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American Short Line and  
Regional Railroad Association's

# VIEWS & NEWS



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## Upcoming Events

### CSX SHORT LINE WORKSHOP

March 4-6, 2012  
St. Augustine, Florida

### RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL

HILL 2012  
March 8, 2012  
Washington, DC

ASLRRRA  
2012 CONNECTIONS  
April 21-24, 2012  
Indianapolis, Indiana

NORFOLK SOUTHERN  
SHORT LINE MEETING  
July 18-20, 2012  
Roanoke, Virginia

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Security Alert Level 2  
is in Effect

## IN THIS ISSUE

[ASLRRRA Welcomes More New Members](#)

[Holiday Greetings From ASLRRRA](#)

[Latest Short Line Tax Credit Info](#)

[TIGER III Grants Announced, Short Lines Helped](#)

[New York Grants Help State Short Lines](#)

[ASLRRRA Inputs To Final Alternate Passenger Rail  
Service Rule, Joins AAR in Safety Appliance Waiver  
Petition](#)

[Two New ASLRRRA Committees To Launch](#)

[FRA Issues Advisory Concerning Bridge Safety](#)

[2012 Annual Random D&A Testing Rates Same As 2011](#)

[Further Conductor Certification Timetable Announced](#)

[ASLRRRA 2011 Safety Awards Competition Starts,  
Includes Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

[2012 Convention Booth Space Going Fast](#)

[Connections? Think Convention](#)

[AAR Damage Prevention Group To Be Part Of TTCI](#)

[Railinc Launches Car Accounting Self-Service App](#)

[2012 Gateway Performance Meeting Schedule  
Announced](#)

[RTA Crossties Digital Edition Ready](#)

[Railroad Retirement And Unemployment Insurance  
Taxes In 2012](#)

[Helpful Tips For Holiday Trips](#)

[New And Changing Railroads](#)

[Members In The News](#)

[Rail Industry Meetings And Events](#)

[Embargoes In Effect](#)

[Class I Rail Traffic: Through December 10, 2011](#)

[RMI RailConnect Short Line Traffic Index: Through December 10, 2011](#)

[Railinc Short Line Traffic Index: Through November, 2011](#)

[Helpful Links \(Including Two New Ones!\)](#)

### **ASLRRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS**

*ASLRRRA's Cara Lione and Cheryl Huyck welcome the following companies to the ASLRRRA family of associate business members:*

**Delta Manufacturing** is a company that manufactures a low-profile portable CNC lathe for re-profiling locomotive wheels and a system for reprofiling freight car wheels and traction motor combos. They also manufacture EMD and GE gear cases, plows and other miscellaneous parts. The company is located at 3707 19th Avenue North, Escanaba, MI 49829 and their main number is (903) 233-1500. Their fax number is (903) 233-1555 and their website is [www.deltamfg.net](http://www.deltamfg.net). Please contact President Jean Ross at [j.ross@deltamfg.net](mailto:j.ross@deltamfg.net).

**Rigid Lifelines** engineers and manufactures overhead fall protection systems that utilize enclosed steel and aluminum track with a rolling trolley. The division's unique brand of fall protection provides a ground-breaking alternative to cable fall protection systems by providing decreased fall distance which eliminates deflection during a fall. The company is located at 604 Hemlock Rd., Morgantown, PA 19543 and their main number is (800) 869-2080. Their fax number is (610) 286-0085 and their website is [www.rigidlifelines.com](http://www.rigidlifelines.com). Please contact Marketing Coordinator Rebecca Mamola at [rmamola@spanco.com](mailto:rmamola@spanco.com).

**Sportex Safety** is a USA manufacturer, decorator and distributor of high visibility workwear, FR workwear and safety-quality incentives and premiums. They specialize in the construction and railway industries. The company is located at 2020 W. 4th St., Tempe, AZ 85281 and their main number is (480) 921-3966. Their fax number is (480) 557-6946 and their website is [www.sportexsafety.com](http://www.sportexsafety.com). Please contact Partner Larry Deutsch at [larrydeutsch@sportexapparel.com](mailto:larrydeutsch@sportexapparel.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 ASLRRRA associate member. Email Cheryl at [chuyck@aslrra.org](mailto:chuyck@aslrra.org) or call her at (202) 585-3431.**

[back to top](#)

### **HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM ASLRRRA**

This will be the last edition of Views & News for 2011. We will next publish in mid-January, which will include a recap of events having happened from now until then. From all of the employees of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association – in alphabetical order, **Keith Borman, Jenny Bourque, Kathy Cassidy, Cheryl Huyck, Jennie Lam-Nagata, Cara Lione, Dave Mears, Eric O'Neill, Tom Streicher, Steve Sullivan, Rich Timmons** and **David Whorton** – we wish everyone good tidings for the 2011 holidays and our very best wishes for

a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012. We'll see you next year!

[back to top](#)

### **LATEST SHORT LINE TAX CREDIT INFO**

*Jeff Van Schaick of ASLRRA's allied firm, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, reports on the latest developments concerning the Section 45G Short Line Tax Credit. Please note, at this time of accelerated congressional activity related to federal revenue matters, that Mr. Van Schaick's report is as of 10:00AM, Wednesday, December 21:*

'Twas the week before Christmas and Congress spent a lot of time debating whether to extend the payroll tax benefits that employees have enjoyed this past year. This legislation has been a possible vehicle to extend expiring tax credits like the 45G railroad maintenance credit. On December 17, the Senate passed a two-month payroll tax extension which did not include "tax extenders." On December 21, the House rejected the Senate bill and voted to go to conference to work out their differences. It is unlikely that the tax extenders will be passed before the calendar year ends.

There are two hold ups with the tax extenders legislation this year. The first is how to pay for them. The cost is estimated between \$25-35 billion dollars (45G accounts for \$165 million of that total). The second and more frightening hold up is Congress is unsure which tax provisions they want to extend. If it comes down to picking and choosing, each expiring provision will be weighed by how much support the provision has.

By focusing on securing co-sponsors in the House we end 2011 with 243 Representatives cosponsoring H.R. 721 which is the 5th highest co-sponsored bill in the Committee with jurisdiction over tax issues. ASLRRA members have done a tremendous job in the House. However, we need to double-down on our outreach to our Senators (find out how [here](#)). Currently 43 Senators support S. 672, the Senate bill to extend 45G. Now is the time to contact your U.S. Senators while they are back in their home state and urge them to join Sen. Rockefeller (D-WV), Sen. Crapo (R-ID), and 41 other Senators in "co-sponsoring" S. 672. Increasing these numbers is increasingly important as both chambers may consider tax legislation early in 2012.

[back to top](#)

### **TIGER III GRANTS ANNOUNCED, SHORT LINES HELPED**

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced who will receive funding from the latest round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants, also known as TIGER III grants. A total of \$511 million in grants were awarded to assist 46 capital construction projects administered by public authorities in 33 states.

Grants that will ultimately benefit short line and regional railroads include the following:

- \$6.8 million for the Farmrail Freight Rail Oil and Gas Upgrade in Anadarko Basin, OK
- \$6.6 million for the Solomon Rural Freight Rail Upgrade, served by RailAmerica's Kyle Railroad, in North Central Kansas
- \$11.6 million for the Muldraugh Rail Bridges Replacement, including those of the Paducah & Louisville Railway, near Fort Knox, KY

A complete list of the TIGER III grants may be reviewed by linking to <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2011/FY2011TIGER.pdf>. As with the previous rounds of TIGER grants, and perhaps indicative of transportation infrastructure need, the total amount of TIGER grant requests far exceeded the collective funding available. For the \$511 million in available funding, a total of 828 applications were received, altogether totaling \$14.1 billion.

[back to top](#)

## **NEW YORK GRANTS HELP STATE SHORT LINES**

New York State recently made available \$785 million in state Regional Economic Development Council funding, some of which will ultimately go to help short line railroads operating in the state. Among the recipients of these grants are:

- \$164,900 to assist Somerset Railroad's Main Line Track Rehabilitation on Gulf Bridge Project
- \$1,800,000 to assist the Wellsboro & Corning Railroad's Steuben County Rail Restoration Project
- \$508,240 to assist the Finger Lakes Railroad's Auburn Transload Terminal Improvement Project

The projects are being administered with the involvement of various counties in the state; the first project above through Niagara County, the second through Steuben County, and the third through Cayuga County.

[back to top](#)

## **ASLRRA INPUTS TO FINAL ALTERNATE PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE RULE, JOINS AAR IN SAFETY APPLIANCE WAIVER PETITION**

ASLRRA continues to progress, when and where appropriate, its involvement in the federal rulemaking process.

Recently, the Association filed comments related to the proposed rule for the FRA's Alternate Passenger Rail Service Pilot Program. When effected, these regulations will provide for a pilot program for potential operators of intercity passenger rail service alternative to Amtrak-operated service. These comments were worked on by the ASLRRA Passenger Rail Committee, chaired by Ed Ellis of Iowa Pacific Holdings. Committee Member John Heffner of Strasburger & Price, LLP assembled the committee members' comments, which were then formalized and submitted to FRA by ASLRRA VP & General Counsel Keith Borman.

Also, the Association recently joined with the AAR in requesting from the FRA a waiver of certain provisions of safety regulations contained in 49 CFR Part 231, "Safety Appliance Standards." Specifically, AAR and ASLRRA requested relief from that part of the regulations that requires the end platforms of boxcars to be "...centered on each end of car between inner ends of handholds not more than eight inches above top of center sill." AAR and ASLRRA state that more than 18,000 cars and 20 different car owners may be impacted by the new regulations, cars which would then require extensive modifications.

To view the Alternate Passenger Rail Service Pilot Program final rule, which incorporates ASLRRA-filed comments, link to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2009-0108-0012>. To view the end platform waiver petition, link to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2011-0089-0003>.

[back to top](#)

## **TWO NEW ASLRRA COMMITTEES TO LAUNCH**

*The following article was co-authored by Mike Ogborn of OmniTRAX, who also chairs the ASLRRA board of directors:*

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Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of the ASLRRA Constitution, Chairman Mike Ogborn has announced the establishment of three new Special Committees and the appointments of members to those committees. The three

new Special Committees are the Mechanical Committee, the Centennial Planning Committee, and the Veterans Recruitment Committee.

The Mechanical Committee will address a myriad of issues involving equipment. For example, it will turn its attention to locomotive issues in recognition of the prevailing age of the locomotive fleets of Class II and III railroads. Carl Belke, the president of the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad, has been appointed to chair the Mechanical Committee. The other esteemed individuals who have been appointed to this committee are Paul Budge of Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway; Mick Burkart of Iowa Interstate Railroad; Paul Elsenpeter of Montana Rail Link; Charlie Fukala of RailAmerica; Jonas Goodman of Arkansas Midland Railroad; Chuck Jensen of Morristown & Erie Railway; Larry Jensen of Watco Companies; Tom Leopold of Anacostia Rail Holdings; David Powell of Genesee & Wyoming; Dave Rutkowski of Providence & Worcester Railroad; Casey Shepherd of Arkansas & Missouri Railroad; David Swirk of Pioneer Valley Railroad; Tracy Ulm of Rio Grande Pacific; and Wayne Wiza of Indiana Rail Road.

In recognition of the upcoming 2013 anniversary observance of the founding of the Association and the need to begin planning for it now, the second newly established Special Committee is the Centennial Planning Committee. This Special Committee will work on events and observances that will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Association throughout 2013, culminating with a grand celebration at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Mike Ogborn will chair this committee with the following individuals appointed to it: ASLRRRA's Jenny Bourque, Kathy Cassidy, and Rich Timmons; Keith Hartwell of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell; Ed McKechnie of Watco Companies; and Judy Petry of Farmrail. Because of the breadth and importance of this anniversary celebration, others will be asked to "volunteer" with this effort.

The third new Special Committee is the Veterans Recruitment Committee. This Special Committee was formed in recognition of two facts: (1) the short line railroad industry has numerous jobs available that require individuals with an understanding of rules compliance, job process initiative, who are self motivated, and who have a good background in these core behaviors to be successful and (2) the largest available pool of individuals that meet this need are ex-military personnel. As overseas commitments come to an end, there will be a large pool of candidates available. The goals of this Special Committee will be to establish an effective way to access the pool of ex-military personnel who are seeking employment with short line employers looking to hire people. The committee will work to provide a portal for candidates to search jobs and provide a portal of available veterans/ ex-military personnel to post resumes so short lines can access a pool of available ex military candidates. Sherrill Derryberry, Director of Safety at OmniTRAX was appointed to chair this Special Committee. The other members appointed to it are Terry Murphy-Latta of Johnson County Community College; John Irons of NARS; Tom Streicher of the ASLRRRA; Otis Ciatt of Pacific Harbor Line; Ross Clark of Quality Terminal Services; and Tom Leopold of Anacostia & Pacific.

These new ASLRRRA Special Committees will start work in early 2012. They will join the several other ASLRRRA Standing and Special Committees that regularly meet to extend the reach of the Association, considering and acting on matters of importance to the short line and regional railroad industry and, additionally, providing a valuable repository of knowledge and expertise for the Association in the specific areas that are these committees' interests and concerns.

For more information about the Mechanical Committee, please contact Tom Streicher at [tstreicher@aslrro.org](mailto:tstreicher@aslrro.org). For more information about the Centennial Planning Committee, please contact Kathy Cassidy at [kcassidy@aslrro.org](mailto:kcassidy@aslrro.org). For more information about the Veterans Recruitment Committee, please contact Sherrill Derryberry at [sderryberry@omnitrax.com](mailto:sderryberry@omnitrax.com).

[back to top](#)

### **FRA ISSUES ADVISORY CONCERNING BRIDGE SAFETY**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) recently issued a safety advisory concerning bridge walkway hazards. The advisory was formally issued by the FRA as Safety Advisory No. 2011-03 and is likely the FRA's final safety advisory of 2011.

In issuing the advisory, the FRA stated that its purpose was to "...remind each railroad bridge worker, railroad, and contractor or subcontractor to a railroad of the dangers posed by walking on unsecured sections of walkway and platform gratings, especially without fall protection." It noted that there have been two incidents occurring this year that resulted in two workers falling from railroad bridges, one of who sustained fatal injuries. The FRA said that, "By focusing on these accidents, FRA intends to raise awareness and hopefully prevent a continuing pattern of accidents involving similar circumstances."

To review the advisory in its entirety, link to [http://www.fra.dot.gov/rrs/pages/fp\\_350.shtml](http://www.fra.dot.gov/rrs/pages/fp_350.shtml). To review the FRA's Bridge Worker Safety Compliance Manual, link to [http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/safety/bws\\_compliance\\_manual\\_110806\\_final.pdf](http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/safety/bws_compliance_manual_110806_final.pdf).

[back to top](#)

### **2012 ANNUAL RANDOM D&A TESTING RATES SAME AS 2011**

Per recent word from Kathy Schnakenberg of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the 2012 annual random drug and alcohol testing rates for all DOT modes will remain the same as the 2011 rates.

More information on random D&A testing rates is available at <http://www.dot.gov/odapc/rates.html>. For any further questions, please contact Ms. Schnakenberg at [kathy.schnakenberg@dot.gov](mailto:kathy.schnakenberg@dot.gov) or at (202) 262-4998.

[back to top](#)

### **FURTHER CONDUCTOR CERTIFICATION TIMETABLE ANNOUNCED**

More detail is now available concerning the timelines for implementation of conductor certification. This certification relates to 49 CFR Part 242, "Qualification and Certification of Conductors," as mandated by the Railway Safety Improvement Act of 2008 and subsequent rulemaking proceedings (a final rule was published in the Federal Register on November 9 and is effective on January 1, 2012.)

Here is the timetable:

#### **By January 1, 2012 for Class II and III railroads:**

- Identify all persons the railroad wishes to grandfather as conductors (should be rules qualified by March 1, 2012)

#### **January 1 to June 1, 2012 for Class II railroads and January 1 to October 1, 2012 for Class III railroads:**

- Persons hired between these dates for Conductor service must be trained according to the railroad's then-current training program AND must be determined to have met the eligibility requirements for vision/hearing acuity standards and prior conduct as a motor vehicle operator.

#### **By March 1, 2012 for Class II and III railroads:**

- In writing, designate as certified conductors all persons authorized by the railroad to perform the duties of a conductor as of January 1, 2012.
- Issue a certificate that complies with Part 242, Section 207 to each person that it designates. At a minimum, each certificate must be of sufficiently small size to permit being carried in an ordinary pocket wallet and must contain: Railroad or parent company identity; class of service (conductor or passenger conductor); name of employee, identification number, year of birth, and must include either a physical description (hair color/eye color/height/weight) or photograph; any restrictions to comply with hearing or vision deficiencies; effective date of certification (those issued through the grandfather provision must indicate March 1, 2012); signature of individual designated in writing as authorized to sign the certificate.

#### **No later than March 30, 2012 for Class II railroads and no later than July 30, 2012 for Class III railroads:**

- Submit written certification program to FRA and president of applicable employee's union, if applicable

**By June 1, 2012 for Class II railroads and by October 1, 2012 for Class III railroads:**

- Approved training program in full implementation

To review the final rule in its entirety, link to

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2009-0035-0021>.

[back to top](#)

## **ASLRRA 2011 SAFETY AWARD COMPETITION STARTS, INCLUDING SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Nominations have now opened for the three ASLRRA annual safety awards:

- **The Safety Professional of the Year**, open to any railroad management employee of an ASLRRA member railroad who is responsible for safety programs, training and the overall management of safe behavior and actions on their railroads.
- **The Safety Person of the Year**, open to any rank-and-file employee of an ASLRRA member railroad who contributes to the safety culture on their railroad.
- **The Most Improved Award**, open to any ASLRRA member railroad company that demonstrates improved safety.

These awards will reflect on achievement in 2011 and will be presented at the 2012 annual convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. You may download further information, including criteria for each award, as follows:

- **For Safety Professional of the Year:**  
[http://www.aslrra.org/images/news\\_file/Safety\\_Professional\\_of\\_the\\_Year\\_Brochure\\_2012.pdf](http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Safety_Professional_of_the_Year_Brochure_2012.pdf)
- **For Safety Person of the Year:**  
[http://www.aslrra.org/images/news\\_file/Safety\\_Person\\_of\\_the\\_Year\\_Brochure\\_2012.pdf](http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Safety_Person_of_the_Year_Brochure_2012.pdf)
- **For Most Improved Award:**  
[http://www.aslrra.org/images/news\\_file/Most\\_Improved\\_Award\\_Notice\\_2012.pdf](http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Most_Improved_Award_Notice_2012.pdf)

Once your nomination is complete, either email it to David Whorton at [dwhorton@aslrra.org](mailto:dwhorton@aslrra.org) or mail it to him at David Whorton, ASLRRA, 50 F Street NW, Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001. Additional to email, you may also phone Mr. Whorton at (202) 585-3430 to gain answers to any questions.

Still open are four Safety Partner sponsorship slots. Participation as a Safety Partner provides ASLRRA member companies an excellent opportunity to improve their exposure within the short line and regional railroad community. The program has three sponsorship levels – Titanium, Steel and Iron – but sponsorship opportunities remain in only the Iron and Steel Categories.

An Iron Safety Partner sponsorship (\$1,000) provides the following benefits:

- Sponsor's logo printed on Jake Award Folders (291 in 2010)
- Sponsor's logo prominently displayed on Safety Award signs and banners at the ASLRRA 2012 convention
- Sponsor's logo prominently displayed in Safety Award Winner Section in the ASLRRA Official Program distributed at the annual convention and posted on the Internet
- Sponsor's logo displayed in award program presentation displayed in Annual Convention General Session, and posted on the ASLRRA members' only website
- Provide sponsor's meeting attendees with custom Safety Program sponsor ribbons in their respective category

A Steel Safety Partner sponsorship (\$2,500) provides all of the aforementioned benefits and three additional:

- Sponsor will receive a complimentary one-year classified advertisement on ASLRRA 's website
- Sponsor logo will be prominently displayed on front page of bi-monthly Safety Bulletin
- Sponsor logo will be prominently displayed on Safety Bulletin page on ASLRRA website

For more information and to reserve an Iron or Steel sponsorship, please contact Jenny Bourque at [jbouque@aslrta.org](mailto:jbouque@aslrta.org) or (202) 585-3449.

[back to top](#)

### **2012 CONVENTION BOOTH SPACE GOING FAST**

Modesty and bravura aside for the moment, the renown of ASLRRA's annual convention has carried forward such that, four months ahead of the 2012 event, only 26 exhibit hall booth spaces remain unsold! This means that 86 percent of available booths have now been sold.

Interested in exhibiting to the short line and regional railroad industry at the convention? Clearly, the operative wording is "don't delay." If you are interested in space, please contact Kathy Rogers of ASLRRA's allied firm, UBM Global Trade, at [krogers@ubmglobaltrade.com](mailto:krogers@ubmglobaltrade.com) or at (609) 759-4706.

[back to top](#)

### **CONNECTIONS? THINK CONVENTION**

"Connections" is now the branding for the annual convention. "Connections" has been the theme of recent conventions, representing the many aspects of short line connectivity, such as how short lines and regionals connect together the national rail network, serving as the well-established "first-mile, last-mile" of freight rail service. "Connections" also represents the theme of ASLRRA meetings, especially its conventions, where railroaders and their business partners gather in four-figure numbers to meet, learn and interact in all manner as promotes the betterment of our great industry.

So if you see "Connections" think convention – specifically, the ASLRRA annual convention at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, Indiana, coming next April 21 through 24. And be sure to watch your email for the comprehensive mailer alerting to all its offerings, coming your way in mid-January.

[back to top](#)

### **AAR DAMAGE PREVENTION GROUP TO BE PART OF TTCI**

The AAR has announced that its Damage Prevention & Loading Services (DP&LS) Group will be fully integrated into the Transportation Technology Center (TTCI) during 2012. TTCI, based in Pueblo, CO, is an AAR subsidiary.

DP&LS conducts programs and provides services for the benefit of railroads, shippers and suppliers to further the goal of safe and damage-free freight transportation. DP&LS conducts impact tests, laboratory tests and rail environment simulation tests associated with boxcar, intermodal, automotive and open top loading applications.

In making the announcement, AAR said that Gary Held will continue as DP&LS director, managing both the closed car and open top loading programs.

[back to top](#)

## **RAILINC LAUNCHES CAR ACCOUNTING SELF-SERVICE APP**

Railinc, which manages the rail industry's interconnected systems, files and data, has debuted a new application, Car Accounting Self-Service. This new app has been designed and built to enable car accountants to access and analyze car hire liability data.

According to a recent Railinc press release, "Before [this new tool], car accountants had to submit requests to Railinc when they wanted detailed information about their car hire liability decisions. Railinc performed the research and then provided the event information...[Now and] through the application's easy-to-use web interface, car accountants can save time by performing searches themselves. The application translates event data into actionable information on scenarios such as Rule 5 transfers of liability. Users can view information on an individual piece of equipment for a range of up to 90 days and will have access to as much as 12 months of event data beginning in January, 2012."

For more information on Car Accounting Self-Service, please contact Railinc Customer Support at [csc@railinc.com](mailto:csc@railinc.com) or at (877) 724-5462.

[back to top](#)

## **2012 GATEWAY PERFORMANCE MEETING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED**

The AAR Gateway Performance Improvement Committee (GPIC), which works to improve interline performance between North American railroads, has posted its initial schedule of 2012 gateway meetings. The dates and locations of these are as follows:

- **February 16: Corpus Christi, TX**
- **March 19: Chicago, IL**
- **April 17: New Orleans, LA**
- **April 19: Memphis, TN**
- **April 24: Birmingham, AL**
- **May 10: Vancouver, BC, Canada**
- **May 17: Minneapolis, MN**
- **June 12: Kansas City, MO**
- **June 14: St. Louis, MO**
- **June 19: Detroit, MI**
- **June 21: Buffalo, NY**
- **July 16: Chicago, IL**
- **September 18: Mobile, AL**
- **September 26: Superior, WI**
- **September 27: Minneapolis, MN**
- **October 16: Kansas City, MO**
- **October 18: St. Louis, MO**
- **October 23: New Orleans, LA**
- **October 25: Memphis, TN**
- **November 14: Chicago, IL**
- **November 27: Detroit, MI**
- **November 29: Buffalo, NY**

More specific location information, including the names of the facilities where the meetings are to be held, will be made available in the near future. The AAR and GPIC encourage short line and regional railroads operating in these gateways, or that have service issues related to traffic moving through these gateways, to attend and participate at these meetings. If unable to attend in person, relevant matters may be forwarded on for attention and follow-up. For additional information, please contact AAR's Linda Anders at [landers@aar.org](mailto:landers@aar.org).

[back to top](#)

## RTA CROSSTIES DIGITAL EDITION READY

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) has announced that the first-ever digital edition of its Crossties Magazine is now ready for reading.

The digital edition may be accessed by linking to <http://crossties.epubxp.com/title/12322>. Jim Gauntt, RTA's executive director, notes that it contains "...several new tools that provide exciting new opportunities for [RTA] members to communicate..." and that these includes a navigation tool bar along the top of the landing page with extensive functionality, including social networking links, and five RTA tabs for easy linkage to key RTA website pages. He further notes that, "Although this issue does not contain any rich media links, future issues will also carry video clips and other enhancements to the editorial and advertising within."

The link to the latest digital edition is included in our "Helpful Links" section below and will be in future V&N editions. For more information, please contact Mr. Gauntt at [ties@rta.org](mailto:ties@rta.org) or at (770) 460-5553. Mr. Gauntt also welcomes any comments and suggestions for improving "...this new RTA tool...".

[back to top](#)

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE RATES FOR 2012

*(The following is excerpted from a recent Railroad Retirement Board press release. Additionally, ASLRRRA Chief Financial Officer Eric O'Neill notes that, unless Congress extends the employee FICA tax holiday enacted in 2011, payroll taxes will return to 2010 levels. Mr. O'Neill further notes that Congress may address the extension of this before year's end.)*

The amounts of compensation subject to railroad retirement tier I and tier II payroll taxes will change in 2012.

**Tier I and Medicare Tax:** The railroad retirement tier I payroll tax rate on covered rail employers for the year 2012 remains at 7.65 percent. However, railroad employees will see their effective tier I rate increase from 5.65 percent to 7.65 percent. Legislation enacted in 2010 provided for a temporary reduction of 2 percentage points in the social security payroll tax paid by employees, but that is currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2011. The railroad retirement tier I tax rate is the same as the social security tax, and for withholding and reporting purposes is divided into 6.20 percent for retirement and 1.45 percent for Medicare hospital insurance. The maximum amount of an employee's earnings subject to the 6.20 percent rate increases from \$106,800 to \$110,100 in 2012 but there is no maximum on earnings subject to the 1.45 percent Medicare rate.

**Tier II Tax:** The railroad retirement tier II tax rate on employees will remain at 3.9 percent in 2012, and the rate on employers will stay at 12.1 percent. The maximum amount of earnings subject to railroad retirement tier II taxes will increase from \$79,200 to \$81,900 in 2012. Tier II tax rates under the 2001 Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act are based on an average account benefits ratio reflecting railroad retirement fund levels. Depending on this ratio, the tier II tax rate for employees can be between 0 percent and 4.9 percent, while the tier II rate for employers can range between 8.2 percent and 22.1 percent.

**Unemployment Insurance Tax:** Employers, but not employees, also pay railroad unemployment insurance taxes, which are experience-rated by employer. The basic tax rates range from a minimum of 0.65 percent to a maximum of 12 percent on monthly compensation up to \$1,365 in 2012, an increase from \$1,330 in 2011. However, the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act also provides for a surcharge in the event the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account balance falls below an indexed threshold amount. A surcharge of 2.5 percent applied in 2011. The accrual balance of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account was almost \$66.2 million on June 30, 2011. Because the balance was less than the indexed threshold of \$130.2 million, a 1.5 percent surcharge is added to the basic tax rates for 2012, but will not increase the maximum 12 percent rate. A surcharge of 1.5 percent also applied in 2004-2010.

The unemployment insurance tax rates on railroad employers in 2012 therefore will range from 2.15 percent (the minimum basic rate of 0.65 percent plus the 1.5 percent surcharge) to a maximum of 12 percent on monthly compensation up to \$1,365.

The 1.5 percent surcharge will not apply to new employers in 2012. During the year, new employers will pay an initial tax rate of 2.65 percent, which represents the average rate paid by all employers in the period 2008-2010.

For 69 percent of covered employers, the unemployment insurance rate assessed in 2012 will be the minimum 2.15 percent, while 13 percent of employers will pay the maximum of 12 percent.

[back to top](#)

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR HOLIDAY TRIPS

*The following is excerpted from an Amtrak employee-assistance newsletter:*

If you are traveling during the upcoming holiday season...

**Get to the airport, train station or bus terminal early.** Air travelers should get to the airport at least two hours before departure, train and bus travelers at least an hour before departure. If you have ticketing adjustments to do, add an additional one-half hour.

**Don't stress about finishing the shopping before you go.** It can be nice to have all your holiday shopping squared away, but before you overload yourself with baggage, keep in mind that there are almost always gifts you can buy at your destination. You may even be able to find good souvenirs from at your destination airport that make good stocking stuffers! If you're traveling somewhere exotic for a "destination holiday," that's all the more reason to wait until you get there to finish the shopping; you'll want gifts that fit the theme of the vacation.

**Make it fun.** Wear holiday-themed accessories, listen to holiday music on your iPod or car radio, get into the spirit by playing car games or even online games with family members via a smartphone.

**Be a peacekeeper, not a problem.** Try to keep a clear head and remember that everyone else is trying to get somewhere too. If you see someone like that actually getting special treatment, breathe deep and let it go – they have no right to make you angry.

**If possible, travel on the actual holiday.** This is especially the case if driving; the roads tend to be clearer.

[back to top](#)

## NEW AND CHANGING RAILROADS

A new railroad is the **Comstock Mountain Lion Railroad**. Assigned Reporting Mark CMRR and AAR Rule 260 Code 642, this railroad will operate approximately 15 miles of line between Iron Springs and Iron Mountain, UT and interchange with UP at Iron Springs. It was expected to start operation on or about December 15, 2011. Contact information is as follows: Mathew Jennings, Railroad Manager, 1759 W. Royal Hunte Dr., Suite 200, Cedar City, UT 84720, Phone: (435) 531-1536, Fax: (435) 586-5399, Email: [matt@cmlmetals.com](mailto:matt@cmlmetals.com).

Here is further information about the **Hilton & Albany Railroad**, which was initially reported about in a previous edition: This railroad has been assigned Reporting Mark HAL and AAR Rule 260 Code 951. It will operate approximately 56 miles of line between Albany West and Hilton, GA, and will interchange with CHAT and CIRR in Hilton, with NS in Albany, and with GSWR in Arlington, GA. This railroad is expected to start operation on or about January 1, 2012. Contact information is as follows: Gerry Gates, SVP-Southern Region, Genesee & Wyoming, 13901 Sutton Park Drive Suite 185, Jacksonville, FL 32224, Phone: (904) 596-7783, Fax: (904) 223-4503, Email: [ggates@gwrr.com](mailto:ggates@gwrr.com).

Here is further information about the **Ripley & New Albany Railroad**, which was also initially reported about in a previous edition: This railroad has been assigned Reporting Mark RNA and AAR Rule 260 Code 599. It will operate approximately 21 miles of line between New Albany and Ripley, MS, and will interchange with BNSF and KCS in New Albany. This railroad was expected to start operation on or about December 15, 2011. Contact information is as follows: Joseph Evans, VP-Mechanical & Customer Service, Ripley & New Albany Railroad Company, 1318 So. Johanson Road, Peoria, IL 61607, Phone: (203) 413-2118, Fax (203) 661-4106.

[back to top](#)

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Pictured above is **Central California Traction Railroad's** ([www.cctrailroad.com](http://www.cctrailroad.com)) new Ultra-Low Emissions Locomotive manufactured by Brookville Equipment Corp. The new locomotive, which was officially unveiled to the press and public on December 8, is designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, diesel particulate matter and other pollutants by an estimated 322.2 tons over 15 years. CCT received funding from the Federal Diesel Emission Reduction Program to help purchase the locomotive.....**Ansaldo STS USA** ([www.ansaldo-sts.com](http://www.ansaldo-sts.com)) recently named Thomas Lawton its president and chief executive officer. Mr. Lawton succeeds Alan Calegari, who recently announced his intention to leave the company.....**Birmingham Rail & Locomotive Co.** ([www.bhamrail.com](http://www.bhamrail.com)) recently appointed Brent Boggs as director of relay operations. Mr. Boggs, who was most recently with Unitrac Railroad Materials, will lead BR&L's business development within the relay rail and OTM markets, with an emphasis on expanding procurement and distribution throughout North America.....**Crouch Engineering** ([www.crouchengineering.com](http://www.crouchengineering.com)) this month marks its 20th year in business. The company was founded in 1991 by Harvey Crouch, who continues as the firm's president. Its client list has included more than 120 Class I, II and III railroads, as well as Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, General Motors and Volkswagen.....**Florida East Coast Railway** ([www.fecrwy.com](http://www.fecrwy.com)) operated its second annual Toys For Tots Christmas train on Saturday, December 10. FEC delivered over 5,000 toys to the U.S. Marine Corps's Toys For Tots program in communities along Florida's East Coast. Appearing on the train as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were no less than FEC President Jim Hertwig and his delightful wife!.....**HDR** ([www.hdrinc.com](http://www.hdrinc.com)) recently appointed George Little as its chairman, CEO and president. Mr. Little succeeds Richard Bell, who is retiring at year's end after 37 years with HDR. Also recently appointed were Eric Keen as president of HDR's engineering subsidiary and Doug Wignall as president of its architectural subsidiary.....**North Shore Railroads** ([www.nshr.com](http://www.nshr.com)) recently hosted a special Toys For Tots run of track cars operated by members of the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA). The event collected \$2,440 in cash contributions and over 323 brand new toys for the Toys For Tots campaign. NSHR also donated \$250 in cash and several NSHR employees personally donated toys and assisted as volunteers.....**Patriot Rail** ([www.patriotrail.com](http://www.patriotrail.com)) has appointed David Rohal as its vice-president. Mr. Rohal, whose background includes 27 years of rail industry management experience, was previously a vice-president at RailAmerica.....**RailAmerica** ([www.railamerica.com](http://www.railamerica.com)) has announced that Charlie Patterson will retire at year's end. Mr. Patterson was RA's senior vice-president and chief commercial officer. He has been with RA since 2007 and was earlier with railroads that included Canadian National and CSX.....**Stella-Jones** ([www.stella-jones.com](http://www.stella-jones.com)) recently announced the completion of its acquisition of Thompson Industries. A company spokesman

reported that the acquisitions "...will enhance Stella-Jones's status as a provider of treated wood ties and products to the North American rail industry."..... **Watco Companies** ([www.watcocompanies.com](http://www.watcocompanies.com)) has announced the following appointments (here in last name alphabetical order): Jamie Brooks as administrative assistant for the Gulf Region; Jason Cathey as general manager of the Louisiana Southern Railroad; Joe Forchione as general manager of the Grand Elk Railroad; Rodney Gordon as regional vice president of operations for the Eastern Region; Geoff Holder as regional safety manager for the Eastern Region; Rick Hollis as regional chief engineer of the Eastern Region; Justin Rhodes as general manager of the Arkansas Southern, Mississippi Southern, and Vicksburg Southern Railroads; and Darrell Thompson as zone manager for Watco's Western Australia operations.

[back to top](#)

## **RAIL INDUSTRY MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**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](http://www.nrcma.org/go/conference).

**January 11-12, 2012: Midwest Association of Rail Shippers (MARS) Meeting:** To be held at the Marriott Oak Brook Hills Resort in Oak Brook, IL. For more information, link to [www.railshippers.com](http://www.railshippers.com).

**January 22-25, 2012: Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting:** To be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Washington Hilton hotels. For more information, link to <http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting2012/AnnualMeeting2012.aspx>.

**January 26-27, 2012: 8th Annual Southwestern Rail Conference:** To be held in the Grand Hall, Dallas Union Station, Dallas, TX. For more information, contact Peter LeCody at (214) 803-7285 or link to [www.texasrailadvocates.org/conference](http://www.texasrailadvocates.org/conference).

**February 22-23, 2012: South West Association of Rail Shippers Meeting:** To be held in San Antonio, TX. For more information, link to [www.railshippers.com](http://www.railshippers.com).

**March 4-6, 2012: CSX Short Line Workshop:** To be held at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL. For more information, link to <http://www.csx.com/index.cfm/customers/other-services-partners/short-line-partners/short-line-workshop/> or email to [shortlinedevelopment@csx.com](mailto:shortlinedevelopment@csx.com).

**March 8, 2012: Railroad Day On Capitol Hill 2012:** Beginning and ending at the Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel, 999 Ninth Street NW, Washington, DC. For more info, link to the ASLRRRA website at <http://www.aslrra.org/meetings%5F%5F%5Fseminars/Railroad%5FDay%5Fon%5FCapitol%5FHill/>.

**March 12-16, 2012: Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards Workshop:** To be held in Chattanooga, TN and hosted by the University of Tennessee. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at [gohjones@utk.edu](mailto:gohjones@utk.edu).

**March 20-21, 2012: AAR 17th Annual Research Review:** To be held at the Pueblo Convention Center and the Transportation Technology Center, Pueblo, CO. For more information, contact Dawn Mauger at (719) 584-7195 or email to [annualreview@aar.com](mailto:annualreview@aar.com).

**March 28-30, 2012: South East Association of Rail Shippers Meeting:** To be held in Pinehurst, NC. For more information, link to [www.railshippers.com](http://www.railshippers.com).

**April 21-24, 2012: ASLRRRA 2012 Connections:** To be held at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, IN. Save the dates for this "premier event of railroading" – and watch for more details coming soon!

**May 9-11, 2012: Association of Car Accounting & Car Service Officers (ACACSO) Spring Meeting:** To be held in New Orleans, LA. For more information, link to [www.acacso.org](http://www.acacso.org).

**May 22-23, 2012: FRA Annual Research Review:** To be held in Washington, DC. For more information, contact Lauren Trimble at [lauren.trimble.ctr@dot.gov](mailto:lauren.trimble.ctr@dot.gov) or at (202) 493-6160.

**May 23-25, 2012: National Association of Rail Shippers (NARS) Meeting:** To be held in Chicago, IL. For more information, link to [www.railshippers.com](http://www.railshippers.com).

**July 18-20, 2012: Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting:** To be held in Roanoke, VA. For NS short line partners. For more information, contact NS's Lynne Siemon at (540) 524-6057.

**October 4-5, 2012: BNSF Short Line Meeting:** To be held in Fort Worth, TX. If you are a BNSF short line partner, save the date – and watch for more details coming soon!

**October 28-30, 2012: Union Pacific Short Line Meeting:** To be held in Omaha, NE. If you are a UP short line partner, save the date – and watch for more details coming soon!

[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:

Issuing Road	Embargo No	Amendment No	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Allow Permits	Status	Last Amended Date	Cancelled Date	Op Station Notice	Roads Invited to Participate	Cause
ABL	ABL000111	0	04/05/2011	04/05/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
AF	AF000311	0	06/10/2011	06/10/2012	NO	Effective			NO	CSXT, TNHR	Bridge out of service
AKMD	AKMD000111	1	08/12/2011	08/12/2012	NO	Effective	08/12/2011		NO		Bridge out of service
AN	AN000111	0	02/15/2011	02/15/2012	NO	Effective			NO	CSXT	Bridge out of service
AOK	AOK000110	0	11/04/2011	11/04/2012	NO	Effective			NO	KCS	Track Conditions
BNG	BNG000111	1	06/13/2011	06/13/2012	YES	Effective	06/13/2011		NO	BNSF	Bridge out of service
<b>BNSF</b>	<b>BNSF003511</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12/05/2011</b>	<b>12/05/2012</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Effective</b>			<b>NO</b>		<b>Congestions/Accumulation</b>
BNSF	BNSF003411	0	11/04/2011	11/04/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF003211	0	10/31/2011	10/31/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF003311	0	10/31/2011	10/31/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF003111	1	10/28/2011	10/28/2012	NO	Effective	10/28/2011		NO		Track Conditions
BNSF	BNSF003011	0	10/26/2011	10/26/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002311	1	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective	10/17/2011		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002411	0	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002511	0	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002611	1	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective	10/17/2011		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002711	0	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002811	1	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective	10/17/2011		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002911	0	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002211	5	10/07/2011	10/07/2012	YES	Effective	10/17/2011		NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002111	0	08/08/2011	08/08/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Other - specify
BNSF	BNSF002011	1	07/26/2011	07/26/2012	YES	Effective	07/26/2011		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF001711	2	06/11/2011	06/11/2012	NO	Effective	07/11/2011		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
BNSF	BNSF001011	9	06/06/2011	06/06/2012	NO	Effective	09/13/2011		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CALA	CALA000211	0	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Bridge out of service
CM	CM000211	1	05/26/2011	05/26/2012	NO	Effective	05/26/2011		NO		Bridge out of service
<b>CN</b>	<b>CN001811</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12/16/2011</b>	<b>12/16/2012</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>12/19/2011</b>		<b>NO</b>	<b>CPRS</b>	<b>Congestions/Accumulation</b>
CN	CN001711	2	11/25/2011	11/25/2012	YES	Effective	11/25/2011		NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN001311	3	09/12/2011	09/12/2012	YES	Effective	09/15/2011		NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN000310	1	07/06/2011	07/06/2012	NO	Effective	07/06/2011		NO		Track Conditions
CN	CN001011	1	06/15/2011	06/15/2012	NO	Effective	06/15/2011		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CN	CN000911	3	06/07/2011	06/07/2012	NO	Effective	06/15/2011		NO		Other - specify
CN	CN000211	1	01/30/2011	01/30/2012	YES	Effective	01/30/2011		NO	CSS, GRW	Other - specify

CPRS	CPRS005011	0	12/16/2011	12/16/2012	YES	Effective			NO	CN	Congestions/Accumulation
CPRS	CPRS001910	4	11/10/2011	11/10/2012	YES	Effective	11/10/2011		NO	CN, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
CPRS	CPRS002409	4	09/14/2011	09/14/2012	YES	Effective	10/28/2010		NO		Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS002309	0	08/19/2011	08/19/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS002111	8	04/12/2011	04/12/2012	NO	Effective	06/23/2011		NO	MHC, MRI, AMTK, NPR, BNSF	Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS001111	0	03/25/2011	03/25/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS000111	2	03/15/2011	03/15/2012	NO	Effective	10/28/2011		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CSXT	CSXT001011	0	12/20/2011	12/20/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Congestions/Accumulation
CSXT	CSXT000511	3	04/28/2011	04/28/2012	NO	Effective	05/10/2011		NO	CAGY, ABS, KCS	Bridge out of service
CVR	CVR000111	0	04/04/2011	04/04/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Bridge out of service
CZRY	CZRY000111	0	04/11/2011	04/11/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Bridge out of service
DMVW	DMVW000211	0	04/12/2011	04/12/2012	YES	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
DN	DN000210	1	02/22/2011	02/22/2012	NO	Effective	02/16/2010		NO	BNSF	Bridge out of service
EJR	EJR000211	4	12/02/2011	12/02/2012	NO	Effective	12/02/2011		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
FNOR	FNOR000111	0	07/22/2011	07/22/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Derailment
FXE	FXE000611	2	09/27/2011	09/27/2012	YES	Effective	09/29/2011		NO	UP, BNSF, KCSM	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000111	1	06/16/2011	06/16/2012	YES	Effective	06/16/2011		NO	UP, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
GFRR	GFRR000111	0	07/27/2011	07/27/2012	NO	Effective			NO	NS	Bridge out of service
GRYR	GRYR000111	1	07/28/2011	07/28/2012	YES	Effective	07/28/2011		NO	CN	Bridge out of service
GRYR	GRYR000110	0	04/21/2011	04/21/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
GTR	GTR000110	0	10/05/2011	10/05/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
HRRC	HRRC000111	0	01/26/2011	01/26/2012	NO	Effective			NO	CSXT, UP	Track Conditions
IAIS	IAIS000110	0	01/19/2011	01/19/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Weather Conditions - specify
KCS	KCS000511	0	04/29/2011	04/29/2012	NO	Effective			NO	ABS, CSXT	Other - specify
KCS	KCS000311	0	02/11/2011	02/11/2012	NO	Effective			NO	AGR, CSXT, NS, BNSF, LXVR, CAGY, GTRA	Work Stoppage
KCSM	KCSM000211	1	10/01/2011	10/01/2012	YES	Effective	10/01/2011		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
MHWA	MHWA000111	0	11/01/2011	11/01/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
MNA	MNA000211	0	05/03/2011	05/03/2012	NO	Effective			NO	KCS	Weather Conditions - specify
MNNR	MNNR000110	0	12/29/2010	12/29/2011	NO	Effective			NO		Other - specify
MRL	MRL000111	1	06/02/2011	06/02/2012	NO	Effective	06/02/2011		NO	BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
MRL	MRL000211	3	06/02/2011	06/02/2012	NO	Effective	10/25/2011		NO	BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
NLR	NLR000111	0	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	YES	Effective			NO	CN, BNSF, CPRS	Abandonment - specify Government Authority
NS	NS000711	2	08/02/2011	08/02/2012	YES	Effective	08/04/2011		NO	CSXT, SLRS	Other - specify
NYLE	NYLE000210	0	02/11/2011	02/11/2012	NO	Effective			NO	CSXT, CPRS, BPRR, BSOR, NS	Track Conditions
NYNJ	NYNJ000309	2	10/28/2011	10/28/2012	NO	Effective	11/09/2009		NO		Other - specify
NYNJ	NYNJ000110	0	03/17/2011	03/17/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Other - specify
PAS	PAS000109	0	12/22/2010	12/22/2011	NO	Effective			NO		Bridge out of service
PSC	PSC000111	6	11/18/2011	11/18/2012	YES	Effective	12/07/2011		NO	UP, BNSF	Prevent Congestion/Accumulation
<b>PTRA</b>	<b>PTRA000411</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12/14/2011</b>	<b>12/14/2012</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>12/14/2011</b>		<b>NO</b>	<b>KCS, UP, BNSF</b>	<b>Congestions/Accumulation</b>
<b>PTRA</b>	<b>PTRA000311</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12/12/2011</b>	<b>12/12/2012</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>12/14/2011</b>		<b>NO</b>	<b>KCS, UP, BNSF</b>	<b>Congestions/Accumulation</b>
RBMN	RBMN000311	0	11/15/2011	11/15/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Bridge out of service
RBMN	RBMN000211	0	05/27/2011	05/27/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Weather Conditions - specify
<b>SSR</b>	<b>SSR000111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12/07/2011</b>	<b>12/07/2012</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Effective</b>			<b>NO</b>		<b>Track Conditions</b>
TCT	TCT000111	3	11/04/2011	11/04/2012	YES	Effective	11/04/2011		NO	UP, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
UP	UP001811	0	10/07/2011	10/07/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Other - specify
UP	UP001611	0	09/13/2011	09/13/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Other - specify

USRP	USRP000211	2	12/12/2011	12/12/2012	NO	Effective	12/12/2011		NO	NS, CSXT	Bridge out of service
WE	WE000211	0	07/13/2011	07/13/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Bridge out of service
WE	WE000111	0	05/05/2011	05/05/2012	NO	Effective			NO		Track Conditions
WE	WE000310	1	12/22/2010	12/22/2011	NO	Effective	12/22/2010		NO		Bridge out of service
WSOR	WSOR000109	0	04/29/2011	04/29/2012	NO	Effective			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 DECEMBER 10, 2011**

The Association of American Railroads has reported that, for the week ending December 10, 2011 and ranked with the comparable week last year:

- U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 297,400 units, up 3.7 percent
- Notable U.S. carload traffic increases included metals and metal products up 26.6 percent, motor vehicles and equipment up 23.1 percent, and metallic ores up 21.9 percent; notable traffic decreases included non-grain farm products down 16.6 percent and iron and steel scrap down 10.9 percent
- U.S. intermodal rail traffic totaled 240,899 units, up 3.0 percent
- Canadian carload rail traffic totaled 75,335 units, up 1.2 percent
- Canadian intermodal rail traffic totaled 49,240 units, up 3.3 percent
- Mexican carload rail traffic totaled 13,928 units, down 1.6 percent
- Mexican intermodal rail traffic totaled 9,118 units, up 23.9 percent

For the period January 1 through December 31, 2011 and ranked with the comparable period last year:

- U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 14,318,812 units, up 1.9 percent
- U.S. intermodal rail traffic totaled 11,259,940 units, up 5.0 percent
- Canadian carload rail traffic totaled 3,704,708 units, up 2.9 percent
- Canadian intermodal rail traffic totaled 2,373,435 units, up 1.9 percent
- Mexican carload rail traffic totaled 699,566 units, up 3.8 percent
- Mexican intermodal rail traffic totaled 410,294 units, up 22.1 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 DECEMBER 10, 2011**

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 399 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending December 10, 2011**, the 49th week of 2011. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

<b>Week Ending December 10</b>	<b>Year-To-Date</b>
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CARLOADS HANDLED	2011	2010	% Change	2011	2010	% Change
	Coal	15,938	14,238	11.94%	596,944	585,371
Grain	15,063	16,500	-8.71%	691,258	715,008	-3.32%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,757	5,806	-0.84%	257,143	253,564	1.52%
Ores	4,055	3,131	29.51%	163,891	151,776	7.98%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	13,779	11,725	17.52%	651,443	577,327	12.84%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	4,733	3,996	18.44%	212,890	194,129	9.66%
Paper Products	7,461	7,992	-6.64%	363,124	355,445	2.16%
Waste & Scrap Materials	6,455	6,222	3.74%	298,467	276,582	7.91%
Chemicals	21,032	20,262	3.80%	966,545	876,118	10.32%
Petroleum & Coke	5,082	5,247	-3.14%	257,781	253,123	1.84%
Metals & Products	10,288	8,557	20.23%	487,586	455,728	6.99%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	2,658	2,315	14.82%	114,421	91,072	25.64%
Intermodal	9,578	9,593	-0.16%	487,382	421,211	15.71%
All Other	2,239	2,115	5.86%	113,067	102,296	10.53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,118</b>	<b>117,699</b>	<b>5.45%</b>	<b>5,662,212</b>	<b>5,308,750</b>	<b>6.66%</b>

[back to top](#)

### RAILINC SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX: THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2011

The Railinc Short Line Traffic Index is movement-based, totaling loaded trips originating on all non-Class I railroads for all destinations and, also, all loaded trips terminating on all non-Class I railroads from all origins. This is tallied from all railroads that have passed movement event records to Railinc, including from all third party information services providers. In some instances, Railinc is not a party to accompanying waybill information and so those unknown commodities are presented in “All Other.”

The index is calculated monthly. **The below data is for January 1 through November 30, 2011.** Special thanks to Railinc’s Kenya McMillan for this valuable statistical information.

COMMODITY	2011 YTD ORIGS	2010 YTD ORIGS	% CHG	2011 YTD TERMS	2010 YTD TERMS	% CHG	2011 YTD TOT	2010 YTD TOT	% CHG
Chemicals	446,213	415,947	7.3%	594,433	549,655	8.1%	1,040,646	965,602	7.8%
Coal	209,525	222,949	-6.0%	513,090	517,398	-0.8%	722,615	740,347	-2.4%
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	236,742	217,706	8.7%	199,586	166,833	19.6%	436,328	384,539	13.5%
Food & Kindred Products	140,298	138,019	1.7%	146,812	140,452	4.5%	287,110	278,471	3.1%
Grain	273,790	279,321	-2.0%	301,944	317,855	-5.0%	575,734	597,176	-3.6%
Grain Mill Products	77,514	80,169	-3.3%	119,684	128,740	-7.0%	197,198	208,909	-5.6%
Lumber & Wood Products	89,801	77,039	16.6%	81,280	69,525	16.9%	171,081	146,564	16.7%
Metallic Ores	59,097	47,617	24.1%	127,441	114,321	11.5%	186,538	161,938	15.2%
Metals & Metal Products	244,298	235,712	3.6%	177,894	157,501	12.9%	422,192	393,213	7.4%
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	98,106	83,329	17.7%	114,823	99,349	15.6%	212,929	182,678	16.6%
Nonmetallic Minerals	25,479	20,933	21.7%	31,057	23,327	33.1%	56,536	44,260	27.7%
Petroleum Products	22,208	19,838	11.9%	25,023	23,770	5.3%	47,231	43,608	8.3%
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	203,096	196,073	3.6%	141,923	136,323	4.1%	345,019	332,396	3.8%
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	203,096	196,073	3.6%	141,923	136,323	4.1%	345,019	332,396	3.8%
Trailer or Container	132,747	128,207	3.5%	107,959	100,927	7.0%	240,706	229,134	5.1%
Waste & Scrap Materials	402,741	368,770	9.2%	369,038	341,198	8.2%	771,779	709,968	8.7%
All Other Carloads	121,189	111,171	9.0%	148,040	143,076	3.5%	269,229	254,247	5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,722,045</b>	<b>3,499,091</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>4,140,213</b>	<b>3,895,319</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>7,862,257</b>	<b>7,394,400</b>	<b>6.3%</b>

[back to top](#)

## HELPFUL LINKS (INCLUDING TWO NEW ONES!)

Two new and hopefully helpful links this edition...

**Crossties:** Link to the digital version of the Railway Tie Association's periodical, "Crossties," at <http://crossties.epubxp.com/title/12322>.

**SOFA Quarterly Reports:** Statistical reports for the FRA's Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) initiative may be reviewed by linking to [http://www.aslrra.org/safety\\_training/SOFA\\_Reports/](http://www.aslrra.org/safety_training/SOFA_Reports/).

And as customary...

**ASLRRRA:** For the ASLRRRA public website, link to [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org). For the members-only website, link to [members.aslrra.org](http://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](http://www.dot.gov/buyamerica).

**Car Hire And Car Service Rules (OT-10):** The OT-10 details the rules of car hire and car service, which regulates the flow of freight cars throughout the U.S. Railinc's Jim Moran notes that "...Circular OT-10 is the official source of Car Service and Car Hire Rules, the Car Service/Car Hire Subscriber List, Special Car Orders and Car Service Directives, OT Circulars 3, 5 and 28, and Car Hire and Superstructure Rate tables." To download the PDF of OT-10 off the Railinc website, link to [https://www.railinc.com/rportal/alf\\_docs/Circulars/OT-10.pdf](https://www.railinc.com/rportal/alf_docs/Circulars/OT-10.pdf).

**Funding Sources:** AASHTO and ASLRRRA 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](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](http://www.aar.com/aar_rf.php). The ASLRRRA 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 ASLRRRA narrowband page at [www.aslrra.org/regulatory/narrowbanding/](http://www.aslrra.org/regulatory/narrowbanding/).

**Railinc And Embargo/OPSL Notes:** For the Railinc website, link to [www.railinc.com](http://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](http://aarembargo.railinc.com).

**Railroad Retirement And Job Vacancies:** For the Railroad Retirement Board website, link to [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov). To check the Railroad Retirement Board's Railroad Jobs Vacancies page, link to <http://www.rrb.gov/PandS/Jobs/rjjobs.asp>.

**TIGER Grant Assistance:** The webinar of USDOT's July 18, 2011 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](http://www.yorkcast.com/dot/2011/handouts/07/18/TIGER3_seminar_7-18-2011.pdf).

[back to top](#)

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