



SLOW ZONE TRACKING

Information



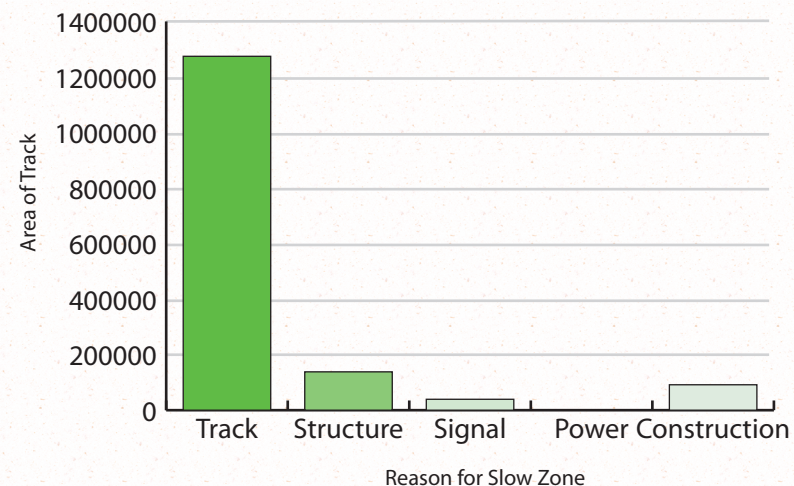
The 'L' is Chicago's rail transit system. It serves a variety of destinations throughout the city including the airport and many popular tourist attractions. The system includes eight rail lines, each designated by a specific color. During the day, trains on all lines run every 7 to 10 minutes. In the later evening, the trains run about every 10 to 15 minutes. In 2011, over 220 million people rode the 'L'.



WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT SLOW ZONES?

CTA continues to renew track in order to remove and prevent slow zones on the 'L' system. Slow zones are areas where trains are required to operate at slower-than-normal speeds due to track conditions caused by various things. Slow zone elimination work typically involves replacing parts of the track. On occasion whole parts of tracks are replaced. The end result of this construction is faster and more reliable service coupled with a better, more comfortable commute.

Area of CTA Train Track Slow Zoned in 2011



Five reasons exist for instituting a slow zone along a portion of rail track:

- Track - these are areas where track is faulty or worn out and needs repair
- Structure - this includes portions of track that somehow interact with structures, like bridges, that prohibit trains to travel faster than a given speed
- Signal - these areas include portions of track where faulty signals caused trains to slow down
- Power - this includes any portion of track where trains had to be slowed or stopped because of power outages
- Construction - this includes any areas where trains were slowed due to construction on the track



RELATIONSHIP TO RIDERSHIP

The need to implement slow zones is not tied to the total number of annual passengers per line. Rather, the need to slow track trains stems from reasons like issues with faulty or worn out track.

Ranking of Average Percentage of Track Slow Zoned



*The red train has the largest number of riders and the second highest percentage of track slow-zoned



AN ONGOING PROCESS

CTA never stops working to try and eliminate the slow zone areas. Of course, when trying to improve a track, construction inevitably slows trains down for a while. It's important to keep in mind that slow zoned areas change fairly frequently. If one train has a lot of slow zones at the moment, it may not have nearly as many next month.

Percentage of Track Slow Zoned in 2011

