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American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



VOLUME 80

NUMBER 19

September 29, 2011

Upcoming Events

[ASLRRRA
Eastern Region Meeting
October 1-4, 2011
Cleveland, Ohio](#)

[ASLRRRA
Southern Region Meeting
October 23-25, 2011
Louisville, Kentucky](#)

Currently, Railroad
Security Alert Level 2
is in Effect

IN THIS ISSUE

[ASLRRRA Welcomes More New Members](#)

[Flooded Short Lines Resume Service At Warp Speed](#)

[Eastern Region Meeting Building With Essence,
Excitement](#)

[Game On To Boost Tax Credit Co-Sponsors](#)

[STB Decision Supports Interchange Commitment At
Michigan Short Line](#)

[Feds Grant Short Line Funding, With More To Come
Ohio, Wisconsin Grant Short Line Funding](#)

[Reminder: RSIA-Mandated Crossing Updates Due To
FRA By September 30](#)

[Another Reminder: Tiger III Initial Application
Deadline Is October 3](#)

[SAFETEA-LU Extended For 8th Time](#)

[FRA's Strang LRIW Woman Of The Year](#)

[Latest U.S. Crop Forecasts: More Corn, Less Soybeans](#)

[Rail Cost Adjustment Factor For Fourth Quarter](#)

[Query On Electronic Timecards](#)

[Planning Special Holiday Trains? Let Us Help Publicize
Them](#)

[Members In The News](#)

[Rail Industry Meetings And Events](#)

[Embargoes In Effect](#)

[Class I Rail Traffic: Through September 17](#)

[RMI RailConnect Short Line Traffic Index: Through
September 17](#)

[New Edition Of Hazmat, Threat Alert Pocket References
Now Available](#)

[Helpful Links](#)

Click the link below to visit the
ASLRRRA Classified Ads



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Views & News](#)

ASLRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

Cara Lione and Cheryl Huyck report and welcome the following company as a new ASLRRA associate member:

CRS Consulting Engineers, Inc. provides consulting services for a variety of clients throughout the country. Their broad array of disciplines include transportation, site development, water resources, waste water, storm water, pavement management, geographic information systems, environmental and land surveying. Their firm has played a pivotal role in the development of rail-served industrial parks and railroad infrastructure projects across America including main lines, branch lines, yards, industry spurs and railroad crossings. The company is located at P.O. Box 280, Farmington, UT 84025 and their main number is (801) 939-5565. Their fax number is (801) 359-4272 and their website is www.crsengineers.com. Please contact Office Manager Darren Eyre, P.E. at darren.eyre@crsengineers.com.

Are you aware of a company with different products or services than your own and interested in heightening their visibility to short line and regional railroads? Then let Cheryl Huyck know, so that she may acquaint them with the many benefits of becoming an ASLRRA associate member. Email Cheryl at chuyck@aslrta.org or call her at (202) 585-3431.

[back to top](#)

FLOODED SHORT LINES RESUME SERVICE AT WARP SPEED

Demonstrating the great ability of railroads, large and small, to recover from disasters wrought by adverse weather – an ability greater perhaps than that of any other mode of transportation – those short lines impacted by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee have all reported that they are now back in business and very nearly 100 percent operational.

In Vermont, the New England Central Railroad restored its main line to service on September 19. The railroad noted that it took a team of close to 90 people and 15,000 tons of ballast to restore service. It extended its thanks to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, whose help included gaining access to otherwise closed state roads to perform emergency repairs, and to several neighboring railroads in its region, including Canadian National, Pan Am Southern, Amtrak, and Providence & Worcester, which NECR said “provided much needed equipment to transport large volumes of rock and fill.”

Also on September 19, the Vermont Rail System reported that trains had been operated the previous weekend over the Green Mountain Railroad Division and the Bennington & Rutland Division, which it said “nearly completes the rebuilding and recovery of major segments of our rail system.” The railroad especially thanked R.J. Corman contractors and the Vermont Agency of Transportation for their assistance. VRS was projecting September 27 for the restoration of service over its bridge at White River Junction, VT, which will then restore its connection there with the NECR.

And in Pennsylvania, nearly all lines of North Shore Railroad were returned to service on September 21, the exception being its Shamokin Valley rail lines, which were projected to return to service on September 29. Todd Hunter, NSHR’s Director of Marketing and a frequent contributor of news and photography to this newsletter, noted that, “This is amazing considering the extensive damage...[NSHR Superintendent of Track] Pete Simcox and his team have truly pulled off a massive undertaking here – and done it safely!”

[back to top](#)

EASTERN REGION MEETING BUILDING WITH ESSENCE, EXCITEMENT



The Eastern Region Meeting continues to generate much anticipation! The comprehensive program of events has been made even better by a representative of the Vermont Rail System now scheduled to speak in detail on how VRS restored service past the devastating flooding that occurred on the railroad in the wake of Hurricane Irene.

Flights into and out of the city next week remain, in many cases, reasonably priced, as are fares on the four Amtrak trains that each day serve the city to and from Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh and Washington. Good rooms remain available at the meeting's beautiful Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in the heart of the city's vibrant downtown enclave. So it's not too late to make your arrangements to attend and represent your railroad or railroad supplier!

Here once again is a quick summary of scheduled events:

- **Saturday, October 1**
 - **Service project in the morning and afternoon**
 - **Thank you reception for volunteers in the evening**

- **Sunday, October 2**
 - **Conductor certification and accident/incident training in the morning and afternoon**
 - **Registration open at 3:00PM**
 - **Small railroad sandhouse session at 4:00PM**
 - **Opening reception at 6:00PM**
 - **Dinner on your own or vendor entertainment in the evening**

- **Monday, October 3**
 - **Breakfast starting at 7:00AM**
 - **General session program in the morning and afternoon with a noontime networking luncheon**
 - **Railroad and associate member sandhouse sessions at 4:00PM**
 - **Regional elections at 5:00PM**
 - **Reception at 6:00PM**
 - **Dinner on your own or vendor entertainment in the evening**
 - **Gather for Monday Night Football (Indianapolis at Tampa Bay) at 8:30PM**

- **Tuesday, October 4**
 - **Breakfast starting at 7:00AM**
 - **General session program in the morning**
 - **Farewell luncheon at noon**
 - **Passenger Committee meeting at 1:00PM**

For complete information and to register, link to the Eastern Region Meeting page on the ASLRRA website at http://www.aslrra.org/meetings_seminars/2011_Eastern_Region_Meeting/. And if you couldn't make it to the Central/Pacific Region last month in Denver, you are welcome to attend this Eastern Region Meeting – or for that matter, the Southern Region Meeting scheduled for October 24-26 in Louisville! Make the regional meeting that is convenient to you, but be sure to make the regional meeting!

Special Note: As of this writing, a limited number of Eastern Region Meeting sponsorship opportunities remain, most of which include the benefit of tabletop display space in our Vendor Sponsor Exhibit Area. Raise the profile of your company at this event by becoming a meeting sponsor today! For more information, contact Jenny Bourque at jbouque@aslrra.org or (202)585-3449.

[back to top](#)

GAME ON TO BUILD TAX CREDIT CO-SPONSORS

A recent email from Jeff Van Schaick of ASLRRA's allied firm, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, noted the importance of increasing the number of co-sponsors for the short line tax credit as contained in H.R. 721, and the particular importance of calling the Representative's office to appeal for their support additional to any letters or emails that they send. He relates a recent conversation with a key congressional staffer who reminded that "...unless railroaders are willing to pick up the phone and call...members are not going to co-sponsor the bill...they [railroaders] have to get the [congressmen's] staff's attention verbally and make them understand that this bill is important for their Congressman's district."

Mr. Van Schaick reminds that particular emphasis is being placed on securing the co-sponsorship of the 140 or so congressmen who co-sponsored the tax credit in 2009 and 2010 and have yet to do so this year. He has everything a railroader needs for this vital purpose: who to contact, how to reach them, and good suggests as to what to say. Memo to railroads, and to those who supply, support and advocate them: Call Jeff at (202) 715-2915 or email him at jeff.vanschaick@cch-llc.com for any assistance you may need in this critical legislative effort that only you can do.

[back to top](#)

STB DECISION SUPPORTS INTERCHANGE COMMITMENT AT MICHIGAN SHORT LINE

A recent decision of the Surface Transportation Board has upheld a long-term interchange commitment between a Michigan short line and the Class I railroad from which it leases the lines it operates.

The decision decided STB Docket No. FD_35410_0, "Adrian & Blissfield Railroad Company – Continuance In Control Exemption – Jackson & Lansing Railroad Company," with related Docket Nos. FD_35411 and FD_35418. Considered in the decision was a lease agreement between Jackson & Lansing (JAIL) and Norfolk Southern (NS) providing for a lease credit whereby JAIL may reduce its annual lease payments to NS by receiving a credit for each car interchanged with NS. The lease agreement runs for 20 years, until 2020, with the option to continue it for a further 10 years.

In its decision, the STB said that, "while the interchange commitment at issue here does not affirmatively penalize JAIL for interchanging traffic with other carriers rather than with NS, it creates a disincentive for JAIL to interchange the line's pre-transaction traffic volume with carriers other than NS. However, several other factors that have been presented by the [involved] parties counterbalance the apparent disincentive." The STB further noted that "this arrangement does not represent a total outright ban on interchange with another carrier" and that "JAIL may still route traffic over other carriers," noting JAIL's operational connections with Canadian National and CSX.

The decision was posted to the STB website on September 27 and included a dissent from STB Commissioner Frank Mulvey. To view the decision document, go to the STB website at www.stb.dot.gov, then select the "E-Library" tab, and then select "Decisions & Notices," referencing those for September 27.

[back to top](#)

FEDS GRANT SHORT LINE FUNDING, WITH MORE TO COME

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced that eight rail projects will receive a total of \$19.4 million in grants from the federal Rail Line Relocation and Improvement (RLR) program. In announcing the recipients, USDOT noted that 51 applications for RLR grants had been received totaling more than \$202 million in funding requests. RLR recipients are required to cover at least 10 percent of a project's costs.

Projects that will receive RLR funding to assist short lines and regional railroads are the following:

- For the Alaska Railroad: \$1.1 million to reduce the curvature of the Alaska Railroad main line adjacent to the Native village of Eklutna, AK.
- For the Arkansas Midland Railroad: \$2.7 million to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to assist in the upgrade 40 miles of AKMD's Warren Branch.
- For the Canton Railroad: To the Maryland Department of Transportation, \$1.7 million to help fund the expansion of Canton Yard, which serves customers in and around the Port of Baltimore. This improvement will permit more efficient switching operations and create additional car storage.
- For the Florida Central Railroad: To Tavares, FL, \$2.2 million to assist in the upgrade of track in Lake and Orange Counties. This upgrade will allow an increase in speed from 10 mph to 40 mph.
- For the Providence & Worcester Railroad: To Sprague, CT, \$5.3 million to assist in the upgrade the P&W's Willimantic Branch. This upgrade will allow an increase in speed from 10 mph to 40 mph.

And shortly after its announcement of the recipients for the previous year's RLR funding, USDOT announced that it would begin taking requests for this fiscal year's funding. In a Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) published in the September 20, 2011 edition of the Federal Register, it was announced that "at least \$11,588,085" in funding would be made available for this program through SAFETEA-LU Capital Grants For Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects. The deadline for applications for this funding is October 19, 2011 and application must be made via the www.grants.gov website. For more information on this program, please contact USDOT's John Winkle at john.winkle@dot.gov. To view the NOFA as published in the Federal Register, link to http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/FY2011_RLR_NOFA.pdf.

[back to top](#)

OHIO, WISCONSIN GRANT SHORT LINE FUNDING

Ohio's Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) recently approved funding for a number of rail improvement projects, several of which benefit short line and regional railroads in the state. These include a new connection from the Iron Highway Industrial Park in Leipsic, OH to CSX, Norfolk Southern and the Indiana & Ohio Railroad; rehabilitation of 3.5 miles of R.J. Corman/Ohio Line's Wooster Branch; rehabilitation of 13 miles of Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway's Sandy Line; the extension of the lease on the state-owned Glass Rock Line to permit the Zanesville & Western Railroad to complete needed trackwork by June, 2012; and a flood control project on the state-owned Panhandle Line operated by the Ohio Central Railroad.

Wisconsin recently approved \$12,846,591 in grants from the state's Freight Railroad Preservation Program. These will go to assist the rehabilitation of the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad's Marinette Marine Line; to cover 80 percent of the cost of mandated bridge rating and evaluation studies of state-owned bridges on lines operated by the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad; to cover 80 percent of costs for any emergency repairs that may be necessary to several of these bridges; and to assist the rehabilitation of the Wisconsin & Southern's Saukville-to-Elkhart Lake Line.

[back to top](#)

REMINDER: RSIA-MANDATED CROSSING UPDATES DUE TO FRA BY SEPTEMBER 30

Tom Woll, FRA's Highway-Rail Crossing Safety Engineer, reminds railroads, as well as appropriate state agencies, that all crossing inventory records need to be updated in the national crossing inventory database as of September 30, 2011. These updates are required by the Railway Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). Class I crossing records in the database are required by the RSIA to be audited for correctness every two years and such records of Class II and III railroads are required to be audited every five years.

Mr. Woll notes that all railroads need to ensure that all of their crossing inventory records have an effective date of 2010 or 2011. He adds that, "All states need to ensure that all public and pathway (pedestrian) crossings likewise have an effective date of 2010 or 2011, and should work with all the railroads in their state to accomplish this effort."

Mr. Woll on September 27 sent an informational email to railroads with advice on how best to update crossing inventory records. Any railroad that did not directly receive a copy of Mr. Woll's email may obtain it by emailing him at tom.woll@dot.gov. Mr. Woll is also the prime person to answer any questions about this matter and may be reached for this purpose at (202) 493-6290 or at tom.woll@dot.gov.

[back to top](#)

ANOTHER REMINDER: TIGER III INITIAL APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 3

The due date is October 3 for pre-application for the third round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants. The U.S. Department of Transportation is facilitating \$527 million in federal funding for these grants, which will be awarded on a competitive basis. USDOT advises that these TIGER III grants, as was the case with TIGER I and II grants, will be for "critical investments in the nation's transportation infrastructure" and that "states, cities, local governments and other partnerships and groups" are eligible to apply for them. Several short line railroads, working with appropriate state, regional and local government entities, have been able to get vital infrastructure improvement efforts underway as a result of funding from the previous two rounds of TIGER grants.

The final application deadline for TIGER III grants is October 31, 2011. For more information and to complete a grant application, link to the TIGER section of the USDOT website at www.dot.gov/tiger/. And if you would like to view USDOT's July 18 webinar, "Lessons On How to Compete for a USDOT TIGER Grant," link to <http://mediasite.yorkcast.com/webcast/Viewer/?peid=d52bbcdc6c9440a3b521eb0c33286e541d>. The accompanying Powerpoint may be referenced by linking to http://www.yorkcast.com/dot/2011/handouts/07/18/TIGER3_seminar_7-18-2011.pdf.

[back to top](#)

SAFETEA-LU EXTENDED FOR 8TH TIME

Congress has once again voted an extension to the Surface, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, a.k.a. SAFETEA-LU. The extension, the eighth since SAFETEA-LU first expired on September 30, 2009, continues omnibus funding of federal surface transportation programs through March 31, 2012. The extension was signed into law by President Obama on September 12.

The extension gives Congress additional time to prepare replacement legislation. Rep. John Mica (R-FL), the chair of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, pledged to continue work on such legislation, noting that, "This action represents a last chance to roll up our sleeves and get transportation projects in America moving again." Mr. Mica earlier this year held a series of town meetings in several U.S. cities to gather input for successor legislation.

[back to top](#)

FRA'S STRANG IS LRIW WOMAN OF THE YEAR

ASLRRA congratulates Jo Strang on being selected as the "Outstanding Woman Of The Year" by the League of Railway Industry Women (LRIW).

Ms. Strang is the Associate Administrator of the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration, and also functions as its chief safety officer. In accepting the award, Ms. Strang expressed her thanks to the LRIW for this recognition and went on to highlight some of the programs that have been implemented by the FRA since the passage of the Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) of 2008. She affirmed as her creed that "good business follows safety first."

Ms. Strang was presented with the award at the LRIW annual luncheon, which this year was held on September 19 at the Railway Interchange 2011 event in Minneapolis, MN.

[back to top](#)

LATEST U.S. CROP FORECASTS: MORE CORN, LESS SOYBEANS

On September 12, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released their most recent forecast for domestic crop production.

USDA said that corn production this year would total 12.5 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the August forecast, but up fractionally from 2010. If realized, this will be the third largest corn production total on record. USDA also said that soybean production would total 3.09 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the August forecast, but down 7 percent from 2010.

USDA said that these crop expectations reflect less-than-favorable weather conditions in August in many portions of the Corn Belt and the northern Great Plains.

[back to top](#)

RAIL COST ADJUSTMENT FACTOR FOR FOURTH QUARTER

The Surface Transportation Board recently published the quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) for the Second Quarter, 2011. RCAF is an index formulated to represent changes in railroad costs incurred by the nation's largest railroads. These factors are calculated by the STB based on statistical data furnished by the Association of American Railroads.

The STB determined that the **Fourth Quarter RCAF (unadjusted) is 1.208**, an increase of 0.2 percent from the Third Quarter, 2011 RCAF (unadjusted) of 1.206; the **Fourth Quarter RCAF (adjusted) is 0.533**, a decrease of 0.2 percent from the Third Quarter, 2011 RCAF (adjusted) of 0.534; and the **Fourth Quarter, 2011 RCAF-5 is 0.506**, unchanged from the Third Quarter, 2011 RCAF-5 of 0.506.

For further information, link to the full notice on the STB website, www.stb.dot.gov, under "Decisions & Notices" for March 18, 2011.

[back to top](#)

QUERY ON ELECTRONIC TIMECARDS

Off the ASLRRA Member Forum, we have a new query. A railroader writes: **“Anyone using electronic timecards that post to Quickbooks? I’m new to the railroad industry and was told that T&E guys can’t use electronic timecards because of the FRA regulations. Any suggestions on timecards vendors [adherent to FRA regulations] would be helpful.”**

Also, we’re still searching for help with the query in our previous edition: **“In the past, I have used a train performance calculator or simulator to help justify operational changes and capital improvements. I no longer have access to the old program I used. Does anyone know of any resources available online or any train performance calculators/simulators that I could get access to?”**

If you can help with one or both of these queries, please email Dave Mears at dmears@aslrta.org, who will put the information you provide in the hands of the above individuals needing it.

[back to top](#)

PLANNING SPECIAL HOLIDAY TRAINS? LET US HELP PUBLICIZE THEM

Summer may have just turned into Fall, but we nevertheless want to get our annual initiative underway to list the where’s and when’s of special holiday trains operated by ASLRRA member railroads. We would like to put mention of as many of them as possible – in fact, all that we know about – on the ASLRRA website.

If your railroad is planning to operate special holiday trains, please let David Whorton know at dwhorton@aslrta.org as soon as the specifics of operation are settled, so that he may post it in a prominent place on the ASLRRA website. In advance, we wish you happy holidays – and remind you that there are only 86 shopping days left until Christmas!

[back to top](#)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



(above photos courtesy of Alan Maples)

Finger Lakes Railway (www.fingerlakesscenicrailway.com) ran its third annual Shippers Special Train on September 21 (upper left photo.) Additional to the railroad's grateful customers, those in attendance included **Vermont Rail System** Retiree Jerry Hebda and **Finger Lakes** President Mike Smith (left to right in the upper right photo); Dan Eagan of the **Livonia Avon & Lakeville Railroads**, Todd Hunter of the **North Shore Railroads**, and Alan Maples of the **Everett Railroad** (left to right in the lower left photo); and Diane Bryant of Schuylkill Railcar and Mary Anne Michaels of the **Vermont Rail System** (left to right in the front of the lower right photo).....**Grand Canyon Railway** (www.thetrain.com) recently marked the 110th anniversary of its line between Williams Jct., AZ and the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. The event was commemorated in conjunction with the railroad's final train operated under steam this season.....The **Great Smoky Mountains Railroad** (www.gsmr.com) will operate its annual "Great Pumpkin Patch Express" train this October 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 and 28-30. Passengers enroute to and from the GSMR Pumpkin Patch will hear a narration of "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," based on the famous series from the "Peanuts" comic strip by the late Charles M. Schultz.....**Iowa Pacific Holdings** (www.iowapacific.com) has announced approximately \$20 million in planned upgrades to its Texas-New Mexico Railroad. In a prepared statement, the holding company said that the upgrades are being funded out of the recent sale of the Arizona Eastern Railroad to Genesee & Wyoming. The upgrade program will include installation of new and heavier rail and a new locomotive shop in Eunice, NM.....**Loram Maintenance of Way** (www.loram.com) recently announced an agreement to acquire the assets of Tranergy Corporation. Tranergy will become a new subsidiary of Loram and continue to manufacture friction management products.....**Northern Lines Railway** (<http://www.anacostia.com/nlr/nlr.html>) recently appointed Justin Chalich to the newly created position of general manager. Mr. Chalich has served as the manager of maintenance and operations of the 23-mile railroad since June, 2006.....**Progressive Railroading's** website (www.progressiverailroading.com) currently features an interview with Christopher Aadnesen. Mr. Aadnesen has been the president and chief executive officer of the **Alaska Railroad** (www.alaskarailroad.com) since September, 2010. In the interview, Mr. Aadensen discusses the railroad and also reflects on his career, that has "taken him from the United States to Mexico to Estonia and back.".....Noting two ASLRRRA members working together, the **Sierra Northern Railway** (www.sierranorthern.com) has awarded a contract to **R.J. Corman Railpower** (www.rjcorman.com) for a GenSet locomotive kit. The locomotive, which is partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Air Shed Grant Program, will be provided to the railroad in modular subsystems to be assembled by Railpower supervision and SERA-provided labor and tooling.....**Simmons-Boardman** (www.simmonsboardman.com) has announced the appointment of Jonathan Chalon as associate publisher of the company's Railway Division. The publishing house announced that, on January 1, 2012, Mr. Chalon will assume the position of publisher, succeeding Robert DeMarco, who will then become publisher emeritus and will open a Simmons-Boardman office in Chapel Hill, NC.....**Transportation Certification Services** (www.tcsrailservices.com) recently announced the appointment of Larry Breeden as its senior vice-president. Mr. Breeden, who was formerly a system manager of operating practices for the Union Pacific, will be involved in TCS's employee engagement activities, including decertification prevention, SACP, and training handling guidelines.....**Watco Companies** (www.watcocompanies.com) has announced the following appointments: Rick Rainville as assistant vice-president of corporate railcar services; Bill Miskell as director of corporate railcar services; and Jim Stallings as manager of quality assurance and training for corporate railcar services.

[back to top](#)

RAIL INDUSTRY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 1-4, 2011: ASLRRRA Eastern Region Meeting: To be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, OH. For more information, link to <http://www.aslrra.org/meetings%5F%5F%5Fseminars/2011%5FEastern%5FRegion%5FMeeting/>.

October 5-6, 2011: Southwest Association of Rail Shippers (SWARS) Fall Meeting: To be held at the San Diego Marriott in La Jolla, CA. For more information, contact Jack Dail at jdailconsulting@comcast.net.

October 5-7, 2011: 2011 RTA Symposium and Technical Conference: To be held at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino in Incline Village, NV. For more information, link to <http://www.rta.org/Default.aspx?tabid=80>.

October 12-14, 2011: Northeast Association of Rail Shippers (NEARS) 169th B-Annual Conference: To be held at the Nittany Lion Inn on the main campus of Penn State University in State College, PA. For more information, link to www.nears.org.

October 13-14, 2011: BNSF Short Line Meeting: To be held in Irving, TX. For further details, contact Richard Ebel at richard.ebel@bnsf.com.

October 23-25, 2011: ASLRRA Southern Region Meeting: To be held at the Louisville Marriott in Louisville, KY. More details in the very near future – watch for them!

October 24-25, 2011: Railway Age Passenger Trains On Freight Railroads Conference: To be held at the Washington Marriott. For more information, link to <http://www.railwayage.com/conferences/passenger-trains-on-freight-railroads-872.html>.

November 1-2, 2011: Progressive Railroading RailTrends Conference: To be held at the W New York Hotel. Featured presenters include John Hellmann, president and CEO of Genesee & Wyoming, and James Hertwig, president and CEO of Florida East Coast Railway. For more information, link to www.railtrends.com.

November 3, 2011: Annual Fall Train Ride of the California Short Line Railroad Association: This is a round trip, Sacramento, CA to Reno, NV and return. For more information, contact Jalene Forbis at cslra@hotmail.com.

November 7-8, 2011: Derailment Investigation Seminar: Sponsored by the American Association of Railroad Superintendents. To be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Center City in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, contact Carrie Foor at aars@railroadsuperintendents.org.

November 9, 2011: Canadian National Short Line Meeting: To be held at the Marriott Chateau Champlain, Montreal, QC, Canada. More details in the very near future – watch for them!

November 9-11, 2011: Association of Car Accounting and Car Service Officers (ACACSO) Bi-Annual Meeting: To be held in Memphis, TN. More details in the very near future – watch for them!

November 14-18, 2011: Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards Workshop: To be held in Chattanooga, TN. This training will be conducted by instructors of the Center for Transportation Research of the University of Tennessee. For more information, link to <http://ctr.utk.edu/ttap>.

January 4-7, 2012: NRC Conference & Exhibition: To be held at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, CA. For more information, link to www.nrcma.org/go/conference.

[back to top](#)

EMBARGOES IN EFFECT

Listed below are all the embargoes currently in effect for the North American rail system. For further details about a specific embargo, including affected stations and a point of contact for further information, link to the Railinc AAR Embargo/OPSL Notes & Permit System at <https://aarembargo.railinc.com>. Once there, select the “Embargoes” tab, then “Search Embargoes,” and then enter the embargo number.

The below list is in issuing railroad order. Embargoes newly issued and effective since our last edition are bolded:

<u>Issuing Road</u>	<u>Embargo No</u>	<u>Amendment No</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>Allow Permits</u>	<u>Last Amended Date</u>	<u>Op Station Notice</u>	<u>Roads Invited to Participate</u>	<u>Cause</u>
ABL	ABL000111	0	04/05/2011	04/05/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
AF	AF000311	0	06/10/2011	06/10/2012	NO		NO	CSXT, TNHR	Bridge out of service
AKMD	AKMD000111	1	08/12/2011	08/12/2012	NO	08/12/2011	NO		Bridge out of service
AN	AN000111	0	02/15/2011	02/15/2012	NO		NO	CSXT	Bridge out of service
AOK	AOK000110	0	11/05/2010	11/05/2011	NO		NO	KCS	Track Conditions
BNG	BNG000111	0	06/13/2011	06/13/2012	YES		NO	BNSF	Bridge out of service

BNSF	BNSF002111	0	08/08/2011	08/08/2012	YES		NO		Other - specify
BNSF	BNSF002011	1	07/26/2011	07/26/2012	YES	07/26/2011	NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF001711	2	06/11/2011	06/11/2012	NO	07/11/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
BNSF	BNSF000911	0	06/06/2011	06/06/2012	NO		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
BNSF	BNSF001011	8	06/06/2011	06/06/2012	NO	07/28/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CALA	CALA000211	0	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
CCT	CCT000111	5	09/19/2011	09/19/2012	YES	09/28/2011	NO	BNSF, CN, CP, UP	Congestions/Accumulation
CM	CM000211	1	05/26/2011	05/26/2012	NO	05/26/2011	NO		Bridge out of service
CN	CN001411	0	09/22/2011	09/22/2012	NO		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN001311	3	09/12/2011	09/12/2012	YES	09/15/2011	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN000310	0	07/06/2011	07/06/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
CN	CN001011	1	06/15/2011	06/15/2012	NO	06/15/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CN	CN000911	3	06/07/2011	06/07/2012	NO	06/15/2011	NO		Other - specify
CN	CN000211	1	01/30/2011	01/30/2012	YES	01/30/2011	NO	CSS, GRW	Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS002409	4	09/14/2011	09/14/2012	YES	10/28/2010	NO		Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS004311	1	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	NO	08/26/2011	NO	MRI, NPR	Congestions/Accumulation
CPRS	CPRS002309	0	08/19/2011	08/19/2012	NO		NO		Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS002711	1	04/25/2011	04/25/2012	NO	04/25/2011	NO	RLK, HCRY, CN	Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS002111	8	04/12/2011	04/12/2012	NO	06/23/2011	NO	MHC, MRI, AMTK, NPR, BNSF	Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS001811	2	04/11/2011	04/11/2012	NO	05/03/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CPRS	CPRS001511	2	04/08/2011	04/08/2012	NO	04/27/2011	NO	MRI, NPR	Weather Conditions - specify
CPRS	CPRS001611	4	04/08/2011	04/08/2012	NO	05/09/2011	NO	DMVW, RRVW, RL, BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
CPRS	CPRS001111	0	03/25/2011	03/25/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS000111	0	03/15/2011	03/15/2012	NO		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CPRS	CPRS001910	3	11/19/2010	11/19/2011	YES	03/18/2011	NO	CN, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
CSXT	CSXT000811	3	08/29/2011	08/29/2012	NO	09/27/2011	NO	UP	Congestions/Accumulation
CSXT	CSXT000511	3	04/28/2011	04/28/2012	NO	05/10/2011	NO	CAGY, ABS, KCS	Bridge out of service
CVR	CVR000111	0	04/04/2011	04/04/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
CZRY	CZRY000111	0	04/11/2011	04/11/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
DMVW	DMVW000211	0	04/12/2011	04/12/2012	YES		NO		Track Conditions
DN	DN000210	1	02/22/2011	02/22/2012	NO	02/16/2010	NO	BNSF	Bridge out of service
DSRR	DSRR000110	1	11/02/2010	11/02/2011	NO	11/02/2010	NO	UP	Track Conditions
FNOR	FNOR000111	0	07/22/2011	07/22/2012	NO		NO		Derailment
FXE	FXE000511	0	09/27/2011	09/27/2012	YES		NO	KCSM	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000611	0	09/27/2011	09/27/2012	YES		NO	UP, KCSM, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000411	0	09/21/2011	09/21/2012	YES		NO	UP, CN, KCS, KCSM, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000311	1	09/01/2011	09/01/2012	YES	09/01/2011	NO	UP, KCSM	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000111	1	06/16/2011	06/16/2012	YES	06/16/2011	NO	UP, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
GFRR	GFRR000111	0	07/27/2011	07/27/2012	NO		NO	NS	Bridge out of service
GRYR	GRYR000111	1	07/28/2011	07/28/2012	YES	07/28/2011	NO	CN	Bridge out of service
GRYR	GRYR000110	0	04/21/2011	04/21/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
GTR	GTR000110	0	10/11/2010	10/08/2011	NO		NO		Track Conditions
HRRC	HRRC000111	0	01/26/2011	01/26/2012	NO		NO	CSXT, UP	Track Conditions
IAIS	IAIS000110	0	01/19/2011	01/19/2012	NO		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
IORY	IORY000110	1	10/26/2010	10/26/2011	NO	10/26/2010	NO	CSXT, CN, WE, RJCW, NS	Other - specify
KCS	KCS000511	0	04/29/2011	04/29/2012	NO		NO	ABS, CSXT	Other - specify
KCS	KCS000311	0	02/11/2011	02/11/2012	NO		NO	AGR, CSXT, NS, BNSF, LXVR, CAGY, GTRA	Work Stoppage
MDDE	MDDE000111	0	08/16/2011	08/16/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
MNA	MNA000211	0	05/03/2011	05/03/2012	NO		NO	KCS	Weather Conditions - specify
MNNR	MNNR000110	0	12/29/2010	12/29/2011	NO		NO		Other - specify
MRI	MRI000211	1	09/13/2011	09/13/2012	NO	09/13/2011	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
MRL	MRL000111	1	06/02/2011	06/02/2012	NO	06/02/2011	NO	BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
MRL	MRL000211	1	06/02/2011	06/02/2012	NO	06/02/2011	NO	BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
NCRC	NCRC000111	1	09/21/2011	09/21/2012	NO	09/21/2011	NO	UP	Track Conditions

NLR	NLR000111	0	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	YES		NO	CN, BNSF, CPRS	Abandonment - specify Government Authority
NS	NS000711	2	08/02/2011	08/02/2012	YES	08/04/2011	NO	CSXT, SLRS	Other - specify
NS	NS000410	3	12/16/2010	12/16/2011	NO	01/01/2011	NO		Bridge out of service
NYLE	NYLE000210	0	02/11/2011	02/11/2012	NO		NO	CSXT, CPRS, BPRR, BSOR, NS	Track Conditions
NYNJ	NYNJ000110	0	03/17/2011	03/17/2012	NO		NO		Other - specify
NYNJ	NYNJ000309	2	11/02/2010	11/02/2011	NO	11/09/2009	NO		Other - specify
PAS	PAS000109	0	12/22/2010	12/22/2011	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
RBMN	RBMN000211	0	05/27/2011	05/27/2012	NO		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
SSR	SSR000109	1	12/01/2010	12/01/2011	NO	12/04/2009	NO		Track Conditions
UP	UP001611	0	09/13/2011	09/13/2012	NO		NO		Other - specify
UP	UP001211	3	06/27/2011	06/27/2012	YES	08/23/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
UP	UP001011	2	06/02/2011	06/01/2012	NO	06/03/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
USRP	USRP000111	0	09/09/2011	09/09/2012	YES		NO		Bridge out of service
WE	WE000211	0	07/13/2011	07/13/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
WE	WE000111	0	05/05/2011	05/05/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
WE	WE000310	1	12/22/2010	12/22/2011	NO	12/22/2010	NO		Bridge out of service
WSOR	WSOR000109	0	04/29/2011	04/29/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions

Also, a reminder that the Embargo/OPSL Notes And Permit System now has the capability to issue **free email alerts** whenever an embargo is created, amended, or cancelled. Although individuals will need to make application to Railinc to receive the alerts, they may be received by anyone with a Railinc Single Sign On ID and a valid business case to receive them. For more information and to make application, link to <https://aarembargo.railinc.com/epdb/subscribeToEPDBAction.do?step=viewSubscriptionInstructionsForEmbargoes>. For any assistance, contact the Railinc Customer Support Desk at (800) 544-7245.

[back to top](#)

CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC: THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17

The Association of American Railroads has reported that, for the week ending September 17, 2011 and ranked with the comparable week last year:

- U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 299,914 units, down 1.4 percent
- Notable U.S. carload traffic increases included petroleum products up 19.2 percent, lumber and wood products up 14.8 percent, and metals and metal products, up 12.8 percent; notable decreases included grain down 17.6 percent, primary forest products down 12.5 percent, and nonmetallic minerals down 10.1 percent
- U.S. intermodal rail traffic totaled 242,250 units, up 0.9 percent
- Canadian carload rail traffic totaled 78,315 units, up 3.2 percent
- Canadian intermodal rail traffic totaled 52,063 units, down 1.0 percent
- Mexican carload rail traffic totaled 12,193 units, up 0.2 percent
- Mexican intermodal rail traffic totaled 8,271 units, up 18.8 percent

For the period January 1 through September 17, 2011 and ranked with the comparable period last year:

- U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 10,711,775 units, up 1.7 percent
- U.S. intermodal rail traffic totaled 8,381,960 units, up 5.5 percent
- Canadian carload rail traffic totaled 2,759,406 units, up 2.7 percent
- Canadian intermodal rail traffic totaled 1,767,485 units, up 1.7 percent
- Mexican carload rail traffic totaled 528,532 units, up 4.6 percent
- Mexican intermodal rail traffic totaled 303,830 units, up 24.7 percent

Note: Canadian traffic totals include that traffic on U.S. operations of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways.

[back to top](#)

RMI RAILCONNECT SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX: THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17

The RMI Railconnect Index is waybill-based and totals shipments billed by non-Class I railroads using RMI billing products. For this report, this totals 383 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending September 17, 2011**, the 37th week of 2011. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending September 17			Year-To-Date		
	2011	2010	% Change	2011	2010	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	12,739	12,878	-1.08%	436,288	424,440	2.79%
Grain	13,117	14,509	-9.59%	531,358	519,882	2.21%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,275	5,801	-9.07%	191,298	185,195	3.30%
Ores	3,560	2,769	28.57%	121,048	116,658	3.76%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	14,172	13,160	7.69%	472,330	424,011	11.40%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	4,671	4,013	16.40%	156,948	145,233	8.07%
Paper Products	8,024	8,480	-5.38%	271,343	263,725	2.89%
Waste & Scrap Materials	6,161	6,455	-4.55%	219,464	203,466	7.86%
Chemicals	20,176	18,589	8.54%	716,048	645,967	10.85%
Petroleum & Coke	5,330	5,369	-0.73%	194,740	192,853	0.98%
Metals & Products	11,770	10,262	14.69%	358,597	345,020	3.94%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	2,824	2,144	31.72%	83,035	62,902	32.01%
Intermodal	10,119	9,450	7.08%	365,129	309,968	17.80%
All Other	2,608	2,039	27.91%	86,161	78,118	10.30%
Total	120,546	115,918	3.99%	4,203,787	3,917,438	7.31%

[back to top](#)

NEW EDITIONS OF HAZMAT, THREAT ALERT POCKET REFERENCES NOW AVAILABLE

New editions are now available of two ASLRRA publications, the “**Hazardous Materials Pocket Response Guide**” and the “**Summary Of Threat Alert Systems**”.

The “**Hazardous Materials Pocket Response Guide**” is laminated and foldable to pocket size. On one side, it presents general guidelines for safe behavior and practices at the scene of a hazmat incident. On the other side, it provides information on the USDOT placarding system. A brief description of the materials and hazards associated with each placard is included.

The “**Summary Of Threat Alert Systems**” is also pocket size. It includes concise and helpful explanations of the four threat alert systems: the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS), the Maritime Security (MARSEC) Levels, the Association of American Railroads Threat Advisory System, and the Force Protection Condition (FPCON).

Both are ideal to be furnished to every railroad operating employee to keep on hand while on duty. The “**Hazardous Material Pocket Guide**” is \$2.50 each and the “**Summary Of Threat Alert Systems**” is \$1.00 each. They may be ordered by using a form on the ASLRRA website at www.aslrra.org and mailing a check or money order to David Whorton, ASLRRA, 50 F Street NW Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001. Contact Dave at dwhorton@aslrra.org or (202) 585-3430 for any questions about these handy and helpful work aides.

[back to top](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

ASLRRA: For the ASLRRA public website, link to www.aslrra.org. For the members-only website, link to members.aslrra.org.

Buy American Requirement: The U.S. Department of Transportation has launched a webpage that provides information about the federal requirements for transportation infrastructure projects that must incorporate American-made products. The webpage consolidates access to the Buy America provisions across all USDOT agencies. Link to the webpage at www.dot.gov/buyamerica.

Funding Sources: AASHTO and ASLRRA have collaborated to prepare profiles of financial assistance programs offered by states to help short line and regional railroads. These profiles, which are listed in state order, may be reviewed by linking to http://rail.transportation.org/Pages/rail_success.aspx.

Narrowband Migration: The AAR Spectrum Management Office, which manages railroad radio frequencies and is coordinating the industry’s changeover from wideband to narrowband radio operation, now lists Class I railroad narrowband migration schedule at http://www.aar.com/aar_rf.php. The ASLRRA website also features an informational page on the transition to narrowband. It includes key dates, related website links and documents, and important topics. Link to the ASLRRA narrowband page at www.aslrra.org/regulatory/narrowbanding/.

Railinc And Embargo/OPSL Notes: For the Railinc website, link to www.railinc.com. To use the Railinc AAR Embargo/OPSL Notes & Permit System, which includes both embargoes and open & prepay station (OPSL) notes, link to aarembargo.railinc.com.

Railroad Retirement And Job Vacancies: For the Railroad Retirement Board website, link to www.rrb.gov. To check the Railroad Retirement Board’s Railroad Jobs Vacancies page, link to <http://www.rrb.gov/PandS/Jobs/rjobs.asp>.

TIGER Grant Assistance: The webinar of USDOT’s July 18 presentation, “Lessons On How to Compete for a USDOT TIGER Grant,” is now available online. It may be viewed by linking to <http://mediasite.yorkcast.com/webcast/Viewer/?peid=d52bbcdc6c9440a3b521eb0c33286e541d>. The accompanying Powerpoint may be referenced by linking to http://www.yorkcast.com/dot/2011/handouts/07/18/TIGER3_seminar_7-18-2011.pdf.

[back to top](#)

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