



Stay in the Know!

Want to stay on top of all that's going on in our industry, and how to prepare for changes ahead? ASLRRRA Training AND Regional Meetings are a great way to do this! See what's upcoming below and follow the links for more details in this issue.

- [ASLRRRA Leadership Development Training, Regulatory Module](#) – Sept. 13-14 in Phoenix, Arizona
- [ASLRRRA Eastern and Southern Region Meeting](#) – Sept. 26-28 in Atlanta, Georgia
- [Short Line Safety Institute Leadership Development Class](#) – Oct. 4-6 in Tacoma, Washington and Oct. 18-20 in Waterloo, Iowa
- [ASLRRRA Central and Pacific Region Meeting](#) – Oct. 25-27 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

And follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for even more breaking news, upcoming events and member shout-outs.

Headlines

CRISI NOFO Published, FRA Now Accepting Applications

On Sept. 1 the U.S. Department of Transportation [announced the availability](#) of over \$1.4 billion for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grants, a significant funding increase made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. ASLRRRA encourages its railroad members of all sizes to apply for a grant.

The [CRISI notice of funding opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) was published Sept. 2. Grant applications are due 90 days from that date, on Dec. 1. Short line railroads are directly eligible for awards through the CRISI program, making it a valuable opportunity for railroads seeking funding for infrastructure projects. Over the years ASLRRRA members have received millions in CRISI funding, enabling them to make important upgrades to track, bridges, facilities and more.

A [program overview](#) on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) website summarizes the projects eligible for funding, including those to improve rail lines, facilitate multimodal connections, develop and implement a safety program and rehabilitate or procure lower-emission locomotives. At least 25 percent of available funds will go to projects in rural communities, and the FRA has indicated it will seek to fund projects that address climate change, environmental justice, racial equity and job creation.

The FRA will host its first [CRISI grant webinar on Sept. 15](#) to provide an overview of the FY22 program and best practices for completing important application components and complying with

environmental requirements. Webinar attendees will also learn how the FRA evaluates grant applications. [Click here](#) to register for the FRA webinar.

ASLRRRA's Website Features New CRISI Resource Page

To help members navigate the CRISI application process, ASLRRRA has created a [new page](#) on its website focused on CRISI grants. All visitors can access the landing page, which features information from the "Preparation for CRISI" article series featured this summer in *Views & News*.

Members can log in through links on the CRISI page to access more in-depth information about the grant application process.

Further grant assistance is available through ASLRRRA's Member Discount Program, which features [Preferred Providers Bergmann, HDR and Global Train Services \(GTS\)](#) offering Association members help with grant applications.



As an ASLRRRA Preferred Provider, Spark offers Discounts on Drug & Alcohol Testing Services to ASLRRRA Members.

[Click to learn more!](#)



Regulatory Update

Time is Almost Up to Register for ASLRRRA's Leadership Development Training Seminar

This is the last chance to [register](#) for the [Regulatory Module](#) of ASLRRRA's Leadership Development Training Program, which will be held Sept. 13-14 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The program offered by the Association complements the leadership development training offered by the Short Line Safety Institute and is unique in the way it covers a broad selection of topics in a single setting. In addition to Federal Regulations 101 and Leadership Qualities for Managers, the two-day course will cover Part 217, Part 218, Part 219, Part 225, Part 228, and Part 243. Attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of regulations that govern railroad operations and participate in facilitated, interactive dialog with expert instructors and peers.

Apply for a Scholarship to Fund ASLRRRA Training

Thanks to new and expanded [scholarship programs](#) managed by ASLRRRA's Short Line Education Fund, nearly \$30,000 is available to employees of small railroads to attend ASLRRRA seminars and other industry-specific training programs. The online application takes less than 30 minutes and applicants receive up to \$1,200 for registration, travel and lodging. [Apply now!](#)

Limited Spots Available in Short Line Safety Institute Leadership Training

The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is holding its highly rated [Leadership Development Class](#) in Tacoma, Washington Oct. 4-6 and Waterloo, Iowa Oct. 18-20.

Only six spots are available for the Tacoma class, while 10 spots are open in Waterloo. Click [here](#) to register for Tacoma or [here](#) to register for Waterloo.

The [SLSI Leadership Development Training](#) offers railroad managers at all levels a chance to improve their leadership skills, helping them learn how to become more effective communicators, provide constructive feedback, develop coaching skills and manage agreements. Watch a video overview of the SLSI's program [here](#).

Interested in scheduling a class for your railroad? [Contact](#) the SLSI to learn more.

Legislative Update

Capitol Hill Briefs: Lawmakers Work on a Spending Stop Gap, Primus Gets a Senate Hearing

Members of Congress have returned to Capitol Hill to tackle some must-do legislative work before another recess commences at the end of September.

The biggest deadline is the expiration of the current law governing federal spending. The law expires on the last day of the federal fiscal year, Sept. 30. Congress is unlikely to pass a full, year-long spending bill before then and instead is expected to approve a stop-gap spending measure – a continuing resolution – that will keep federal programs funded for a few months, likely until mid-December.

Tomorrow, Surface Transportation Board (STB) nominee Robert Primus will have a hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee. Primus, who joined the board in 2021 for a term that expires at the end of this year, [was nominated](#) by President Joe Biden for a full five-year term.

OneRail Sends Letters to Lawmakers Encouraging Strong Support for Rail in Appropriations Packages

The OneRail Coalition, a group of rail stakeholders of which ASLRRRA is a member, [sent letters](#) last week to the leaders of the House and Senate's respective appropriations committees urging robust funding for rail, transit and multi-modal programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations packages.

The letters include a table listing the programs OneRail wants to see funded and at what amount. The letters also encourage lawmakers to support increased funding for grade crossing safety efforts and reject efforts to increase federal truck weight or length limitations. View the House letter [here](#), and the Senate letter [here](#).

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 aslrro.org/webinars to view a complete list of available recordings.



Announcements

Regional Meetings are Just Around the Corner!

[Eastern and Southern Region Meeting](#)

It is not too late to [register](#) for ASLRRA's Eastern and Southern Region Meeting, which will be held Sept. 26-28 in Atlanta, Georgia.

ASLRRA's Legislative Policy Committee and Supplier Committee will be holding meetings at this event. Meeting attendees will also hear from a wide variety of industry experts, from short line railroad leaders to Class I representatives and those from regulatory agencies and shipping companies.

In addition, networking opportunities include a Young Professionals Social Hour, Sandhouse Sessions for railroads and suppliers and golf. Space is still available for golfers who have not yet signed up for the tournament. Do not miss a chance to [register today](#) for ASLRRA's Eastern and Southern Region Meeting.

[Central and Pacific Region Meeting](#)

ASLRRA's Central and Pacific Region Meeting will be held Oct. 25-27 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Participants will hear from a number of industry experts covering topics such as railroad hazmat issues, conductor certification audits and more.

Networking opportunities include meal breaks with sponsors, Sandhouse Sessions for railroads and suppliers and a Young Professionals Social Hour.

[Register](#) today for the Central and Pacific Region Meeting, or click [here](#) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

[Finance & Administration Seminar and General Counsel Symposium](#)

Both ASLRRA's Finance and Administration Seminar, which is being

Regional Meeting Sessions Sneak Peek

[Eastern and Southern Region](#)

- **Transload Business for Short Lines** with Kelley Minnehan, Vice President and Matthew Frey, Director of Operations, RSI Logistics
- **Switching Operations Fatalities Analysis (SOFA)** with Brian Reilly, Specialist, Railroad Safety Partnerships Division, Federal Railroad Administration
- **ESG 102** with Herman Crosson, Chief Safety and Compliance Officer, Anacostia Rail Holdings Company; Ginny King, Senior Consultant, Stantec; and Sean Strong, AVP, Environmental, Watco
- **Federal Motor Carriers Clearinghouse Requirements** with Holly Rainwater, Vice President of Drug and Alcohol Programs and Katie Inouye, President, Spark Training Solutions
- **Shipper Panel** with Becca Aldridge, Director Transportation & Logistics, KBX Rail and Wesley Ann Barton, Home Depot

[Central and Pacific Region](#)

- **Railroad Retirement Board** with Thomas Jayne, Management Member of the Board and Robert Perbohner, Counsel to the Management Member, Railroad Retirement Board
- **Railroad Hazmat Issue** with Matt Thompson, Manager, Hazardous Material Management, Union Pacific
- **Design and Construction of the Merchants Mississippi River Bridge** with Kevin Eisenbeis, PE, SE & Jeff Jobe, Burns & McDonnell
- **Transload Panel** with Daniel Robbins, Vice President, Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad Co; Brian Spiller, Vice President of Terminal Operations & Development, Gravity Rail; Brian Ward, Sr. Vice President, Marketing & Transload, OmniTRAX

[Finance & Administration and General Counsel](#)

offered for the first time in several years, and General Counsel Symposium provide the opportunity for short line industry professionals to stay abreast of the complicated issues often arising in the world of railroading, and to discuss new trends in their career field.

Registration is now open for ASLRRRA's [Finance & Administration Seminar and General Counsel Symposium](#), with continuing legal education credits (CLEs) also available to attendees.

Both events are held in conjunction with the Association's Central and Pacific Region Meeting. Discounted room rates in the ASLRRRA [hotel block](#) are available until Sept. 26. ASLRRRA is also welcoming sponsors for the finance seminar and symposium. Click [here](#) to learn more about sponsorships.

- **Trespass Prevention Strategies and Technology** with Michael Allen, W.R. Allen Associates and John Fiorilla, Dyer & Peterson P.C.
- **NTSB Investigations and Recommendations** with Tom Tobin and Dan Braude, Wilson Elser Law Firm
- **Legal Update: HR Labor & Employment Issue** with Tracey Donesky, Partner, Stinson LLP
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Implementation: How to Get the Ball Rolling for Your Organization** with Alina Butler, Diversity & Inclusion Leader, Wabtec Corporation; Kristin Bevil, General Counsel, Pioneer Lines; Andi Malter, Chief Human Resources Officer, OmniTRAX, Inc.

Members Receive Preferred Pricing on Drug and Alcohol Testing Services with Spark Training Solutions

Spark Training Solutions is the exclusive Preferred Provider of drug and alcohol testing services in the Association's Member Discount Program. Spark is passionate about helping railroads and contractors meet Federal Railroad Administration drug and alcohol testing requirements, delivering key differentiators for drug and alcohol testing services including railroad-industry-specific expertise, online tools and key national partnerships.

Spark's expert team has built a program to offer drug and alcohol testing services and programs to help railroads and contractors find the most effective strategies to manage their company, Part 219, and other DOT-regulated programs. Drug and alcohol program services include clinic and mobile or onsite testing services, laboratory and medical review officer (MRO) services, electronic chain of custody forms and third-party administrator (TPA) random testing and consortium. Visit ASLRRRA's [Member Discount Program page](#) and click on the Spark Training Solutions logo to start saving today.



ASLRRRA Webinars

Upcoming Live Webinars

[A Case Study in Joining EPA's SmartWay Program](#) – Sept. 21, 2022

Patriot Rail Director of Environmental Compliance Harrison Roughton will share his experience with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SmartWay program. This webinar will also explain how railroads can apply the SmartWay tool, including which locomotives are included and which are not.

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

Industry Events and Announcements

FRA Webinars Help With Grant Applications

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has several recorded and live webinars available to help those navigating the federal grant application process. Upcoming live webinars include:

- [Sept. 8 – Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program NOFO "nuts and bolts"](#)
- [Sept. 15 – FY 2022 CRISI Grant Program NOFO Webinar](#)

Recordings of the FRA's previous Railroad Crossing Elimination Office Hours webinars, which cover topics like the statement of work (SOW) and applicant and project eligibility, can be found at the [FRA Webinars webpage](#) under the "Grants & Loans" tab.

Under that same "Grants & Loans" tab are webinars that provide guidance on the development and management of railroad capital projects and preparing a benefit-cost analysis. There are also webinars covering environmental consideration for federal grant applicants under the "Environment" tab. Included with all these recordings are downloadable copies of presentation materials.

League of Railway Women Accepting Nominations for Woman of the Year Award

The League of Railway Women (LRW) is [accepting nominations](#) for its Railway Woman of the Year award, bestowed in partnership with co-sponsor *Progressive Railroading* magazine.

According to the LRW, such an individual is one who overcomes challenges and breaks down barriers and brings excellence to her organization and community. This year's winner will be recognized at the NRC 2023 Conference in Boca Raton, Florida.

Nominations for the award are due Oct. 10. Follow [this link](#) to fill out a nomination form.

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.