



June 1, 2022



Lawmakers Applaud CRISI Grant Recipients

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is expected to release the list of recipients of Fiscal Year 21 (FY21) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grants soon. In the meantime, some congressional offices have made announcements of their own, congratulating CRISI grant recipients and highlighting the projects the grants will fund.

Alabama Representative Mike Rogers [announced](#) ASLRRRA member Alabama Tennessee River Railway will receive \$4,962,110 to make improvements that include rehabilitating a grade-crossing surface, eliminating bridge defects and reactivating rockslide warning signals.

ASLRRRA member R.J. Corman Central Kentucky Lines (RJCC) will receive \$7.3 million, [according](#) to Kentucky Representative Andy Barr. The funding will help RJCC build a rail-to-truck transload facility in Frankfort, Kentucky, and improve an existing main yard and separate transload facility in Lexington.

Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey [recognized](#) ASLRRRA member Gettysburg and Northern Railway, which will use its \$1,840,000 grant to rehabilitate 24 miles of mainline, including upgrading over 15 grade crossings and repairing seven culverts.

Fiscal Year 2022 CRISI grants, totaling \$1.6 billion, are anticipated to be open for application by this fall, and ASLRRRA encourages members to take advantage of this opportunity. To that end, ASLRRRA is hosting a series of webinars in the coming weeks, including ["The New Infrastructure Law: Taking Advantage of New Resources and Grant Programs"](#) on June 14 at 1 p.m. EDT.

States Also Award Freight Rail Grants

In addition to the release of federal CRISI grants, three states have recently announced grant funding for various freight rail projects. Minnesota will award \$6.5 million to eight projects and Kansas will award \$11.5 million to 17 projects. Oregon awarded \$46 million for 21 multimodal projects, which include several related to freight rail.

In Minnesota, ASLRRRA members Minnesota Commercial Railway, Progressive Rail and Twin Cities and Western Railroad will receive \$301,000, \$609,000 and \$690,000, respectively, for projects to upgrade and extend track and improve and expand rail access.

Several ASLRRRA member railroads operating in Kansas received grants from the Kansas Department of Transportation's State Rail Service Improvement Fund. Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad received grants of \$112,595, \$955,500 and \$182,119 for three separate projects. Another multi-grant award winner was South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, receiving \$380,803 and \$619,564 for two projects. Cimarron Valley Railroad received just over a million dollars for major rehabilitation and Garden City Western Railway Company will also advance a rehabilitation project with \$307,513. Kyle Railroad Company received \$1.4 million to fund rail replacement.

And in Oregon, member Oregon Eastern Railroad will receive \$999,300 for track upgrades while Columbia Rail will receive \$692,000 for track expansions.



As an ASLRRRA Preferred Provider, Loram offers Discounts on Tie and Track Inspection Services to ASLRRRA Members.

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FRA Toolkit Aims to Help Railroads Reduce Trespassing, Suicide

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) recently launched its [Trespass & Suicide Prevention Toolkit](#). The interactive resource allows railroad safety professionals, community members and other stakeholders to find summaries of different railroad trespass prevention strategies and suicide prevention measures.

According to the FRA's Office of Safety Analysis, approximately 70 percent of all railroad-related deaths in the United States are the result of trespassing and suicide. The toolkit works to address the complex issues underlying this statistic by listing individual measures, or prevention strategies, and providing relevant information such as advantages and drawbacks and suggestions for implementation. Users can also use the toolkit's search function to pick out strategies that directly relate to a certain incident type, location and more.

Included with the toolkit is a [user guide](#) for those seeking more help navigating the online site.



Invite Lawmakers to Take a Tour of Railroad Facilities this Summer

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer in the U.S., meaning members of Congress will be spending more time away from Washington, D.C. and in their hometowns. This situation offers ASLRRRA members an opportunity to reach out to their federal representatives and senators and invite them to tour their facilities and learn about the small-railroad industry.

Inviting lawmakers to visit railroad and supplier facilities is an excellent way to communicate the importance of short line and regional railroads to local, state and national economies. These tours also offer a way to build a relationship with lawmakers and help them understand how their actions on Capitol Hill affect businesses in their districts.

ASLRRRA's Government Affairs Team can help Association members connect with members of their congressional delegation and can assist with scheduling a facility visit. Contact ASLRRRA's [Zach Radford](#) or [Crystal Gitchell](#) for more information.

CONNECT REMOTELY AND CONTINUE LEARNING WITH ASLRRRA WEBINARS

With nearly 200 recordings available, there's a webinar to meet the needs of everyone on your team. Visit aslrra.org/webinars to view a complete list of available recordings.



ASLRRRA New Members

Know a company that would benefit from joining and participating in ASLRRRA? Please contact ASLRRRA's Senior Vice President of Membership and Business Development [Kathy Keeney](#) via email or on (202) 585-3439.

ASLRRRA Welcomes Two New Members



[Ferrocarril Y Terminal Del Valle De Mexico, S.A. De C.V., \(Ferrovale\)](#) operates rail trackage and terminals in and around Mexico City. Ferrovale is made up of two large operating divisions – the railroad (TFVM) that operates a network with more than 500 kilometers of track that moves 900,000 cars annually and an intermodal division that moves more than 500,000 containers annually. Ferrovale connects with Kansas City Southern, Ferromex and Ferrosur. Our primary contact is General Manager Francisco Fabila.



[Lee Inspection & Consulting Services, Inc.](#), based in Joplin, Missouri, provides a wide variety of wood and track inspection services. It offers non-destructive tie and timber testing, track and bridge inspections, 3rd party independent inspections, GPS mapping systems, and preservative testing in ties and timbers. Our primary contact is Operations Manager [Dustin Juneau](#), who can be reached on (318) 312-3100.

ASLRRA Announcements

Optimize Track Inspections with Aurora from Preferred Provider Loram Technologies

Track inspections help railroads identify and manage problems and potential problems to ensure operational safety and regulatory compliance. To aid with the inspection process, ASLRRA Preferred Provider Loram Technologies offers its Aurora Track Inspection Technology to ASLRRA members at preferred pricing through the Association's Member Discount Program.

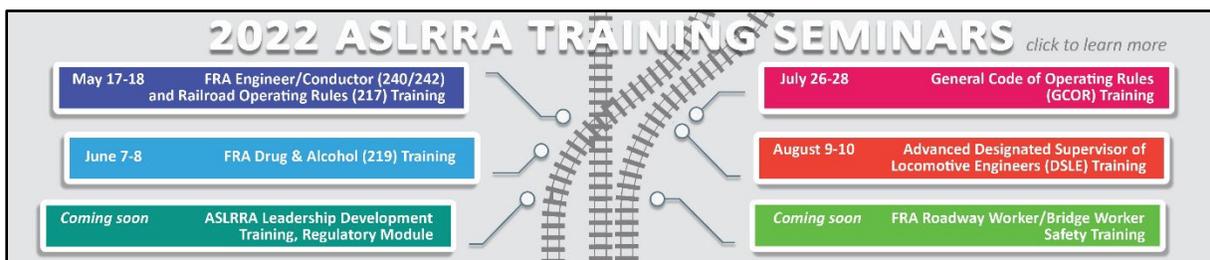
Aurora uses state-of-the-art imaging technology to scan railroad tracks, evaluating the condition of every tie and identifying problems like rail seat deterioration and rail base corrosion. That data gets turned into an easy-to-understand report customized to railroads' specific needs, helping companies find issues that compromise track safety and efficiency. Not only can railroads then make plans to repair deficiencies, they can evaluate whether they are in compliance with industry regulations.

ASLRRA members can improve operations at a lower cost with Aurora from Loram Technologies. To learn more about Aurora and the other products and services available through other ASLRRA Preferred Providers, visit the Association's [Member Discount Program website](#).

Spaces are Filling Quickly for ASLRRA's GCOR Seminar in July

ASLRRA has again partnered with the Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR) to offer comprehensive training on [General Code of Operating Rules \(GCOR\)](#). The three-day [GCOR](#) seminar will be held July 26-28 and completing this training allows railroads using GCOR as their operating rules to meet training requirements mandated by 49 CFR Part 240, 242 and 214 Subpart C.

This popular seminar will be presented by subject matter experts JR Gelnar, ASLRRA's vice president of safety and compliance, and Mark Vaughn, IANR's assistant general manager. It will be held at the BienVenu Event Center adjacent to the Holiday Inn & Suites in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Click [here](#) to register. A full list of upcoming training seminars is also available [on ASLRRA's website](#).





ASLRRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

Upcoming Webinars

[Part 243 Railroad Obligations with Contractors](#) – June 1, 2022

Join FRA Staff Director Rob Castiglione to understand what your obligations are as a railroad when engaging with contractors under Part 243, including Roadway Worker Protection (RWP). Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in Q&A at the end of the presentation. Presenters include Castiglione and ASLRRRA's Jo Strang and JR Gelnar.

This webinar is free for both ASLRRRA members and non-members.

[The New Infrastructure Law: Taking Advantage of New Resources and Grant Programs](#) – June 14, 2022

Subject-matter experts from Blank Rome Government Relations and Bergmann Associates will provide an in-depth presentation covering new grant programs and resources available to short line railroads as a result of the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The webinar costs \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Find Recordings from Last Year's General Counsel Symposium in the On-Demand Webinar Library

ASLRRRA's [General Counsel Symposium](#) will take place this fall in conjunction with the Central & Pacific Region Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but those who cannot wait until October to learn about railroad-related legal issues can view recordings of legal sessions from the 2021 Virtual General Counsel Symposium. These recordings are available in ASLRRRA's [On-Demand Webinar](#) library, and include titles like:

- Strategically Defending a FELA Toxic Tort Case
- Section 889: Protecting the Security of the Railroad Supply Chain
- Encroachments & Trespass: On the Railroad, It's All About Property
- Utility Crossings and Broadband Deployment

These webinars are only a few of the over 170 recordings available on a wide variety of topics including finance, human resources, communications and business development. ASLRRRA members can access the On-Demand Webinar for free while non-members can purchase a subscription. Follow the link above to access the webinar library today.

Click [here](#) to learn more about ASLRRRA's education offerings.

Industry Events and Announcements

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Click [here](#) for a calendar of industry events.

Views & News is published by American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Please contact [Amy Krouse](#), editor, with questions or comments.