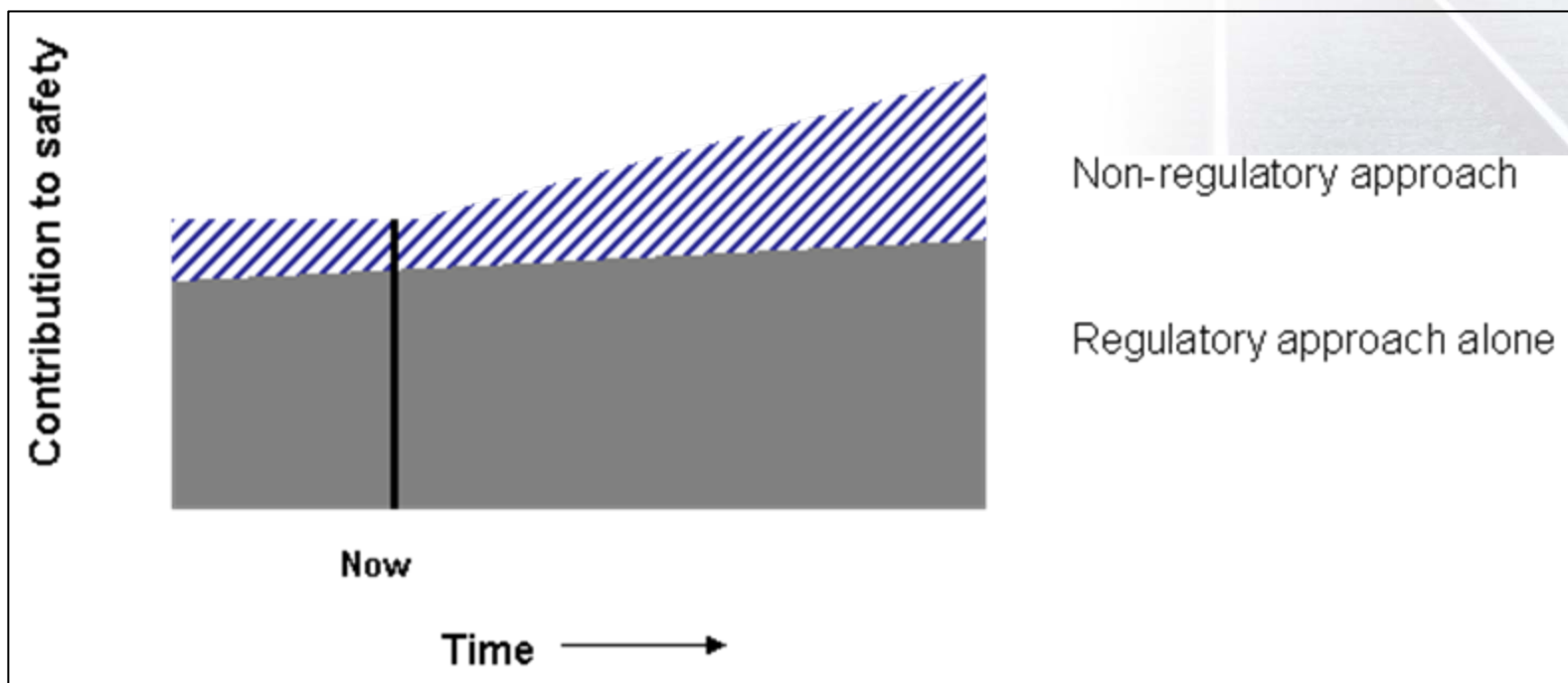

Photo courtesy of EPA

National Rail Safety Action Plan

- Targeting most frequent, high risk accident types

- Focusing FRA oversight and inspection resources more precisely

- Accelerating research issues with potential to mitigate largest risks

Tradition is Not Going Away…

But we have learned a better approach (for some)

Continue to strengthen regulatory enforcement approaches while adding complementary non-enforcement approaches

What makes this a good time for the Risk Reduction Program?

Industry is Changing

- By 2010, 80,000 new employees will have been hired

- Strong organizational culture

- Recognition of need and opportunity for change

FRA is Changing

- Reorganizing the Office of Safety
- Building processes to maximize collaboration between all offices
  - Project management
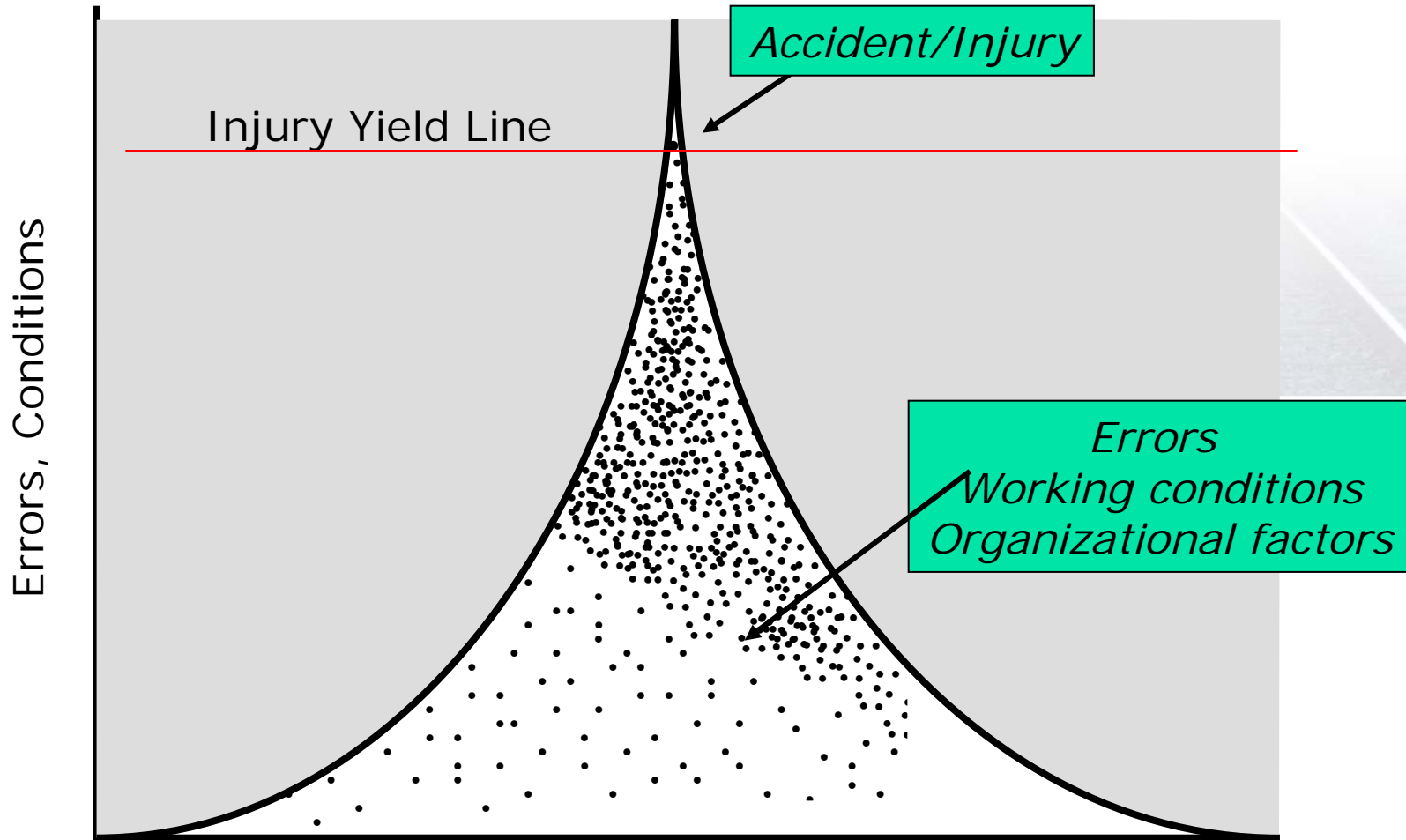 - Funding
  - Communications

Congressional Support

- Senate passed reauthorization bill August 1st, 2008
  - Requires RRP pilot program
  - Enables FRA to protect RRP data
  - Authorizes funding
- House reauthorization does not include similar provisions

What is the Risk Reduction Program (RRP)?

<u>Definition</u>: An **FRA-led** industry-wide initiative to **reduce accidents** and injuries, and build strong safety cultures, by developing innovative methods, processes, and technologies to identify and correct individual and systemic contributing factors **using "upstream" predictive data**.

How to Reduce Accidents: Create Learning Culture

Errors, Conditions

Injury Yield Line

Accident/Injury

Errors
Working conditions
Organizational factors

Are voluntary programs new to FRA?

- No:
  - Safety Rules Consolidation
  - Behavior Based Safety
  - C3RS
  - Highway/Rail Grade Crossing Program
  - Collision Hazard Analysis (commuters)

Developing a Risk Reduction Program

- In 2007
    - Conducted Stakeholder Interviews
    - Created initial program design, vision
- In 2008
    - Created Executive Steering Committee
    - Chartered FRA working group
        - Designed RRP Process
        - Developed Communications and Orientation Plans
        - Developed New Data Analyses
    - Drafted White Paper

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What will result from RRP?

Reduced accidents/incidents because of:

- Better management and use of precursor (predictive) data, not just reactive data
- A safety learning culture that allows open disclosure about safety without fear

Thank You