

**Make Plans to  
Attend the 2005  
ASLRRRA Regional  
Meetings:**  
(Click on the meeting name  
for more information)

Central / Pacific  
Region Meeting  
October 2-4, 2005  
Monte Carlo Resort  
Las Vegas, NV

Eastern Region  
Meeting  
October 17-19, 2005  
Westin Convention  
Center  
Pittsburgh, PA

Southern Region  
Meeting  
Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2005  
Beau Rivage Resort  
Biloxi, MS

Questions? Comments?  
E-Mail Us.

Currently, Railroad  
Security Alert Level  
2 is in Effect

## IN THIS ISSUE

1. [Secretary Mineta Unveils National Rail Safety Action Plan](#)
2. [ASLRRRA Welcomes Mears](#)
3. [New Jersey Hosts STB for Inspection Tour](#)
4. [Iowa Interstate Railroad Partners with CSX Intermodal to Extend CSXU Network](#)
5. [Third Quarter RCAF](#)
6. [Minnesota Conference Scheduled for July 17-19](#)
7. [Steelroads Event Reporting – May 2005](#)
8. [Railinc Short Line and Regional Railroad Traffic Index](#)
9. [RMI RailConnect Index of Short Line Traffic](#)
10. [Railroad Traffic](#)
11. [Embargo Notices and Reroute Orders](#)

## **SECRETARY MINETA UNVEILS NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY ACTION PLAN**

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta recently announced a new plan to improve safety along the nation's railroads during a visit to Columbia, S.C. The plan will help prevent train accidents caused by human error, improve the safety of hazmat shipments, minimize the dangers of crew fatigue, deploy state-of-the-art technologies to detect track defects, and focus inspectors on safety trouble spots.

Secretary Mineta outlined the new National Rail Safety Action Plan, which represents the Department of Transportation's aggressive new approach to improving safety throughout the railroad industry. The plan will target the most frequent, highest-risk causes of accidents, focus federal oversight and inspection resources, and accelerate research into new technologies that can vastly improve rail safety. It focuses on and develops action plans and target implementation dates in five categories: reducing human factor accidents, improving track safety, improving hazardous materials safety and emergency response capability, strengthening the FRA compliance program, and fostering further improvements in highway-rail grade crossing safety.

One of the primary safety issues addressed in the plan is human error, the largest single factor accounting for 38 percent of all accidents over the last five years. Under the plan, Secretary Mineta, with guidance from some of the nation's top rail safety advisors, is seeking to develop a new federal rule to address human factor accidents. The plan also looks to accelerate research examining the role of fatigue in train accidents.

The safe transport of hazardous materials by rail is also a major focus of the action plan. In response to FRA's call to action, the railroad industry will now provide local emergency responders a ranked listing of the top 25 hazardous materials transported through their community. And by July, Mineta said, the FRA will launch a new pilot program providing emergency responders with real-time information via secure website about the hazardous materials involved in train accidents.

The Secretary also announced the implementation of a new National Inspection Plan for deploying inspectors and resources to safety hot spots before accidents occur. And as part of that reinvigorated inspection effort, the Federal Railroad Administration is investing in special high-tech rail cars that automatically inspect tracks integrity as they roll along the rails.

Additionally, to help alleviate risk in so-called "dark territory" – or railroad lines without signal systems, the Department is investigating new devices to detect if switches are in the correct position, and low-cost circuits to detect broken rails. FRA is also beginning field-tests on new technology that automatically controls train movements and speed, including bringing a train to a stop.

"While the railroad industry's overall safety record has improved over the last decade, very serious accidents continue to occur. Growth in both freight and vehicle traffic has created new opportunities and new challenges in the form of more trains on our tracks than ever before. But safety must remain the core principle that guides operations on our nation's rail system," Secretary Mineta said.

"We've got to stay focused on safety to keep our trains moving," he said.

[Click here](#) to view the entire National Rail Safety Action Plan.

## **ASLRRRA WELCOMES MEARS**

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Mears, effective June 16. Dave will serve as Senior Director-Equipment Management and Utilization Programs at ASLRRRA's Washington, DC headquarters.

"We are very pleased that Dave has joined our organization," said ASLRRRA President Rich Timmons. "He brings us excellent knowledge and expertise in rail operations, customer service and fleet management. He is extremely dedicated to serving the railroad industry. I welcome his efforts as the ASLRRRA moves forward with a number of exciting new initiatives."

Dave's background includes over 25 years' experience in progressively responsible positions with Conrail and Amtrak. He holds a B.S. degree in Transportation from the University of Maryland, additional to numerous post-graduate and transportation-related educational coursework. Dave is also a Senior Vice President of the Transportation Research Forum.

Dave looks forward to meeting and serving ASLRRA members. You can reach him at (202) 585-3441 or at [dmears@aslrra.org](mailto:dmears@aslrra.org).

### **NEW JERSEY HOSTS STB FOR INSPECTION TOUR**

The short line industry of northern New Jersey was showcased on June 8 when the Morristown & Erie Railroad hosted an inspection trip of several short line operations for the officials of the Surface Transportation Board, including Chairman Roger Nober, and New Jersey state and local government officials.

The event began with a short tour of the M&E shops followed by a rail trip over M&E lines and lunch on board three passenger cars. Attendees transferred to a bus in Garfield, New Jersey for transportation to a new waste transfer facility recently opened on the property of the New York & Greenwood Lake Railroad. The operation features the close interaction between the waste processing contractor who operates in the railroad's building and the NYGL, which hauls the loaded cars in and out. The group then visited the newly laid M&E tracks in Union County which were formerly "banked" as trails. This reversion to rail operations was recently affirmed by the Surface Transportation Board in an action brought by several of the local communities in the area. The bus tour ended at the Port of New York and New Jersey where ASLRRA Eastern Region Vice President Bob Bailey described the various rail operations at the massive facility, including his own Port Jersey Railroad. The final inspection of the day took place at the water's edge where Wayne Eastman introduced the guests to the unique operations of the New York Cross Harbor Railroad, which floats rail cars across the harbor to Brooklyn and Manhattan. The Cross Harbor was recently challenged by the City of New York in litigation before the Surface Transportation Board in which the City attempted to reclaim vital NYCH operating right of way for other development. The Cross Harbor appealed to the United States D.C. Circuit Court, which ruled in favor of the railroad and thus preserved its ability to operate. Since then the Cross Harbor has steadily gained new customers according to Eastman. Chairman Nober congratulated the Cross Harbor on its commercial success, and then he and the other visitors boarded a tug provided by Cross Harbor to experience their own cross harbor float to the Cross Harbor Brooklyn docks, where the inspection trip and the day concluded.

### **IOWA INTERSTATE RAILROAD PARTNERS WITH CSX INTERMODAL TO EXTEND CSXU NETWORK**

Iowa Interstate has partnered with CSX Intermodal to offer an expanded 48' CSXU container network. As of June 15, 2005 the 48' CSXU network reaches the Iowa Interstate to and from select CSXI core locations. New CSXU origins and Destinations on the Iowa Interstate include:

- Council Bluffs, IA
- Newton, IA
- West Liberty, IA

This opens up new markets for IAIS Intermodal customers. They are now able to provide access to Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Cleveland, Columbus, Evansville, Jacksonville, Miami, Nashville, Orlando, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, Savannah, Springfield, South Kearny, Syracuse and Tampa.

Equipment usage in the intermodal industry is changing everyday. One of the biggest challenges faced by the IAIS is the elimination of available trailer lanes, as many Class I carriers choose to move containers only to enjoy the efficiencies of double stacking intermodal equipment. IAIS is moving forward in the industry by partnering with CSXU through this program and they are very excited about the new opportunities it brings.

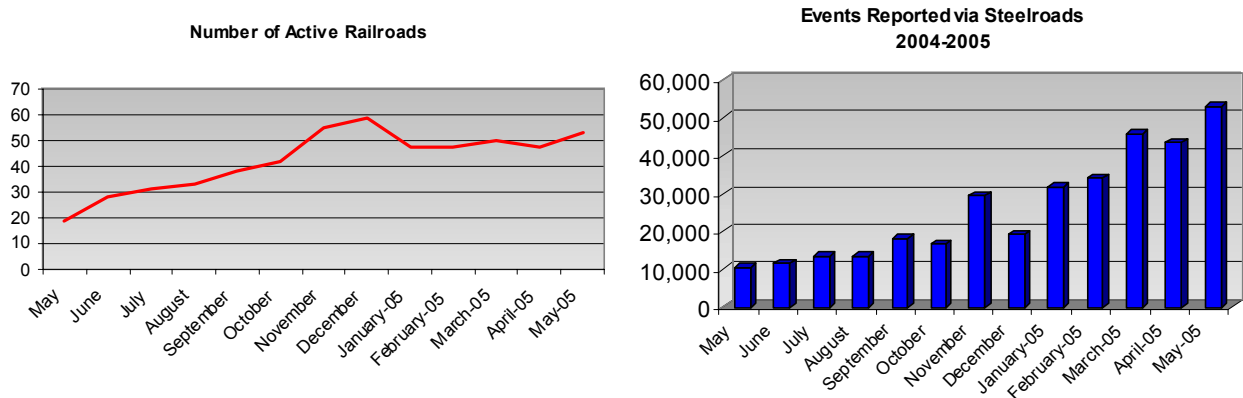
### THIRD QUARTER RCAF

The Surface Transportation Board has announced that for the third quarter of 2005, the Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) (Unadjusted) is 1.136, a decrease of 1.1% from the second quarter, the RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.552, a decrease of 2.0%, and the RCAF-5 is 0.528, a decrease of 1.7%. [Click here](#) to view the STB decision.

### MINNESOTA CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17-19

July 17th, 18th & 19th, 2005: The Minnesota Regional Railroads Association presents the 2005 Midwest Regional & Shortline Railroad Annual Summer Conference in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Any questions on the conference can be answered by contacting Patrick Murray at (651) 556-9204 or [pmurray@mandklaw.com](mailto:pmurray@mandklaw.com).

### STEELROADS® EVENT REPORTING – MAY 2005



Event Reporting in Steelroads is rising quickly. In the past year, the number of events reported has increased over five times!

The number of active railroads using Steelroads to report their events is also rising steadily. Event Reporters are using Steelroads to keep their systems up-to-date and their customers informed of the status of their shipments, leading to increased satisfaction on both sides.

Learning how to report events in Steelroads is quick and easy. In fact, many users wish that they'd started using Steelroads months earlier! 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*.

## RAILINC SHORT LINE AND REGIONAL RAILROAD TRAFFIC INDEX

Carloads, by commodity	Carloads Originated May '05	Carloads Originated May '04	%Change
	(Based on 478 railroads)	(Based on 474 railroads)	
Chemicals	33,294	30,200	10.2%
Coal	21,699	14,657	48.0%
Crushed Stone, Sand and Gravel	25,380	20,958	21.1%
Food and Kindred Products	12,432	10,804	15.1%
Grain	27,600	22,830	20.9%
Grain Mill Products	8,185	6,358	28.7%
Lumber and Wood Products	20,821	20,617	1.0%
Metallic Ores	6,214	6,048	2.7%
Metals and Products	26,115	23,878	9.4%
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	9,502	8,797	8.0%
Nonmetallic Minerals	3,119	2,828	10.3%
Petroleum Products	1,687	1,382	22.1%
Pulp, Paper, and Allied Products	26,344	23,386	12.6%
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	17,494	15,117	15.7%
Trailer or Container	43,057	33,282	29.4%
Waste and Scrap Materials	13,232	9,713	36.2%
All Other Carloads	104,038	112,130	-7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>400,213</b>	<b>362,985</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

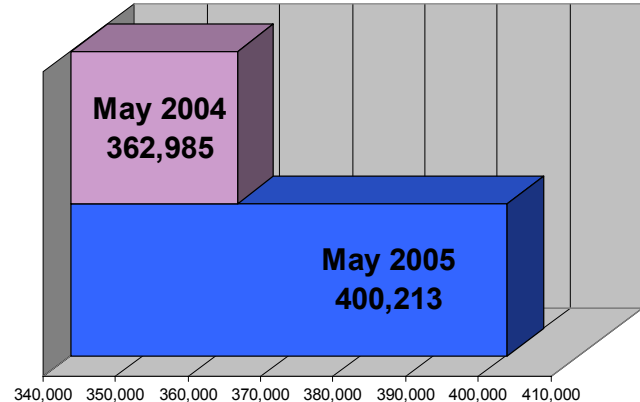
Summary:

Railcar loads originating on North American short line and regional railroads have increased more than 10% since May of 2004. Coal remains the fastest growing commodity, followed by waste and scrap materials.

For more information on Railinc, visit [www.railinc.com](http://www.railinc.com).

Copyright © 2005. Railinc.  
All rights reserved.

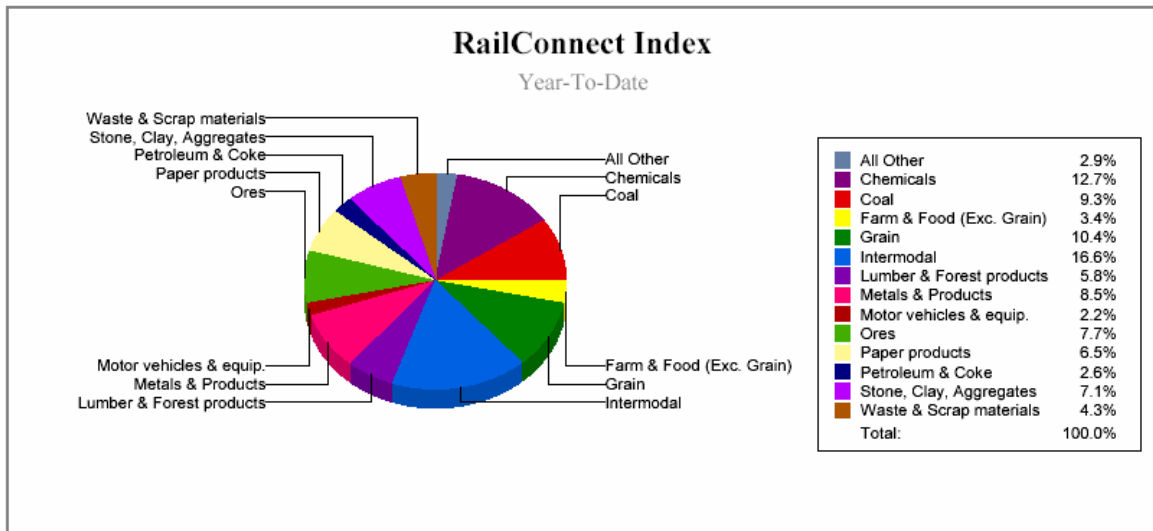
**Total carloads, May 2004 vs. 2005**



## RMI RAILCONNECT INDEX OF SHORT LINE TRAFFIC

For the week ending: 6/4/2005  
Number of Railroads: 212

	Current Week			Year-To-Date		
	2005	2004	% Change	2005	2004	% Change
<b>Carloads Handled</b>						
Coal	9,672	10,372	-6.75%	194,804	201,395	-3.27%
Grain	8,709	10,818	-19.50%	218,594	219,822	-0.56%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	3,146	3,085	1.98%	72,064	61,958	16.31%
Ores	7,146	8,193	-12.78%	160,906	155,209	3.67%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	7,615	7,257	4.93%	149,848	117,739	27.27%
Lumber & Forest Products	5,663	5,121	10.58%	121,095	106,498	13.71%
Paper Products	6,429	6,105	5.31%	137,265	121,431	13.04%
Waste & Scrap Materials	3,594	4,267	-7.34%	90,514	80,798	12.03%
Chemicals	12,714	10,543	20.59%	267,097	236,510	12.93%
Petroleum & Coke	1,936	2,185	-11.40%	54,053	42,635	26.78%
Metals & Products	6,603	7,922	-16.65%	179,129	135,354	32.34%
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	1,772	2,309	-23.26%	45,567	47,009	-3.07%
Intermodal	17,336	13,465	28.75%	347,726	277,044	25.51%
All Other	1,924	3,334	-42.29%	60,348	65,061	-7.24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,619</b>	<b>94,976</b>	<b>-0.38%</b>	<b>2,099,010</b>	<b>1,868,463</b>	<b>12.34%</b>



### RAILROAD TRAFFIC

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were down 2.2 percent in the week ending June 11, 2005, with 332,491 cars originated, compared to 339,944 cars originated in 2004. Carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were down 0.2 percent for the week and are up 12.2 percent for the year to date. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 3.1 percent for the week and is up 6.4 percent for the year to date. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic is up 5.8 percent for the year. Total volume is up 2.6 percent for the year, with an estimated total of 729.4 billion ton-miles.

For just the week ending June 4, 2005, U.S. carloads were up 0.6 percent and carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were up 8.9 percent. Carloads were up 1.4 percent in the East and were unchanged in the West. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 2.8 percent for the week.

## **EMBARGO NOTICES & REROUTE ORDERS**

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

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
50 F Street, N.W., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 628-4500 FAX (202) 628-6430 [aslra@aslra.org](mailto:aslra@aslra.org)