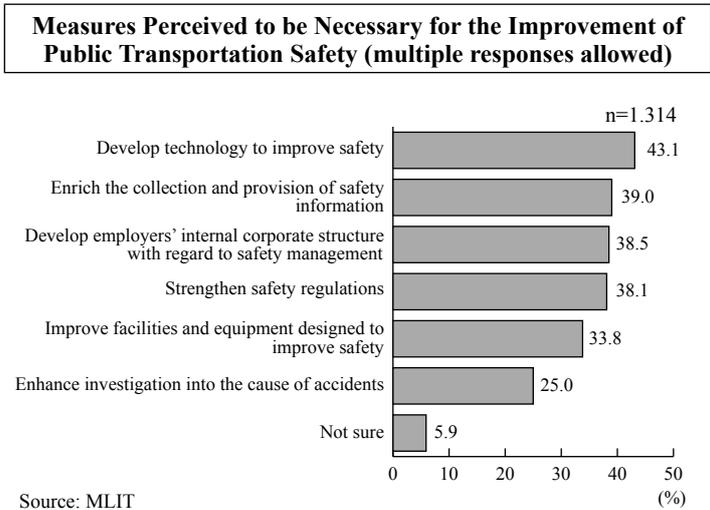


[Joint efforts in the public and private sectors toward maintaining and improving the safety of transportation]

○ Efforts expected of businesses toward the establishment of safety climate

In an opinion poll conducted in December 2005, when asked what measures they thought needed to be taken to improve the safety of public transportation, although many respondents mentioned enrichment and enhancement of provisions by the government, many also mentioned development of corporate structures by businesses.



In order for businesses to reaffirm the significance of ensuring safety and make efforts toward creating a safety climate in a unified fashion from top management down to the field of direct contact with users, it is strongly expected that the efforts listed below, beginning with the creation of a safety management posture, will be tirelessly carried out under the leadership of top management.

- Creation of a safety management posture and ongoing efforts
 - Clarification of the commitment of top management
 - Establishment and clarification of basic policy
 - Exposure of safety risks in business operation (risk assessment)
 - Prioritization of discovered safety risks and examination and execution of countermeasures
 - Development of internal corporate structure and clarification of responsibility and authority
 - Establishment of suitable processes for communication and information sharing
 - Implementation of effective internal auditing (including the use of external personnel)
 - Implementation of regular review and ongoing improvement measures with participation by top management
- Implementation of education and training to create a safety climate
- Establishment of response strategies for the outbreak of crises
- Enforcement of proper health management (physical aptitude, driver aptitude, daily management)

○ Government reinforcement of oversight systems for businesses and environmental improvement

A switchover of administrative methods from the conventional field-based and spot check-based methods must be effected in order to solidify the efforts of businesses to ensure safety. While employers' internal safety management efforts are based on the principle of business autonomy and self-responsibility, in addition to the conventionally enforced security (safety) audit, supplemental government assessment must also be carried out on matters like whether the top management is committed to the efforts and whether the efforts are functioning as a process. Other administrative methods like those listed below must also be examined and executed.

- Implementation of a process check (safety management assessment) in transportation companies to assess the suitability of internal management systems, including safety management
- Enrichment and reinforcement of specialized and systematic security (safety) auditing
- Introduction of effective incentives and the like to accommodate the unique characteristics of each mode of transport
- Reinforcement of organization control, including enrichment and enhancement of safety observers and the setting up of safety monitoring organizations that operate across modes of transport
- Utilization of third party checking functions from outside organizations

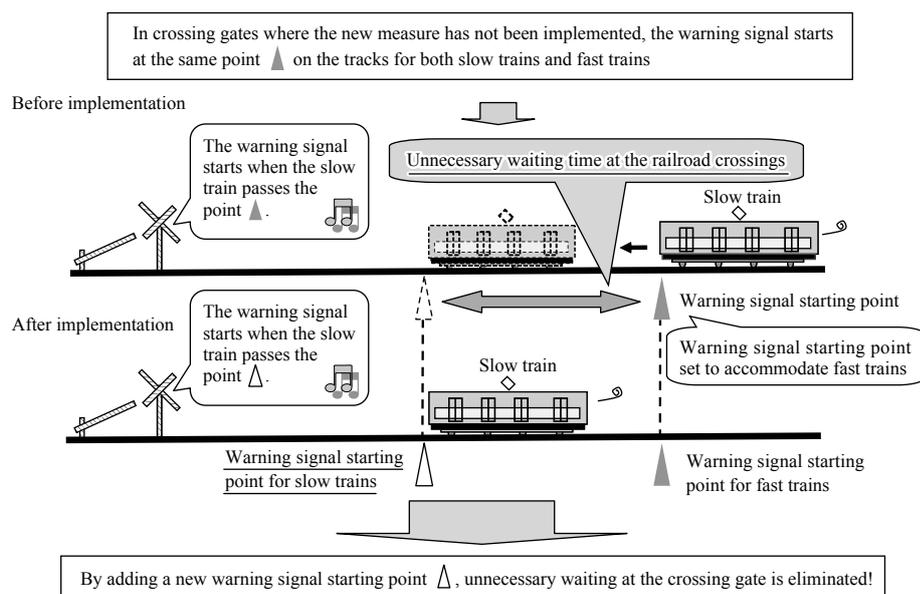
In addition to strengthening the business oversight system, improving the environment so that businesses can make efforts toward accident prevention is another important role the government must play. In terms of actual content, it is necessary to review and implement items like those listed below.

- Creation of guidelines for safety management
- Support for development of human resources and education and training in businesses
- Execution of safety data collection and analysis, review of safety standards based on the results, and other preventive safety measures
- Thorough investigation into the causes of accidents, including the enrichment and reinforcement of the organization and structure of the Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Committee, as well as appropriate and timely disclosure of information

○ Strengthening and quickening of measures for railroad crossings

Based on recent incidents resulting in deaths and injuries at “un-opening railroad crossings,” in order to prevent accidents and improve traffic flow at railroad crossings it is important to make efforts to accelerate measures for railroad crossings, including measures for “un-opening railroad crossings” with a two-pronged approach using “drastic measures” like continuous grade-separated crossing initiatives and “fast measures” like widening the pedestrian walkways at railroad crossings, constructing pedestrian crossing bridges and the like, and implementing sophisticated railroad crossings regulators (“smart railroad crossings”) that reduce the time that the crossing bars are down.

Image Representation of “Smart Railroad Crossings” that Reduce the Time that the Crossing Bars are Down



Source: MLIT