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## RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, DC

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### 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Pursuant to Section 1325 of the ICC Termination Act (ICCTA), the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in mid-1996 announced the formation of the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). As required by Section 1325(f)(4) of the ICCTA, RSTAC submits its Annual Report for 2023.

#### 1. Membership

The following individuals were the appointed members of the 15-member RSTAC for 2023:

##### Small Shippers (Four Voting Members):

- Mr. Ben Abrams, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc.
- Mr. Ross Corthell, Packaging Corporation of America
- Mr. W. Paul Delp, Lansdale Warehouse Co.
- Mr. Richard Erstad, Hawkins, Inc.

##### Small Railroads (Four Voting Members):

- Mr. Stefan Loeb, Watco Companies, L.L.C. (through March 2023)
- Mr. Justin Broyles, R.J. Corman Railroad Group, LLC (appointed May 2023)
- Mr. Donald Itzkoff, Patriot Rail Company LLC
- Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Anacostia Rail Holdings Co.
- Mr. Mark Wegner, Twin Cities & Western Railroad and Red River Valley & Western Railroad

##### Large Shippers (Three Non-Voting Members):

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

##### Large Railroads (Three Non-Voting Members):

- Ms. Kari Kirchhoefer, Union Pacific Railroad Co.
- Mr. James (Leggett) Kitchin, Norfolk Southern Railway Co.
- Mr. Mike Bilovesky, Kansas City Southern Railway Co. (through March 2023)
- Mr. Robert (Buck) Rogers, Canadian National Railway Co. (appointed May 2023)

##### At-Large (One Voting Member):

- Ms. Brandy Christian, Port of New Orleans (through July 2023)
- Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, SMART – Transportation Division (appointed August 2023)

##### Ex-Officio Members:

- Martin Oberman, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board

- Karen Hedlund, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
- Patrick Fuchs, Member, Surface Transportation Board
- Robert Primus, Member, Surface Transportation Board
- Michelle Schultz, Member, Surface Transportation Board
- Stephen O'Connor, Federal Railroad Administration, representing The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation.

RSTAC Officers for 2023, effective at the June 2023 meeting:

- Mr. Ben Abrams, Chairman
- Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Vice Chairman
- Mr. Robert McRae, Secretary/Treasurer

## **2. RSTAC Meetings**

The RSTAC met four times in 2023: in March, June, and December at STB Headquarters in Washington, DC, and in September in Savannah, GA. All of the meetings included railroad and shipper updates, as well as discussions about those update topics with Board members.

The March 2023 meeting included the presentation of a whitepaper entitled, "RSTAC Recommendation to the Surface Transportation Board to Examine the Nation's Rail Boxcar Supply." The RSTAC voted to refer the whitepaper to the Board for further consideration. The March 2023 meeting also included a presentation to the STB and the RSTAC by Union Pacific Railroad's Director of Crew Management, Mr. John Jensen, about the current state of affairs with respect to quality-of-life initiatives that the railroad is pursuing, including a pilot program in a Kansas crew district, with promising results.

The June 2023 meeting included a presentation by several RSTAC members and guest, Jamie Boychuk, CSX Transportation EVP Operations, who together comprised a Measures and Metrics Sub-Group, that was charged with generating and proposing potential metrics to gauge customer and railroad fluidity. Following the presentation, the RSTAC and Board Members held an open discussion about these potential metrics.

The September 2023 meeting in Savannah, GA was hosted by Norfolk Southern Railway Co. and Anacostia Rail Holdings. The meeting included site visits to Norfolk Southern Railway's Dillard Yard, and Colonial Terminals and Georgia Ports Authority facilities.

## **3. RSTAC Accomplishments**

During the 2023 meetings, RSTAC gave the STB Members guidance and information on the health of the transportation industry. Insight was shared in a candid and open forum.

## **4. Future Plans**

RSTAC is comprised of a diverse membership of professionals whose daily lives involve understanding and managing the challenges of transportation services. RSTAC is charged with the duty of conveying their knowledge and expertise to Ex-Officio Members so that the Surface

Transportation Board might fulfill its charge of supporting “an efficient, competitive, and economically viable surface transportation network that meets the needs of its users.”

RSTAC Members welcome this challenge and will continue to support the RSTAC 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.”

Additional RSTAC information is available at:

<https://www.stb.gov/resources/stakeholder-committees/rstac/>