



American Short Line and  
Regional Railroad Association.

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## **Lake State Railway and TGS Cedar Port Railroad Receive ASLRRRA Business Development Awards**

**WASHINGTON – May 1, 2026** – Annually, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) celebrates select railroads that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, benefitting their shippers and communities with advancements in service, operational improvements, and economic development. In 2026, ASLRRRA has selected Lake State Railway and TGS Cedar Port Railroad as honorees. The awards were presented at the ASLRRRA Annual Conference and Exhibition on April 13, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN.

“The Business Development Awards reflect what the short line industry is all about: entrepreneurial leaders driving volume growth by building strong customer and partner relationships, and using their unique strengths to support shippers and the communities they serve.” said Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRRA. “This year’s awardees demonstrate two of the many ways short lines achieve growth—by helping long-time customers grow and by solving a longstanding customer pain point with win-win solutions, driving transformational changes for the industries they serve.”

The 2026 Business Development Awardees are:

### **Lake State Railway (LSRC) – *Delivering Broad Economic Growth by Supporting Long Term Customer***

Lake State Railway (LSRC) demonstrated how strengthening an existing customer relationship can drive broad economic growth through its work with the Edward C. Levy Company’s Specification Stone. LSRC transformed a struggling 120-mile line to Alpena—once limited by slow speeds, aging rail, and unreliable

equipment—by leveraging a CRISI grant to upgrade track, locomotives, railcars, and technology. These improvements gave Specification Stone the confidence to invest in expanded operations, tripling loading capacity in Alpena, diversifying products, and opening a new distribution terminal near Flint. LSRC also supported its customer in securing state funding for new rail infrastructure, helping bring a major brownfield facility in Burton online. By combining infrastructure investment with strong community partnerships, LSRC not only saved Specification Stone’s facilities from sunseting, but created more competitive and reliable aggregate transportation across Michigan, with volumes expected to more than double—benefiting the railroad, its customer, and regional economic development.

Click [here](#) for a video of the project.

### **TGS Cedar Port Railroad – *Solving a Customer Pain Point Secures New Jobs and Investment***

TGS Cedar Port Railroad earned this year’s award for developing a fully integrated railcar cleaning and transloading facility that consolidates services such as cleaning, de-gassing, nitrogen padding, repairs, storage, and transloading in one location. By eliminating the need for multiple off-site moves, the facility reduces costs, delays, and inefficiencies that previously cost customers thousands of dollars per car.

Backed by parent company Trans-Global Solutions, the site offers full vertical integration within an industrial park featuring more than 125 miles of track and about 6,000 railcar storage spots. Partnerships with Union Pacific, BNSF, and local agencies help ensure efficient operations, infrastructure development, and long-term success.

To win over customers, TGS Cedar Port demonstrated clear economic value through lower costs and faster turnaround, supported by coordinated marketing and operations efforts. Demand quickly grew, with more than 2,800 railcars cleaned and over 3,000 truck movements supported, alongside new jobs and increased investment in the industrial park. The project has reduced service cycles from months to days, strengthened customer relationships, attracted new business, and positioned Cedar Port as a key service hub in the Gulf Coast petrochemical corridor.

Click [here](#) for a video of the project.

For more on ASLRRRA’s Business Development Awards and criteria, click [here](#).

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**About ASLRRRA** - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) 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 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% 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. [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org)