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FY 25-26 CRISI GRANT PROGRAM DELIVERS \$1.885B IN TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENT IN SHORT LINES

*FRA and Congress Entrust Short Line Industry With Record-breaking Support, Making
Generational Impact Across 40 States*

WASHINGTON, October 19, 2026 —The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) hails the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) and Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) announcement of the record-breaking number and amount of Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program grants being made in the FY 25-26 cycle to improve short line railroads across the country. Of the 105 awards announced, 87 projects across 40 states, totaling \$1.885B, were awarded to small business short line freight railroad projects.

"Simply put, this is the single biggest funding commitment for short line railroad infrastructure in the 199-year history of the industry. It's an extraordinary endorsement from the federal government of the critical importance of these first and last mile freight connectors," said ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker. "This exceptional result recognizes the breadth and depth of the planned projects that will pay dividends for generations. Dedicating funding to short line railroads provides an excellent bang for the public buck, benefitting tens of thousands of shippers and the communities they serve. We are profoundly grateful to the Congressional leaders who have robustly funded the CRISI program through the IIJA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and annual appropriations. We commend the USDOT and FRA leadership, particularly

Secretary Duffy, Deputy Secretary Bradbury, FRA Administrator Fink, Deputy Administrator Feeley, and the entire FRA grants program team for their steadfast commitment to America's local railroads and to the communities and businesses that depend on them. Their confidence in these critical projects and commitment to putting scarce federal resources to work where they can make a tangible difference are deeply appreciated. America's small business short line railroads will put every dollar to work efficiently, responsibly, and with an unwavering focus on delivering real, lasting benefits for the American people."

The awarded grants will boost safe operations across the industry, funding improvements in the basics of short line rail infrastructure such as rocks, rail, and ties that will address the leading causes of short line derailments (broken rail and wide gauge from worn out track and ties), rehabilitate and upgrade the capacity of older bridges, enhance the reliability of railroad operations, address crossings where rail intersects with pedestrians and motor vehicles, deploy rail safety technology, and provide safety and workforce development training.

This round of CRISI funding for short line projects includes:

- 72 projects upgrading rail lines to modern standards or building new track
- 23 projects rehabilitating, upgrading, or replacing more than 50 total railroad bridges
- 60 new or upgraded locomotives, enhancing efficiency and reducing the emissions and fuel consumption of the short line fleet
- 36 projects that address improving grade crossing safety and reducing trespassing incidents, including improvement of more than 304 short line crossings
- 2 projects that will provide safety training and workforce development to America's rail workers
- 58 projects that qualified for the rural set-aside, supporting rural communities and economies.

"As we build on this historic success, short lines look forward to working with the FRA to obligate these awards far more quickly than in previous rounds, putting these dollars to work as fast as possible, and working with Congress to continue the robust funding of the CRISI program

so that these groundbreaking investments are the start of a new era of investment into rail safety and efficiency, not the end of one,” said Baker.

FY 25-26 is the final round of CRISI funded under the IIJA. IIJA was groundbreaking in providing advanced appropriations of \$1 billion for CRISI in each of its five fiscal years, providing certainty for applicants that consistent funding would be available. That certainty has allowed for advanced planning, resulting in better projects and a greater economic and safety impact for each dollar spent. The results for the CRISI program have been significant, leading to a very competitive and over-subscribed program.

“As Congress considers the next generation of surface transportation funding, ASLRRA urges Congress to preserve dependable, guaranteed multi-year funding in any near-term extension and the next surface transportation reauthorization,” said Baker. “The results speak for themselves, with the CRISI program making significant progress against the estimated \$12 billion in infrastructure improvement backlog for short lines. Returning to funding CRISI solely through annual appropriations risks the forward momentum of transformational investment this program has achieved under IIJA.”

A complete list of FY 25-26 CRISI awards is available [here](#).

About ASLRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation’s 603 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 50,000 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately one third of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network.