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American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

# VIEWS & NEWS

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**2005 ASLRRA  
Annual  
Convention  
April 3-4-5  
Anaheim, CA**

(Click here for more  
information)

**ASLRRA is  
Seeking Applicants  
for the following  
position:**

**General  
Superintendent of  
Safety and  
Operating Practices**

**(click on the  
position title for  
more information)**

**Questions? Comments?  
E-Mail Us.**

**Currently, Railroad  
Security Alert Level  
2 is in Effect**

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## **STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR ASLRRA'S 2005 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

ASLRRA's Annual Convention will take place April 3-4-5, 2005 at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California. Join hundreds of industry representatives at this informative meeting. If you haven't sent in your registrations yet, there's still time to make sure that you don't miss out. For more information on the Annual Convention, or to download registration forms, [click here](#). The Marriott may be sold out on certain nights, but a small number of rooms are available at the nearby Clarion Hotel for \$89 per night. Call the hotel at 714-750-3131 and mention ASLRRA to obtain the rate.

### **Special Event Opportunity**

The American Public Transit Association (APTA) is meeting in Los Angeles on the same weekend as the ASLRRA convention. They will be running a special Metrolink train from L.A. Union Station to the Port of L.A. and return via the Alameda Corridor and Pacific Harbor Line on Saturday April 2, 2005. They have extended an invitation to any ASLRRA meeting attendees who want to ride. The schedule is to leave L.A. Union Station at 8:00 a.m., arrive in San Pedro at 9:30 a.m., leave San Pedro at 2:00 p.m. and arrive at LAUS at 3:30 p.m.

At San Pedro there are restaurants, a maritime museum, and a historic trolley.

There is no charge for the trip, but anyone who wishes to attend does need to let Metrolink know by calling Colleen Richter at 213-452-0313 or email her at [richter@scrra.net](mailto:richter@scrra.net). When you call, let her know that you are an ASLRRA meeting attendee. Transportation from Anaheim to L.A. Union Station (approximately 30 miles) will not be provided.

### **Don't Miss the Pacific Region Marketing Fair**

Have you ever thought that we should be doing more Short line-to-Short line marketing? Well, if so, this is your chance to reach out to over 250 short lines that will be represented from all over the North American continent. This year, the Pacific Region is hosting the annual convention and there will be a Railroad Marketing Trade Fair in the Exhibition Hall, starting at 4:30pm on Sunday, April 3 and concluding at 7:15pm on Monday, April 4.

We all know that you can't solely rely on your Class I partners to tell your railroad's marketing story or be looking out for opportunities for you, so knowing your marketing counterparts at other origin or destination short lines should be a central theme in your marketing strategies. This trade fair is a golden opportunity to help you in this endeavor.

Visit the Short Line Marketing Trade Fair in the Exhibition Hall, where Pacific Region members will set out their brochures, maps and other information. The emphasis will be on casual discussions and using the opportunity to make contact with each other, paving the way to future in-depth discussions about growth opportunities.

We are very hopeful that your railroad will participate in the Annual Convention and this first ever Marketing Fair. This is a golden opportunity for short lines across the country to work together to maximize their marketing possibilities.

## **2004 ASLRRA SAFETY AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to ASLRRA's 2004 Safety Award Winners! In 1999, ASLRRA established a Safety Awards program. The program, co-sponsored by the National Academy of Railroad Sciences and MARSH USA, uses ASLRRA's Severity Index, which is based on the railroad's employee injuries and man-hours. Each ASLRRA member railroad is then placed into one of five categories, depending on the railroad's man-hours worked: 1-10,000; 10,001 – 50,000; 50,001 – 250,000; and 250,001 and above. An additional category is for Switching and Terminal Railroads. In each category there are four award levels: Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper. Six years after its creation, this Safety Awards program has become one of the premier safety recognition programs in the industry.

**250,001+ Hours:**

Gold - Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company  
Silver - Providence & Worcester Railroad Company  
Bronze - New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway  
Copper - Iowa Interstate Railroad

**50,001 – 250,000 Hours:**

Gold - Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad  
Silver - Columbus & Ohio River Railroad  
Bronze - Utah Railway Company  
Copper - Nebraska Central Railroad

**10,001 – 50,000 Hours:**

Gold - Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad  
Silver - Chattahoochee Industrial Railroad  
Bronze - Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railroad  
Copper - Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad

**1-10,000 Hours:**

Gold - Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad  
Silver - Newburgh & South Shore Railroad  
Bronze - Gulf, Colorado & San Saba Railway  
Copper - Florida Midland Railroad Co., Inc.

**Switching & Terminal Railroads:**

Gold - Terminal Railroad Assoc. of St. Louis  
Silver - Belt Railway Company of Chicago  
Bronze - Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Co.  
Copper - Birmingham Southern Railroad Co.

The Safety Award winners will be recognized at ASLRRRA's Annual Convention, April 3-5, 2005, along with ASLRRRA's Marketing Award winners and the Safety Person of the Year.

**BUSH TO NOMINATE N.Y. DOT CHIEF TO HEAD FRA**

On March 17, the White House announced that President Bush will nominate New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner, Joseph H. Boardman to be the next Federal Railroad Administrator.

Mr. Boardman previously served the Department as First Deputy Commissioner and as Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Public Transportation. Prior to that, Mr. Boardman was Chief Operating Officer of Progressive Transportation Services, Inc., in Elmira, New York. Earlier in his career, he served as Commissioner of Public Transportation in Broome, County, New York. Mr. Boardman received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and his master's degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

**RIVERPORT RAILROAD RECEIVES RRIF LOAN**

The Riverport Railroad, LLC, a short-line operator located in Northwestern Illinois, is receiving a more than \$5.5 million loan from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to rehabilitate rail related infrastructure and facilities that were once part of the Savanna Army Ordnance Depot.

Funding from the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program will be used to improve and consolidate about six miles of existing track to make operations more efficient and install new, heavier track to handle the industry standard 286,000-pound railcars. In addition, yard storage capacity will be increased by 33 percent (from 3,000 to 4,000 railcars) and real estate will be acquired to support its planned business expansion.

Currently, the Riverport Railroad, LLC, primarily provides switching operations for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and stores, cleans and maintains empty railcars. The RRIF loan will help the railroad expand its business to include a bulk commodity yard where trainloads of product will be stored until sold; a transload facility where product is stored in on-site warehouses or transferred directly between train and truck; and a marshalling yard where trains up to 110-units long can be stored. In addition, a portion of the funding will be used to remove and relocate about 9.6 miles of track from land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

FRA Acting Administrator Robert D. Jamison said, “Short line railroads are an integral component of the nation’s rail transportation network, connecting smaller communities and shippers to markets at home and abroad. The funding provided today will aid in the expansion of the local economy and ensure reliable rail access for area shippers.”

### **OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION APPROVES FUNDING FOR SMALL RAIL PROJECTS**

From replacing an important railroad bridge in Youngstown to helping a Southern Ohio railroad relieve flooding problems, Ohio Rail Development Commissioners today approved seven projects around the state. All of the actions will not only improve rail service, but also help local business and create or retain jobs.

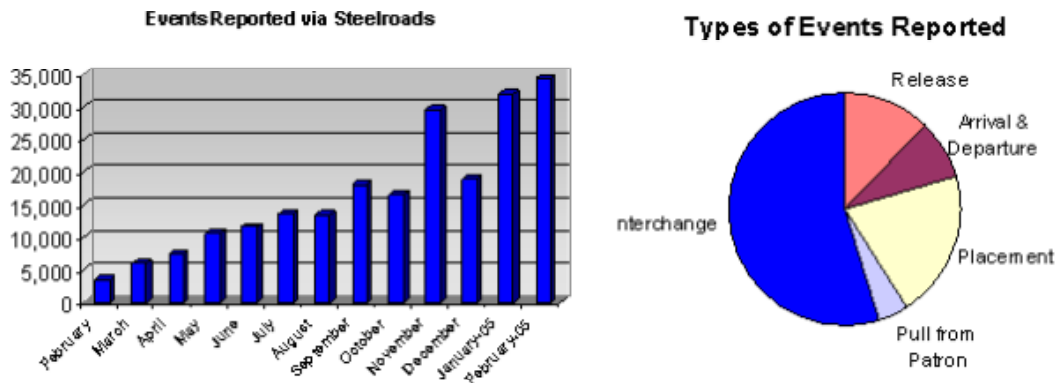
Commissioners gave unanimous approval to the following:

- Approved a \$150,000 grant to assist in the replacement of an important railroad bridge over the Mahoning River. The 298-foot, steel girder bridge was built in 1910 for the Youngstown Belt Railroad (YBRR) and had deteriorated to the point it had to be closed and no funds were available at the time to cover the estimated \$1-million to \$2-million dollar cost. But in a fortunate turn of events, an ODOT project to rebuild the nearby State Route 193 highway bridge has enabled the replacement of the railroad bridge to take place. The ODOT contractor has removed the YBRR bridge in order to create space for a large crane for the highway bridge project. This also greatly reduces the cost for the railroad. When the project is completed, the contractor will replace the YBRR bridge using newly refurbished steel girders. That steel comes from a railroad bridge recently dismantled by the City of Youngstown that would have otherwise been sold for scrap. Finding a new life for this old bridge also reduces the cost of the project. It will also help to better serve shippers who currently employ 300 people, and to the new Genmak plant which is creating 54 new jobs. The Youngstown Belt Railroad is now a subsidiary of the Ohio Central Railroad System.
- Approved a \$148,000 grant to assist the RJ Corman Railroad to rehabilitate 10 miles of track between St. Mary’s and Minster in Auglaize County. The upgraded track will allow better service to shippers along the line who currently employ over 3,000 people.
- Approved a \$132,000 grant and a loan of up to \$108,000 to cover the costs of building and/or rebuilding approximately 6,000 feet of track on the Republic N & T Railroad to serve a new steel casting plant at Republic Engineered Products in Canton. The project will allow the railroad to handle an additional 6,000 rail cars per year and create 170 new jobs in the Canton area.
- Approved a grant of \$50,000 to US Rail Corporation (USRC) to help improve drainage ditches along 8 miles of track scattered along the 60-miles of track owned by the City of Jackson in Ross, Vinton and Jackson Counties. The rail lines currently serve 13 active customers who employ over 3,000 people. ORDC staff estimates at least 500 of these jobs are directly dependent on the rail service provided by US Rail Corporation.

- Approved a \$120,000 matching grant for the Maumee & Western Railroad (MAWRR) to repair portions of their rail lines between Cecil, Ohio and the Indiana state line and between Napoleon and Defiance, Ohio. The MAWRR will provide a 40% match of \$80,000. These track repairs will allow more timely and reliable service along the MAWRR to shippers who employ about 5,800 people. The line also parallels the important US Highway 24 Corridor, which is currently being expanded to four lanes on the Ohio portion of the so-called “Fort to Port” (Fort Wayne-Toledo) highway. The project will allow the railroad to generate an estimated 960 new carloads of freight a year.
- Approved \$40,000 grant to the Cleveland Commercial Railroad Company (CCRC) to repair three to five switches at the northern end of its operating line in Cleveland. This is a start-up short line railroad that replaces a former rail operator. In addition to helping the railroad provide effective service to shippers who employ 70 people, the switch repairs will allow much safer operation and reduce train delays. Additionally, the CCRC will undertake repairs to the Washington Street railroad overpass. These repairs will fix a collapsing embankment and allow increased safety for vehicular traffic in the City of Bedford.

“Projects like these,” says ORDC Executive Director James Seney are at the core of what we do at ORDC to not only help the railroads that operate in Ohio, but to preserve and create good jobs for Ohioans.”

### STEELROADS EVENT REPORTING UPDATE



Event Reporting in Steelroads is on the rise! Over 34,000 events were reported in February; more than double the number of events reported just six months ago.

Did you know that interchanges are reported more than any other event? Over 50% of the events reported through Steelroads are Interchange Delivered and Interchange Receipt events. Reporting these critical events help you keep your records current, and provide shipment visibility to your customers.

Steelroads Event Reporters learn how easy it is to report, and often claim, “I wish I had signed up for Steelroads months ago!” Remember, it’s free *and* easy to use.

Get started today by logging onto [www.steelroads.com](http://www.steelroads.com) and clicking on *Become a Member*.

## **FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION VISITS BOATRIGHT RAIL-GEAR FACILITY**



Boatright Enterprises' - Rail-Gear Division welcomed FRA Regional Administrator, Fred Dennin, and FRA Track Safety Specialist, Carmen Patriarca, to their Rail-Gear Facility in Birmingham, Alabama on Thursday, February 24, 2005. The morning session included a complete demonstration of the rail-gear inspections by Boatright's Operations Manager, Kevin Kyser, along with a questions and answers sandhouse session pertaining to the FRA Regulations on Annual M-O-W Equipment Inspections. Shane Boatright, President of Boatright Enterprises, stated, "It is an honor and a privilege to have the FRA visit our rail-gear facility and validate the procedures we exercise pertaining to rail-gear inspections." FRA Regional Administrator, Fred Dennin acknowledged, "the new shop built in Birmingham is a state of the art hi-rail repair shop that is staffed by a trained and knowledgeable team. During our visit, the inspection procedures used by the Boatright Enterprises staff, met all federal requirements for inspection of hi-rail vehicles."

### **MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY APPOINTMENT**

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway has appointed Robert J. Lane chief engineer – Communications & Signals, effective March 1, at the railway's headquarters in Bangor, Maine.

Mr. Lane joins MMA from the Union Pacific Railroad where he had served as manager signal maintenance in the Chicago area since 1989. He has more than 30 years of railroad experience beginning with the Chicago and North Western Transportation Company as a signal assistant in 1972 and advancing to signal foreman in 1979. In 1985, Mr. Lane was promoted to manager signal projects – East-West Mainline, which was a major signal renovation project involving 300 miles of line across the state of Iowa.

### **RED RIVER VALLEY & WESTERN APPOINTS THOMPSON SENIOR VP & GM**

The Red River Valley & Western has appointed Andrew J. Thompson to the newly created post of senior vice president and general manager of the 517-mile regional railroad, effective March 1. Based at Wahpeton, N.D. and reporting to William F. Drusch, president, Mr. Thompson will oversee RRWV's day-to-day activities including Transportation, Marketing, Engineering and Administration.

Mr. Thompson joins RRWV with 27 years of railroad experience, most recently as vice president Packaged Commodities for BNSF Railway. He began his railroad career in 1968 as a switchman and yardmaster for Burlington Northern at Seattle, Wash. In 1974, he transferred to St. Paul, Minn. as a management trainee, subsequently advancing to assistant trainmaster at Lincoln, Neb., trainmaster at Helena, Mont., and assistant

superintendent, superintendent, and president of the Lake Superior Terminal at Superior, Wis. He became division superintendent at Springfield, Mo. in 1982 and was assistant general manager at Springfield from 1983 until 1987, when he was promoted to assistant vice president Transportation at Overland Park, Kans. Mr. Thompson became division general manager at Fort Worth, Texas in 1988.

Transferring to the Marketing Department in 1992 as vice president Aluminum, Non-Ferrous Metals & Ores, he was named general manager Merchandise Operations in 1994 and vice president Packaged Commodities in 1995.

Mr. Thompson has a BA in Business from the University of Washington, Seattle.

The Red River Valley & Western started in July 1987 over track acquired from BNSF in central and southeastern North Dakota and western Minnesota.

## **RAILROAD TRAFFIC**

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were up 1.9 percent in the week ending February 26, 2005, with 346,967 cars originated, compared to 340,649 cars originated in 2004. Carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were up 7.6 percent for the year. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 11.6 percent for the week and is up 10.6 percent for the year to date. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic is up 9.7 percent for the year. Total volume is up 3.1 percent for the year.

For just the week ending February 19, 2005, U.S. carloads were up 4.9 percent and carloads for U.S. Non-Class I railroads that submit data to the AAR were up 6.6 percent. Carloads were up 3.7 percent in the East and up 5.8 percent in the West. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 22.8 percent for the week and U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic was up 7.8 percent.

According to RMI's RailConnect Index, which includes traffic summaries for 201 short line and regional railroads, short line carloads were up 13.28 percent for the week ending February 26, 2005. Short lines reporting to RMI moved 96,157 cars for the week, compared with 85,395 cars for the same week in 2004. For the year-to-date, short line traffic was up 10.10 percent, with 726,256 cars handled in 2005, compared to 659,647 cars handled at the same point in 2004.

## **EMBARGO NOTICES & REROUTE ORDERS**

A complete listing of embargo notices is available at [embargo.railinc.com](http://embargo.railinc.com).

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