
**RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Pursuant to Section 726 of the ICC Termination Act (ICCTA), the Chair of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in mid-1996 announced the formation of the Railroad Shippers Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). As required by Section 726(f) (4) of the ICCTA, RSTAC submits its Annual Report for 2020.

1. Membership

The following individuals were the appointed members of the 15-member RSTAC for 2020, listed by category each represents:

Small Shipper (Four Voting Members):

Mr. Kevin Murray, Red Gold, Inc.
Mr. Matthew Brainerd, Brainerd Chemical, Inc.
Mr. Paul Delp, Lansdale Warehouse Co.
Mr. Ben Abrams, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc.

Small Railroad (Four Voting Members):

Mr. Mark Wegner, Twin Cities & Western and Red River Valley and Western Railroads
Mr. Lawrence Malski, Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority
Mr. Nathan Asplund, Florida East Coast Railway
Mr. Michael Peters, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc.

Large Shipper (Three Non-Voting Members)

Ms. Holly Pixler, Ardent Mills
Mr. Robert C. McRae, Univar Solutions
Mr. Terrence McDermott, Bunge North America

Large Railroad (Three Non-Voting Members)

Mr Arthur Adams, CSX Corporation
Mr. Mike Bilovesky, Kansas City Southern Railroad
Ms. Kari Kirchhoefer, Union Pacific Railroad

At-Large (One Voting Member)

Ms. Brandy Christian, Port of New Orleans

Ex-Officio Members

The Honorable Ann Begeman, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board

Patrick Fuchs, Commissioner, Surface Transportation Board

Martin Oberman, Commissioner, Surface Transportation Board

Stephen O'Connor, Federal Railroad Administration, representing The Honorable

Elaine Chao, Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation.

RSTAC Officers for 2020 effective at the March 2020 meeting:

Nathan Asplund, Chairman

Mark Wegner, Vice Chairman

Mathew Brainerd, Secretary/Treasurer

2. RSTAC Meetings

Due to onset of the national COVID epidemic emergency, The Council met in person only one time on March 2 and 3, 2020 at the STB offices in Washington, DC.

Following this quarterly meeting, the Council held weekly and bi-weekly conference calls for the balance of the year to provide updates on the impact of the COVID situation on carriers and shippers.

3. RSTAC Achievements in 2020

RSTAC continued its steady focus on its Role and Mission Statement giving a voice to small and large industry as well as railroads and their role in their respective communities.

- **Mission Statement**
To work together as a council of rail advocates on a common goal to strengthen the national rail industry, improve service levels and foster mutually beneficial relationships between large and small railroads and shippers, across all commodity groups. To that end, we will address improvements in the primary issues of capacity constraints and the evolution of merchandise carload network including the elements that impact them and bring forth recommendations for improvement.
- During the in-person meeting March 2020, RSTAC hosted Mr. Tony Hammond, Principal Economist of HDR Inc, who spoke on the benefits and functioning of Public Private Partnerships for the rail industry and shippers.

- For the balance of the year, RSTAC members provided critical weekly and bi-weekly conference call updates to STB Commissioners, staff and stakeholders on active developments surrounding the COVID situation; its impact on Class I and Shortline employees, capacity and service; and the impact and adjustments being made by rail shippers to continue in-bound and outbound operations critical to the US economy.

4. Future Plans

RSTAC will continue to pursue its charge by following the Mission Statement of the Council.

RSTAC Members will strive to meet this mission by:

- Applying the diversity of the RSTAC Council to fairly and openly address small shipper/railroad concerns; being accessible to shippers, communities and elected officials; monitoring and discussing the issues; and providing knowledge and education wherever possible.
- Encouraging shippers and railroads to improve communications toward a goal of improved customer satisfaction.
- Focusing on discussion/problem solving for concerns that impact the access of shippers to a viable, healthy and stable rail transportation option to meet market demands.
- Consider recommendations regarding rail policy and the STB's role to create more effective oversight of the domestic rail network.
- Continue interaction with Congress and maintaining outreach to all parties with an interest in a vibrant rail network.