

# National Transportation Safety Board

Office of the Chair

Washington, DC 20594



March 1, 2023

Mr. Minh Nguyen  
President  
OpenStreetMap US  
712 H Street NE, Unit #980  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

Thank you for the July 11, 2022, letter, signed by Ms. Maggie Cawley, Executive Director, regarding Safety Recommendation H-16-15. We issued this recommendation to OpenStreetMap US (OSM) on December 19, 2016, as a result of our investigation of the February 24, 2015, train and truck crash and subsequent fire on a railroad right-of-way in Oxnard, California.

## **H-16-15**

Incorporate grade-crossing-related geographic data, such as those currently being prepared by the Federal Railroad Administration, into your navigation applications to provide road users with additional safety cues and to reduce the likelihood of crashes at or near public or private grade crossings.

We note that OSM is a worldwide, open-data mapping effort that relies on the collaboration of individual volunteers and companies to update its map content. Ms. Cawley wrote that your mapping contributors have been working collaboratively since August 2017 to update highway-rail grade crossing information on your US maps based on a combination of field surveys, street-level imagery, and public data made available by the Federal Railroad Administration and state regulators. We appreciate receiving a copy of OSM's October 2019 response to a congressional inquiry about this matter, which Ms. Cawley included with her letter.

Because you have established a systematic map maintenance effort that has already resulted in a significant number of grade-crossing updates, your actions have addressed the intent of this recommendation. Accordingly, Safety Recommendation H-16-15 is classified Closed–Acceptable Action.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve road-user safety near public or private grade crossings.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Homendy  
Chair

cc: Ms. Maggie Cawley  
Executive Director