

## **RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 15 and March 16, 2023**

**STB HEADQUARTERS**

**WASHINGTON, DC**

### **Minutes**

The Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (“RSTAC”), pursuant to notice, held its first quarter meeting, in person, on Wednesday, March 15 and Thursday, March 16, 2023, at the STB’s headquarters in Washington, DC.

The following members were present:

- RSTAC Chairman: Mr. Mark Wegner, CEO, Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company and Red River Valley & Western Railroad Company
- RSTAC Secretary: Mr. Robert McRae, Vice President of Transportation, Univar Solutions
- Ms. Holly Pixler, Senior Director of Transportation and Logistics, Ardent Mills (via phone)
- Mr. James (Leggett) Kitchin, Vice President for Industrial Products and Coal, Norfolk Southern Railway Co.
- Mr. Mike Bilovesky, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Agriculture and Minerals Business Unit, Kansas City Southern Railway Co.
- Mr. Richard G. Erstad, Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary, Hawkins, Inc.
- Ms. Brandy Christian, President & CEO, Port of New Orleans
- Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Chief Commercial Officer, Anacostia Rail Holdings, Inc.
- Mr. Don Itzkoff, Chief Policy Officer, Patriot Rail Co. LLC
- Mr. Stefan Loeb, Chief Commercial Officer, Watco Companies, L.L.C.
- Mr. Ross Corthell, Vice President of Transportation, Packaging Corp. of America
- Mr. W. Paul Delp, President, Lansdale Warehouse Company
  
- Chairman Martin Oberman, Surface Transportation Board
- Vice Chairman Karen Hedlund, Surface Transportation Board
- Member Patrick Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board
- Member Robert Primus, Surface Transportation Board
- Member Michelle Schultz, Surface Transportation Board

Alternate representatives from companies represented on the RSTAC:

- Mr. Brad Moore, Vice President Customer Care & Support, Union Pacific Railroad Co. (filling in for Ms. Kari Kirchhoefer)

Also present:

- Federal Railroad Administration: Senior Economist, Mr. T. Stephen O'Connor

Absent:

- RSTAC Vice Chairman: Mr. Ben Abrams, President & CEO, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc.
- Ms. Kari Kirchoefer, Vice President Premium, Union Pacific Railroad Co.
- Mr. Terrence E. McDermott, Director of Supply Chain, Bunge North America

### **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

1. RSTAC Chairman Mark Wegner at the STB Headquarters called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 pm EDT.
2. RSTAC Members provided the first round of field reports to STB Board Members and staff.
3. At 2 pm, Mr. John Jensen, Union Pacific's Director of Crew Management, appeared to present to the STB and the RSTAC the current state of affairs with respect to quality-of-life initiatives that Union Pacific is pursuing, including a pilot program in a Kansas crew district, with promising results.
4. At 3 pm, Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of SMART Transportation Division, presented to the STB and the RSTAC an overview of how his organization represented railroad workers during negotiations leading up to the recent labor settlement. He also discussed continued railroad labor concerns.
5. Field reports continued following Mr. Ferguson's presentation.
6. The first day of meetings was adjourned at approximately 5:15 pm.

### **Thursday, March 16, 2023**

1. The RSTAC members and STB Board members reconvened at 9 am. Discussion regarding selection of RSTAC leadership for 2023-2024 was deferred until the June 2023 RSTAC meeting.
2. Field reports continued.
3. At 10 am, a discussion ensued regarding an RSTAC whitepaper, "RSTAC Recommendation to the Surface Transportation Board to Examine the Nation's Rail Boxcar Supply." After an hour of discussion, the voting RSTAC members voted unanimously to request an STB reopening of Docket Ex Parte No. 334 (Railroad Car Hire Compensation) for public comment. (Ben Abrams called into the RSTAC for this portion of the meeting.) The RSTAC voted to submit the whitepaper for the Board's review and consideration.
4. A discussion was had regarding the dates of the spring RSTAC meeting, landing on June 20 and 21.
5. The second day's meetings were adjourned at approximately 1 pm.