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American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



VOLUME 81

NUMBER 3

February 15, 2012

Notable Events

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**Currently, Railroad
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is in Effect**

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**NORFOLK SOUTHERN
SHORT LINE
MEETING
July 18-20, 2012
Roanoke, Virginia**

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Classified Ads**



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ASLRRR WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

Cara Lione and Cheryl Huyck report on, and welcome, the following organizations to the ASLRRR family:

Strasburger & Price LLP: Long time ASLRRR associate member John D. Heffner (formerly of the firm John D. Heffner, PLLC) has joined the Washington, D.C., office of Dallas-based Strasburger & Price, LLP. With five offices in Texas, New York, Washington, and Mexico City, and over 200 attorneys, Strasburger & Price has a diverse corporate, commercial, regulatory, and litigation practice. The firm's historic transportation practice addresses many issues that short lines face including loss and damage claims, hazardous materials transportation, transportation security, environmental claims, and FELA defense litigation. The firm's Washington D.C. address is 1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 640, Washington, D.C. 20006 and their main number is (202)742.8600. Their fax number (202) 742-8699 and their website is www.strasburger.com. Please contact Of Counsel John D. Heffner at (202) 742-8607 or john.heffner@strasburger.com.

Rail Forge provides rail fasteners using the trade name Gagelok rail screws. The company is located at 2001 West Wabash, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60647 and their main number is (630) 561-4989. Their fax number is (888) 391-3202 and their website is www.railforge.com. Please contact CEO-North America Keith Ishaug at keith.ishaug@railforge.com.

Rocore is a manufacturer/remanufacturer of mechanically bonded radiators, oil coolers, charge air coolers, aftercoolers and intercoolers. Rocore also specializes in designing and manufacturing custom cooling solutions. We are proud to serve the short line, regional, Class I, transit and international railroads. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, with manufacturing facilities in Franklin, Wisconsin; Knoxville, Tennessee; Paducah, Kentucky; Burkesville, Kentucky and Dallas, Texas, they have served our customers for over 28 years. The company is located at 2401 Directors Drive Suite R, Indianapolis, IN 46241 and their main number is (317) 417-9813. Their fax number is (317) 227-2939 and their website is www.rocore.com. Please contact Sales Manager David Lundquist at dlundquist@rocore.com.

Hybrid 60 offers advanced energy and transportation solutions within the global market. The company is located at 38955 Hills Technology Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331 and their main number is (248) 536-1970. Their website is www.hybrid60.com. Please contact Ann Ruple at info@hybrid60.com.

For ASLRRA membership information, please contact Cheryl Huyck at chuyck@aslrta.org or call her at (202) 585-3431.

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TRUCK SIZE AND WEIGHT INCREASE OUT OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILLS

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee voted February 2 to exclude provisions from their proposed new surface transportation bill that would have permitted increased truck sizes and weights. The vote delays any increase beyond the present 80,000 pound limit for at least three years. The bill calls for the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct a study during that time on the impact of increased truck size and weight to highway roads and bridges, and to highway safety.

The study amendment was co-sponsored by Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA) and Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL), who also led the debate during the Committee's mark-up of the bill. As originally written, the bill would have allowed states to permit more trucks of up to 97,000 pounds on interstate highways and would have expanded use of double- and triple-trailers in those states that now allow them. The study now called for in the House bill, H.R.7, mirrors a similar study provision in the equivalent Senate bill, S.1813.

The House bill also proposes – in response to technological realities – that the deadline for the nation's railroads to install Positive Train Control (PTC) be extended for five years, from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2020. The bill also proposes changes to the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan program. Keith Hartwell of ASLRRA's allied firm, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, notes that they include the following:

- Allows for use of private insurance, including bond insurance, to be used in lieu of paying part or all of the credit risk premium.
- Allows the credit risk premium to be paid over the term of the loan as opposed to today's up front requirement.
- Makes high speed rail projects eligible.
- Requires the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make its decision to approve or disapprove the application in the 90-day period previously required for FRA consideration.
- Requires FRA to determine if application is complete not later than 45 days after submission of an application (previously the FRA did not start the 90 day clock until it determined an application was complete and there was no time line for that determination.)

- Allow any additional costs associated with a deferred repayment schedule to be financed over the remaining term of the loan.
- For purposes of a loan for PTC, the collateral value of the PTC equipped asset shall be deemed to be equal to the total cost of labor and materials associated with installing PTC.
- Authorizes \$50 million to pay for the cost of deferral or for stretching out the credit risk premium.

Both the House and Senate bills are intended as multi-year, successor legislation to the expired-but-extended SAFETEA-LU Act. The House bill, H.R. 7, is formally titled the “American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012,” and the Senate bill, S.1813, is formally titled the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act,” with the latter also known as MAP-21. The complete text of each bill, as well as latest congressional actions, may be viewed on the Library of Congress’s federal legislative website, www.thomas.gov.

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FINAL UNION SETTLES, ENDING THREAT OF NATIONAL RAIL STRIKE

The last union still without a national agreement settled on a tentative new contract on February 2. The settlement, made between representatives of the National Carrier’s Conference Committee (NCCC) and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE), ended the possibility of a national rail strike at 12:01AM on February 8.

Agreements have now been reached with all thirteen of the rail unions engaged in national collective bargaining. Earlier on February 2, the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA) and the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) announced their membership had ratified new contracts.

“These agreements demonstrate that voluntary bargaining continues to work in the rail industry,” said A. Kenneth Gradia, chair of the National Carriers’ Conference Committee (NCCC). The NCCC represents more than 30 railroads, including the five U.S.-based Class I carriers, in national bargaining with the 13 major rail unions.

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LATEST TIGER GRANT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced January 31 the start of a new round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants. These grants provide federal funding for transportation projects of demonstrated value and benefit, and are administered through state departments of transportation, regional agencies, and alike. The past three rounds of TIGER grants have provided funding that has ultimately benefited rehabilitation and related improvement projects of a number of short line and regional railroads.

In announcing TIGER 2012, which is also being called TIGER 4, USDOT said that a total of approximately \$500 million in funding would be made available. It stipulated that TIGER application guidelines this time would be nearly identical to previous guidelines, with the following four exceptions: 1) only project applicants can contact USDOT for information and to schedule meetings, 2) \$100 million is set aside for high-speed and conventional intercity passenger rail projects, 3) applications must include a detailed statement of work, detailed project schedule, and detailed project budget in the project narrative, and 4) the benefit-cost analysis, as in “Appendix A: Additional Information on Benefit-Cost Analysis,” has been streamlined and includes tools to aid applicants in preparing their analyses.

The timeline for completing and submitting TIGER 2012 applications is as follows:

- **By 5:00PM ET, February 20:** Pre-applications must be submitted
- **February 22:** grants.gov “apply” function opens
- **By 5:00PM ET, March 9:** Final applications must be submitted

Recipients of TIGER 2012 grants will be announced sometime in the Spring.

In announcing TIGER 2012, USDOT noted that demand for TIGER funding has always far exceeded supply. The previous three rounds of TIGER grants provided a total of \$2.6 billion for 172 projects. However – and perhaps indicative of the need for funding to improve the nation’s transportation infrastructure – a total of more than 3,348 applications were received, appealing for funds that, if available, would have totaled more than \$95 billion.

To view the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Tiger 2012, link to the USDOT press release at <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2012/dot1312.html>. A link to the PDF for the NOFA is at bottom.

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FRA EXTENDS CONDUCTOR CERTIFICATION TIMETABLE

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has extended by six months the various dates for compliance with its Final Rule for Conductor Certification. The FRA’s extension consents to a “Petition for Reconsideration” jointly filed by ASLRRA, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). The petition noted that, because the final rule was published by FRA on November 9, 2011, six months later than anticipated, railroads did not have sufficient time to establish conductor certification programs compliant with the rule and then have them approved by the FRA in time for new conductor training and testing to begin as per the rule’s original timetable.

The new timetable is as follows:

Class I and II railroads...

- Have until September 1, 2012 to grandfather and issue certificates to conductors on the job on or before January 1, 2012
- On September 1, 2012, must start issuing certificates to those persons newly conductors after January 1, 2012 but before December 1, 2012
- Must submit their proposed conductor certification program to FRA for approval by September 30, 2012 and have their approved program in place by December 1, 2012
- Must start certifying new conductors through their approved program on December 1, 2012

Class III railroads...

- Have until September 1, 2012 to grandfather and issue certificates to conductors on the job on or before January 1, 2012
- On September 1, 2012, must start issuing certificates to those persons newly conductors after January 1, 2012 but before April 1, 2013
- Must submit their proposed conductor certification program to FRA for approval by January 31, 2013 and have their approved program in place by April 1, 2013
- Must start certifying new conductors through their approved program on April 1, 2013

To review the Final Rule for Conductor Certification, as published on November 9, 2011, link to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2009-0035-0021>. To review changes to the rule, as published in the February 8, 2012 Federal Register, link to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2009-0035-0025>.

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FRA PROPOSES NEW TRAINING STANDARDS REGS

The FRA recently proposed new rules governing the training, qualification, and oversight of safety-related railroad employees.

The new rules root in requirements of the Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) of 2008. As published in the Federal Register, the proposed rules "...would require each railroad or contractor that employs one or more safety-related railroad employee to develop and submit a training program to FRA for approval and to designate the qualification of each such employee. As part of the program, most employers would need to conduct periodic oversight of their own employees to determine compliance with federal railroad safety laws, regulations and orders applicable to those employees."

The proposed rules would also "...require most railroads to conduct an annual written review of their training programs to close performance gaps." Also proposed are "...specific training and qualification requirements for operators of roadway maintenance machines that can hoist, lower, and horizontally move a suspended load..." and "...minor clarifying amendments to the existing training requirements for railroad and contractor employees that perform brake system inspections, tests, or maintenance."

The FRA asks for comment on the proposed rule by April 9, 2012 and requests for any related public hearing by March 8, 2012. To review the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in its entirety, link to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2009-0033-0001>.

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EARLY WARNING CARS TO BE BANNED FROM INTERCHANGE PER NEW SCHEDULE

The AAR has established a new timetable for the enforcement of interchange rules for rail cars running under a Maintenance Advisory (MA) or Early Warning (EW). According to AAR Mechanical Circular C-11479 issued July 14, 2011, these changes were brought about by the need to address the considerable number of cars still in Early Warning and Maintenance Advisory status.

The new timetable establishes the following schedule:

- On January 1, 2012, all Maintenance Advisories issued from 1996 through 2005 were elevated to Early Warning status. Those advisories will be in effect for 90 days, until approximately April 1, 2012, after which any cars remaining under that status will be prohibited from interchange.
- On April 1, 2012, all Maintenance Advisories issued from 2006 through 2008 will be elevated to Early Warning status. Those advisories will then be in effect for 90 days, until approximately July 1, 2012, after which any cars remaining under that status will be prohibited from interchange.
- On June 1, 2012, all Maintenance Advisories issued in 2009 will be elevated to Early Warning status. Those advisories will then be in effect for 90 days, until approximately September 1, 2012, after which any cars remaining under that status will be prohibited from interchange.
- On October 1, 2012, all Maintenance Advisories issued in 2010 will be elevated to Early Warning status. Those advisories will then be in effect for 90 days, until approximately January 1, 2013, after which any cars remaining under that status will be prohibited from interchange.
- All Maintenance Advisories issued in 2011 will be elevated to Early Warning status 12 months following their original issue date.

Also:

- On January 1, 2012, all Early Warnings with “Stop Car” codes will have 90 days, until approximately April 1, 2012, to complete the actions required in the subject advisories. Any cars with such actions unaddressed by that latter date will be prohibited from interchange.
- On April 1, 2012, all other Early Warnings will have 90 days, until approximately July 1, 2012, to complete the actions required in the subject advisories. Any cars with such actions unaddressed by that latter date will be prohibited from interchange.

The AAR-Railinc Early Warning System is a tool that car owners may use to determine if any of their respective car fleets are under a Maintenance Advisory or Early Warning. For more information about this system, link to <https://www.railinc.com/rportal/web/guest/early-warning-system>. For assistance in accessing and using this system, contact Railinc Customer Support at csc@railinc.com or (877) 724-5462.

For questions about Circular C-11479, as well as how to subscribe to receive all AAR mechanical circulars, contact Jim Grady at jgrady@aar.org or Tom Stahura at tstahura@aar.org. Mr. Grady notes that, “AAR Circular Letters are valuable tools in the management of freight car fleets and mechanical operations. Not only do they provide information about equipment and component recalls (Early Warnings and Maintenance Advisories), but also notification of changes to Interchange Rules and equipment standards.”

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CONTEST PRIZE IS ALL EXPENSES PAID TRIP TO RAILROAD DAY

GoRail, the rail advocacy organization, is sponsoring an essay contest – and the prize is an all-expenses paid trip to the nation’s capital to participate in, and be recognized at, 2012 Railroad Day On Capitol Hill this March 8!

GoRail’s Laura McNichol, who will help determine this contest’s winning entries, suggests the following as essay topics:

- What would you tell your senator or representative about freight rail?
- Or...describe how freight rail is making a positive impact on communities, economic development and jobs
- Or...any other freight rail observation that expresses your knowledge of and enthusiasm for our great industry.

Essays should be no more than 250 words. They should include the writer’s name, title, company, mailing address, contact phone number, and email address. **Contest entries must be received no later than Monday, February 20 – that’s next Monday! – and should be emailed to lmcnichol@gorail.org.**

Winners will travel to Washington, DC on Wednesday, March 7, participate in Railroad Day on Thursday, March 8, and return home on Friday, March 9. Through GoRail, they will be provided with roundtrip economy-class air or rail transportation, hotel accommodations, meals and other travel-related expenses. For any short line and regional railroaders that win, ASLRRA will work with their supervisors to facilitate their travel to Washington, DC in fulfillment of their award.

If you have any questions, you may contact ASLRRA's Dave Mears at dmears@aslrta.org or at (202) 585-3436. Dave hopes that many short line and regional railroaders will enter the contest – and that he will have the pleasure of sitting with them at the dinner concluding Railroad Day, so that he may applaud them and the good thoughts they wrote down that brought them there!

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ENTRY DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ASLRRA SAFETY AWARDS

The deadline is **this Friday, February 17** to nominate for the ASLRRA Safety Professional of the Year, Safety Person of the Year, and Most Improved Railroad Awards.

- **The Safety Professional of the Year**, open to any railroad management employee of an ASLRRA member railroad who is responsible for safety programs, training and the overall management of safe behavior and actions on their railroads.
- **The Safety Person of the Year**, open to any rank-and-file employee of an ASLRRA member railroad who contributes to the safety culture on their railroad.
- **The Most Improved Award**, open to any ASLRRA member railroad company that demonstrates improved safety.

Nominations received will be reviewed by a select committee of rail safety personages, who will determine the winners (and their decisions will be final.) The awards will be presented at the ASLRRA 2012 Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. You may link for further information as follows:

- **For Safety Professional of the Year:** http://www.aslrta.org/images/news_file/Safety_Professional_of_the_Year_Brochure_2012.pdf
- **For Safety Person of the Year:** http://www.aslrta.org/images/news_file/Safety_Person_of_the_Year_Brochure_2012.pdf
- **For Most Improved Award:** http://www.aslrta.org/images/news_file/Most_Improved_Award_Notice_2012.pdf

(Please note that the February 24 deadline reported in the previous edition of this newsletter is incorrect. The correct deadline for nominations is February 17.)

Recall that it is easy to nominate for these awards. All it takes is 1) three or four paragraphs –no more than two typewritten pages in length – as to why you believe the individual or railroad you are nominating deserves the award, and 2) if it is for the Safety Professional or Safety Person Awards, get your railroad's CEO to sign it in endorsement. Once your nomination is ready to go, either email it to David Whorton at dwhorton@aslrta.org; mail it to him at ASLRRA, 50 F Street NW, Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001; or fax it to him at (202) 628-6430.

Do send in your entry for one or more of these awards, so that they may be bestowed upon the person or railroad truly deserving of them.

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SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS DVD AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH D&A PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Available from ASLRRA is a Signs & Symptoms DVD. This DVD fulfills the requirements of 49 CFR Part 219, stating that supervisors of safety sensitive personnel must complete training on drug and alcohol testing requirements for reasonable suspicion. The DVD includes recognition of physical, behavioral and performance indicators of probable substance abuse.

The DVD was produced for ASLRRA by CSX. It is priced at \$15 per copy for members and \$25 per copy for non-members. To order, please contact David Whorton, ASLRRA, 50 F Street Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001, Phone: (202) 585-3430, Fax: (202) 628-6430, Email: dwhorton@aslrra.org.

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USBTS PUBLISHES FREE POCKET GUIDE TO TRANSPORTATION 2012

The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, an office of the U.S. Department of Transportation, recently announced their publication of the "Pocket Guide to Transportation 2012," which they refer to as "a quick reference guide to significant transportation data."

This 15th annual edition of the guide includes statistics on transportation safety, state of good repair, system use and performance, economic competitiveness, and environmental sustainability. Information is available for all transportation modes serving the U.S., including highway, rail, air and water.

The guide is available for free download by linking to www.usa.gov/BTSPG2012. Free printed copies may also be requested by emailing to ritainfo@dot.gov or by calling (800) 853-1351.

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NEW AND CHANGING RAILROADS

RailAmerica recently announced the acquisition of one short line and a 70 percent acquisition of another.

One of RA's acquisitions was **Marquette Rail**, which operates approximately 126 miles of line between Grand Rapids and Manistee, MI, with a branch to Ludington, MI.

The other was the **Wellsboro & Corning Railroad**, which operates approximately 38 miles of line between Wellsboro, PA and Corning, NY. In announcing this acquisition, RA said that they were acquiring a 70 percent interest in the WCOR and its sister company, Industrial Waste Group, from the Myles Family, which will retain the remaining 30 percent interest and continue in senior leadership roles.

Also recently, the **Florida East Coast Railway** formally changed its name from Florida East Coast Railway Company to Florida East Coast Railway LLC. Its parent reporting mark continues as FEC.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Ashland Railway (www.ashlandrailway.com) will be the recipient of a \$400,000 grant from the Ohio Rail Development Commission. The railroad will use the grant to help fund rehabilitation work on their line between Ashland and Mansfield, OH. Plans are to increase the track speed on that line from 10mph to 25mph.....**Florida East Coast Railway** (www.fecrwy.com) announced that it recently reached agreement with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to develop a new intermodal terminal at Port Everglades, FL. The new facility will serve the port and is expected to be operational by the beginning of 2014.....**Genesee & Wyoming** (www.gwrr.com) recently reported its results for the full year. For 2011, G&W reported record revenue of \$829 million, up 32 percent from 2010, and record adjusted operating income of \$191 million, up 35 percent from 2010.....**Indiana Rail Road** (www.inrd.com) has announced the following appointments in its Marketing and Sales Department: Larry Kaelin as VP-Coal and Energy Marketing; Bob Babcock as VP-Business Development; Dave Long as AVP-Marketing; Tony Kazakevicius as Senior Manager-Marketing Administration and Services; Brian Jonaitis as Manager-Sales; and Eric Powell as Manager-Economic Development.....**North Shore's Lycoming Valley Railroad** (www.nshr.com) started serving the Unimin's new frac sand terminal, located in Newberry Yard near Williamsport, PA. The new terminal includes 3 tracks and three 1,000-ton capacity silos, and is capable of processing 30 rail cars daily.....Demonstrative of two ASLRRRA member organizations partnering for prosperity, **RailComm** (www.railcomm.com) is installing its Domain Operations Controller (DOC) train control system for **Paducah & Louisville Railway** (www.palrr.com). The DOC will have functionality for Track Warrant Control (TWC) and Centralized Traffic Control (CTC).....**RailAmerica** (www.railamerica.com) recently reported its results for the full year. For 2011, RA reported operating revenue of \$551.1 million, up from \$490.3 million in 2010, and net income of \$36.9 million, up from \$19.1 million in 2010.....Also, **RailAmerica's New England Central Railroad** has just announced the establishment of a new partnership with the **Providence & Worcester Railroad** called the "Great Eastern Route." A RailAmerica spokesman said that it was a "new coordinated commercial and operating platform," adding that "This new strategic alliance is being developed to increase our collective business with both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific to rail customers in Southern New England and to enhance their global access through our port facilities".....**Railway Age** (www.railwayage.com) recently debuted its new website. The website now includes a number of new features, including expanded industry coverage, more rail resources, and five years of searchable content.....**Vermont Rail System** (www.vermontrailway.com) has, in the last 12 months, gone from being the poorest performing Amtrak host railroad to being one of the best. Amtrak operates its "Ethan Allan Express" passenger train over VRS between Whitehall, NY and Rutland, VT. In a congratulatory letter, Amtrak VP-Joe McHugh noted that VRS's improvements to that line "...represent a 99 percent reduction in delays along the route." Mr. McHugh further noted that, reflective of its improved operation, the train has gained 1,200 riders on the Vermont-supported segment between Albany, NY and Rutland in the last year.....**Watco Companies** (www.watcocompanies.com) has announced the appointment of Bill Goldsberry as general manager of its Yellowstone Valley Railroad. Prior to joining Watco in 2010, Goldsberry was director of operations and safety for Genesee & Wyoming's Portland & Western Railroad.....**Wisconsin & Southern Railroad** (www.wsorrailroad.com) is building a new transload terminal in Janesville, WI. The new terminal, which is expected to begin operation in early summer, will handle transfer between rail and truck commodities that include plastic pellets and animal feed.

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RAIL INDUSTRY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 20-22, 2012: ShipXpress User Group Meeting: To be held at the One Ocean Resort and Spa, Atlantic Beach (Jacksonville Beach), FL. For more information, contact Sharon Middleton at sharon.middleton@shipxpress.com or (904) 241-5850 x118.

February 22-23, 2012: South West Association of Rail Shippers (SWARS) Meeting: To be held in San Antonio, TX. For more information, link to <https://www.railshippers.com/regional/southwest/default.asp>.

February 28-29, 2012: ASLRRA/FRA Track Safety Standards, CWR, and Bridge Training Seminar: To be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City at the Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, MO. For more information, link to http://www.aslrra.org/safety_training/Training_Seminars/.

February 28-29, 2012: Iowa DOT/FRA Safety Seminar: To be held in Ames, IA. For more info, link to <https://secure.iowadot.gov/rails/default.aspx>.

March 4-6, 2012: CSX Short Line Workshop: To be held at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL. For more information, link to <http://www.csx.com/index.cfm/customers/other-services-partners/short-line-partners/short-line-workshop/> or email to shortlinedevelopment@csx.com.

March 8, 2012: Railroad Day On Capitol Hill 2012: Beginning and ending at the Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel, 999 Ninth Street NW, Washington, DC. For more info, link to the ASLRRA website at <http://www.aslrra.org/meetings%5F%5F%5Fseminars/Railroad%5FDay%5Fon%5FCapitol%5FHill/>.

March 12-14, 2012: UWMAD Railroad Track Construction Project Management Course: To be held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. For more information, link to <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/emaN097>.

March 12-16, 2012: UTC Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards Workshop: To be held at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, TN. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at gohjones@utk.edu.

March 15-16, 2012: UWMAD Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Course: To be held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. For more information, link to <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/emaN098>.

March 20-21, 2012: ASLRRA/FRA Track Standards, CWR and Bridge Training Seminar: To be held at the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno, NV. For more information, link to http://www.aslrra.org/safety_training/Training_Seminars/.

March 20-21, 2012: AAR 17th Annual Research Review: To be held at the Pueblo Convention Center and the Transportation Technology Center, Pueblo, CO. For more information, contact Dawn Mauger at (719) 584-7195 or email annualreview@aar.com.

March 28-30, 2012: South East Association of Rail Shippers (SEARS) Meeting: To be held in Pinehurst, NC. For more information, link to <https://www.railshippers.com/regional/southeast/default.asp>.

April 11-12, 2012: ASLRRA/FRA Track Standards, CWR and Bridge Training Seminar: To be held at the Four Points by Shearson BWI Airport Hotel in Baltimore, MD. For more information, link to http://www.aslrra.org/safety_training/Training_Seminars/.

April 21-24, 2012: ASLRRA 2012 Convention: To be held at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, IN. Save the dates for this “premier event of railroading” – and watch for more details coming soon!

April 30-May 3, 2012: AAR 32nd North American Rail Mechanical Operations (NARMO) Seminar: To be held at the Grand Hyatt Denver in Denver, CO. For more info, link to www.aar.org or contact Betty Pague at bpague@aar.org.

May 7-9, 2012: UWMAD Introduction to Railroad Engineering and Operations Course: To be held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. For more information, link to <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/emaN246>.

May 8-10, 2012: North East Association of Rail Shippers (NEARS) Spring Meeting: To be held at the Downtown Marriott, Providence, RI. For more information, link to www.nears.org.

May 9-11, 2012: Association of Car Accounting & Car Service Officers (ACACSO) Spring Meeting: To be held in New Orleans, LA. For more information, link to www.acacso.org.

May 14-16, 2012: UTK Timber & Steel Railroad Bridges Course: To be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at gohjones@utk.edu.

May 17-19, 2012: American Association of Railroad Superintendents (AARS) 40th Winter Meeting: To be held at the Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, AK. For more information, email aars@supt.org or link to <http://www.railroadsuperintendents.org/?page=40thWinterMeeting>.

May 21, 2012: UWMAD CWR and Thermal Forces Workshop: Hosted by the University of Wisconsin at Madison, but to be held in Chicago, IL. For more info, link to <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/webN300>.

May 22, 2012: UWMAD Understanding and Complying with FRA 213 Track Safety Standards Course: Hosted by the University of Wisconsin at Madison, but to be held in Chicago IL. For more info, link to <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/webN301>.

May 22-23, 2012: FRA Annual Research Review: To be held in Washington, DC. For more information, contact Lauren Trimble at lauren.trimble.ctr@dot.gov or at (202) 493-6160.

May 23-25, 2012: National Association of Rail Shippers (NARS) Meeting: To be held in Chicago, IL. For more information, link to www.railshippers.com.

June 18-20, 2012: AAR Damage Prevention & Freight Claim Conference: To be held at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, MO. The theme of this year’s conference is “Back to Basics: Prevention and Claims 101”. For more information, contact Gary Held at gary_held@aar.com.

July 18-20, 2012: Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting: To be held in Roanoke, VA. For NS short line partners. For more information, contact NS’s Lynne Siemon at (540) 524-6057.

September 9-11, 2012: ASLRRA Central/Pacific Region Meeting: To be held at the Depot Renaissance, Minneapolis, MN. Save the dates – and watch for more details coming soon!

October 3-5, 2012: North East Association of Rail Shippers (NEARS) Fall Meeting: To be held at the Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club, Brewster (on Cape Cod), MA. For more information, link to www.nears.org.

October 4-5, 2012: BNSF Short Line Meeting: To be held in Fort Worth, TX. If you are a BNSF short line partner, save the date – and watch for more details coming soon!

October 14-16, 2012: American Association of Railroad Superintendents 116th Annual Meeting: To be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Omaha, NE. For more information, email aars@supt.org.

October 28-30, 2012: Union Pacific Short Line Meeting: To be held in Omaha, NE. If you are a UP short line partner, save the date – and watch for more details coming soon!

November 11-13, 2012: ASLRRA Southern Region Meeting: To be held at the Ross Bridge Renaissance, Birmingham (Hoover), AL. Save the dates – and watch for more details coming soon!

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EMBARGOES IN EFFECT

Listed below are all the embargoes currently in effect for the North American rail system. For further details about a specific embargo, including affected stations and a point of contact for further information, link to the AAR-Railinc Embargo/OPSL Notes & Permit System at <https://aarembargo.railinc.com>. Once there, select the “Embargoes” tab, then “Search Embargoes,” and then enter the embargo number.

The below list is in issuing railroad order. Embargoes newly issued and effective since our last edition are bolded:

<u>suing Road</u>	<u>Embargo No</u>	<u>Amendment No</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>Allow Permits</u>	<u>Last Amended Date</u>	<u>Op Station Notice</u>	<u>Roads Invited to Participate</u>	<u>Cause</u>
ABL	ABL000111	0	04/05/2011	04/05/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
AF	AF000311	0	06/10/2011	06/10/2012	NO		NO	CSXT, TNHR	Bridge out of service
AKMD	AKMD000111	1	08/12/2011	08/12/2012	NO	08/12/2011	NO		Bridge out of service
AN	AN000111	0	02/15/2011	02/15/2012	NO		NO	CSXT	Bridge out of service
AOK	AOK000110	0	11/04/2011	11/04/2012	NO		NO	KCS	Track Conditions
BNSF	BNSF000412	0	02/06/2012	02/06/2013	YES		NO		Other - specify
BNSF	BNSF000212	0	01/30/2012	01/30/2013	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF003511	0	12/05/2011	12/05/2012	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF003411	0	11/04/2011	11/04/2012	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF003111	1	10/28/2011	10/28/2012	NO	10/28/2011	NO		Track Conditions
BNSF	BNSF003011	0	10/26/2011	10/26/2012	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002311	1	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES	10/17/2011	NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002911	0	10/17/2011	10/17/2012	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF002211	5	10/07/2011	10/07/2012	YES	10/17/2011	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
BNSF	BNSF001011	11	06/06/2011	06/06/2012	NO	01/06/2012	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CALA	CALA000211	0	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
CM	CM000211	1	05/26/2011	05/26/2012	NO	05/26/2011	NO		Bridge out of service
CN	CN000211	1	01/23/2012	01/23/2013	YES	01/30/2011	NO	CSS, GRW	Other - specify
CN	CN000312	2	01/04/2012	01/04/2013	YES	01/04/2012	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation

CN	CN001811	2	12/16/2011	12/16/2012	YES	12/19/2011	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN001711	2	11/25/2011	11/25/2012	YES	11/25/2011	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN001311	3	09/12/2011	09/12/2012	YES	09/15/2011	NO	CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
CN	CN000310	1	07/06/2011	07/06/2012	NO	07/06/2011	NO		Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS001910	4	11/10/2011	11/10/2012	YES	11/10/2011	NO	CN, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
CPRS	CPRS002409	4	09/14/2011	09/14/2012	YES	10/28/2010	NO		Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS002309	0	08/19/2011	08/19/2012	NO		NO		Other - specify
CPRS	CPRS002111	8	04/12/2011	04/12/2012	NO	06/23/2011	NO	MHC, MRI, AMTK, NPR, BNSF	Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS001111	0	03/25/2011	03/25/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
CPRS	CPRS000111	2	03/15/2011	03/15/2012	NO	10/28/2011	NO		Weather Conditions - specify
CSXT	CSXT001211	1	12/22/2011	12/22/2012	NO	12/22/2011	NO	ESPN, NHRR, PN	Track Conditions
CSXT	CSXT000511	3	04/28/2011	04/28/2012	NO	05/10/2011	NO	CAGY, ABS, KCS	Bridge out of service
CZRY	CZRY000111	0	04/11/2011	04/11/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
DMVW	DMVW000211	0	04/12/2011	04/12/2012	YES		NO		Track Conditions
DN	DN000210	1	02/22/2011	02/22/2012	NO	02/16/2010	NO	BNSF	Bridge out of service
EJR	EJR000211	5	12/02/2011	12/02/2012	NO	12/05/2011	NO		Congestions/Accumulation
FNOR	FNOR000111	0	07/22/2011	07/22/2012	NO		NO		Derailment
FWWR	FWWR000112	2	01/17/2012	01/17/2013	NO	01/16/2012	NO	UP, BNSF, KCS	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000312	0	01/25/2012	01/25/2013	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000212	2	01/10/2012	01/10/2013	YES	01/26/2012	NO		Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000112	0	01/02/2012	01/02/2013	YES		NO		Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000611	2	09/27/2011	09/27/2012	YES	09/29/2011	NO	UP, BNSF, KCSM	Congestions/Accumulation
FXE	FXE000111	1	06/16/2011	06/16/2012	YES	06/16/2011	NO	UP, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
GFRR	GFRR000111	0	07/27/2011	07/27/2012	NO		NO	NS	Bridge out of service
GRYR	GRYR000111	1	07/28/2011	07/28/2012	YES	07/28/2011	NO	CN	Bridge out of service
GRYR	GRYR000110	0	04/21/2011	04/21/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
GTR	GTR000110	0	10/05/2011	10/05/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
IAIS	IAIS000112	0	01/19/2012	01/19/2013	NO		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
IARR	IARR000111	3	12/27/2011	12/27/2012	NO	12/28/2011	NO		Track Conditions
KCS	KCS000511	0	04/29/2011	04/29/2012	NO		NO	ABS, CSXT	Other - specify
KCSM	KCSM000211	1	10/01/2011	10/01/2012	YES	10/01/2011	NO		Congestions/Accumulation
MHWA	MHWA000111	0	11/01/2011	11/01/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
MNA	MNA000211	0	05/03/2011	05/03/2012	NO		NO	KCS	Weather Conditions - specify
MRL	MRL000111	1	06/02/2011	06/02/2012	NO	06/02/2011	NO	BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
MRL	MRL000211	3	06/02/2011	06/02/2012	NO	10/25/2011	NO	BNSF	Weather Conditions - specify
NLR	NLR000111	0	08/26/2011	08/26/2012	YES		NO	CN, BNSF, CPRS	Abandonment - specify Government Authority
NS	NS000312	0	01/24/2012	01/24/2013	NO		NO	WSOR, UP, CSXT, CPRS	Congestions/Accumulation
NYLE	NYLE000112	0	02/14/2012	02/14/2013	NO		NO	CPRS, BPRR, BSOR, NS.	Track Conditions

								CSXT	
NYLE	NYLE000212	0	02/14/2012	02/14/2013	NO		NO	BPRR, BSOR, NS, CSXT, CPRS	Track Conditions
NYNJ	NYNJ000309	2	10/28/2011	10/28/2012	NO	11/09/2009	NO		Other - specify
NYNJ	NYNJ000110	0	03/17/2011	03/17/2012	NO		NO		Other - specify
PAS	PAS000109	0	12/22/2011	12/22/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
PTRA	PTRA000212	0	01/13/2012	01/13/2013	NO		NO	KCS, UP, BNSF	Prevent Congestion/Accumulation
PTRA	PTRA000311	2	12/12/2011	12/12/2012	NO	12/14/2011	NO	KCS, UP, BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation
RBMN	RBMN000311	0	11/15/2011	11/15/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
RBMN	RBMN000211	0	05/27/2011	05/27/2012	NO		NO		Weather Conditions - specify
SSR	SSR000111	0	12/07/2011	12/07/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
TCT	TCT000112	3	02/07/2012	02/07/2013	YES	02/07/2012	NO	BNSF, UP	Congestions/Accumulation
UP	UP001811	0	10/07/2011	10/07/2012	NO		NO		Other - specify
WE	WE000211	0	07/13/2011	07/13/2012	NO		NO		Bridge out of service
WE	WE000111	0	05/05/2011	05/05/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
WSOR	WSOR000109	0	04/29/2011	04/29/2012	NO		NO		Track Conditions
YSVR	YSVR000512	1	02/02/2012	02/02/2013	YES	02/02/2012	NO	BNSF	Congestions/Accumulation

Also, a reminder that the Embargo/OPSL Notes And Permit System now has the capability to issue **free email alerts** whenever an embargo is created, amended, or cancelled. Although individuals will need to make application to Railinc to receive the alerts, they may be received by anyone with a Railinc Single Sign On ID and a valid business case to receive them. For more information and to make application, link to <https://aarembargo.railinc.com/epdb/subscribeToEPDBAction.do?step=viewSubscriptionInstructionsForEmbargoes>. For any assistance, contact the Railinc Customer Support Desk at (800) 544-7245.

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CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC: THROUGH FEBRUARY 4

The Association of American Railroads has reported that:

For the week ending February 4, 2012 and ranked with the comparable week last year:

- U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 284,546 units, up 6.2 percent
- Notable traffic increases included metallic ores up 63.2 percent, motor vehicles and equipment up 42.0 percent, and petroleum products up 40.5 percent; a notable traffic decrease was grain down 9.7 percent
- U.S. intermodal rail traffic totaled 232,590 units, up 16.8 percent
- Canadian carload rail traffic totaled 77,225 units, up 13.5 percent
- Canadian intermodal traffic totaled 51,262 units, up 15.4 percent
- Mexican carload rail traffic totaled 13,152 units, up 0.4 percent
- Mexican intermodal rail traffic totaled 9,299 units, up 19.1 percent

For the year to date ending February 4, 2012 and ranked with the comparable period last year:

- U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 1,429,346 units, up 1.3 percent
- U.S. intermodal rail traffic totaled 1,110,227 units, up 4.5 percent
- Canadian carload rail traffic totaled 366,518 units, up 5.7 percent
- Canadian intermodal rail traffic totaled 236,555 units, up 5.6 percent
- Mexican carload rail traffic totaled 63,625 units, up 11.0 percent
- Mexican intermodal rail traffic totaled 43,729 units, up 23.5 percent

Note: Canadian traffic totals include that traffic on U.S. operations of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways.

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RMI RAILCONNECT SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX: THROUGH FEBRUARY 4

The RMI Railconnect Index is waybill-based and totals shipments billed by non-Class I railroads using RMI billing products. For this report, this totals 399 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is for the week ending February 4, 2012**, the 5th week of 2012. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending February 4			Year-To-Date		
	2011	2010	% Change	2011	2010	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	12,688	12,222	3.81%	61,865	70,766	-12.58%
Grain	15,101	14,726	2.55%	70,241	83,601	-15.98%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,656	5,077	11.40%	28,750	28,274	1.68%
Ores	3,077	2,974	3.46%	14,804	15,231	-2.80%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	12,642	9,850	28.35%	63,369	54,903	15.42%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	5,058	4,175	21.15%	23,469	20,522	14.36%
Paper Products	8,132	7,379	10.20%	40,414	40,504	-0.22%
Waste & Scrap Materials	6,773	5,410	25.19%	33,149	29,435	12.62%
Chemicals	22,280	17,907	24.42%	109,117	100,344	8.74%
Petroleum & Coke	5,298	4,591	15.40%	26,319	24,407	7.83%
Metals & Products	10,394	8,683	19.71%	51,483	48,007	7.24%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	2,900	2,367	22.52%	12,177	10,764	13.13%
Intermodal	12,724	9,053	40.55%	56,708	46,038	23.18%
All Other	2,481	2,556	-2.93%	10,878	12,242	-11.14%
Total	125,204	106,970	17.05%	602,743	585,038	3.03%

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RAILINC SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX: THROUGH JANUARY 31

The Railinc Short Line Traffic Index is movement-based, totaling loaded trips originating on all non-Class I railroads for all destinations and, also, all loaded trips terminating on all non-Class I railroads from all origins. This is tallied from all railroads that have passed movement event records to Railinc, including from all third party information services providers. In some instances, Railinc is not a party to accompanying waybill information and so those unknown commodities are presented in “All Other.”

The index is calculated monthly. **The below data is for the month of January, 2012.** Special thanks to Railinc’s Terry Caulfield for this valuable statistical information.

COMMODITY	2011 YTD ORIGS	2010 YTD ORIGS	% CHG	2011 YTD TERMS	2010 YTD TERMS	% CHG	2011 YTD TOT	2010 YTD TOT	% CHG
Chemicals	44,702	39,001	14.6%	57,290	55,076	4.0%	101,992	94,077	8.4%
Coal	15,621	20,467	-23.7%	41,753	45,476	-8.2%	57,374	65,943	-13.0%
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	21,106	15,760	33.9%	17,695	12,039	47.0%	38,801	27,799	39.6%
Food & Kindred Products	14,107	13,239	6.6%	14,535	13,232	9.8%	28,642	26,471	8.2%
Grain	23,775	29,530	-19.5%	24,621	32,949	-25.3%	48,396	62,479	-22.5%
Grain Mill Products	7,501	7,093	5.8%	11,631	12,051	-3.5%	19,132	19,144	-0.1%
Lumber & Wood Products	7,805	6,847	14.0%	6,986	5,912	18.2%	14,791	12,759	15.9%
Metallic Ores	5,353	3,491	53.3%	11,169	10,851	2.9%	16,522	14,342	15.2%
Metals & Metal Products	23,834	21,344	11.7%	16,391	15,980	2.6%	40,225	37,324	7.8%
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	9,648	8,128	18.7%	10,268	8,835	16.2%	19,916	16,963	17.4%
Nonmetallic Minerals	1,536	2,198	-30.1%	2,324	2,685	-13.4%	3,860	4,883	-21.0%
Petroleum Products	2,223	2,016	10.3%	2,193	2,334	-6.0%	4,416	4,350	1.5%
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	19,967	19,558	2.1%	13,974	13,479	3.7%	33,941	33,037	2.7%
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	11,317	9,781	15.7%	8,877	7,431	19.5%	20,194	17,212	17.3%
Trailer or Container	36,144	34,349	5.2%	32,361	30,880	4.8%	68,505	65,229	5.0%
Waste & Scrap Materials	10,994	10,145	8.4%	13,326	12,401	7.5%	24,320	22,546	7.9%
All Other Carloads	83,719	73,859	13.3%	83,026	73,137	13.5%	166,745	146,996	13.4%
Total	339,352	316,806	7.1%	368,420	354,748	3.9%	707,772	671,554	5.4%

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HELPFUL LINKS

ASLRRRA: For the ASLRRRA public website, link to www.aslrra.org. For the members-only website, link to members.aslrra.org.

Buy American Requirement: The U.S. Department of Transportation has launched a webpage that provides information about the federal requirements for transportation infrastructure projects that must incorporate American-made products. The webpage consolidates access to the Buy America provisions across all USDOT agencies. Link to the webpage at www.dot.gov/buyamerica.

Car Hire And Car Service Rules (OT-10): The OT-10 details the rules of car hire and car service, which

regulates the flow of freight cars throughout the U.S. Railinc's Jim Moran notes that "...Circular OT-10 is the official source of Car Service and Car Hire Rules, the Car Service/Car Hire Subscriber List, Special Car Orders and Car Service Directives, OT Circulars 3, 5 and 28, and Car Hire and Superstructure Rate tables." To download the PDF of OT-10 off the Railinc website, link to https://www.railinc.com/rportal/alf_docs/Circulars/OT-10.pdf.

Crossties: Link to the digital version of the Railway Tie Association's periodical, "Crossties," at <http://crossties.epubxp.com/title/12322>.

Funding Sources: AASHTO and ASLRRA have collaborated to prepare profiles of financial assistance programs offered by states to help short line and regional railroads. These profiles, which are listed in state order, may be reviewed by linking to http://rail.transportation.org/Pages/rail_success.aspx.

Narrowband Migration: The AAR Spectrum Management Office, which manages railroad radio frequencies and is coordinating the industry's changeover from wideband to narrowband radio operation, now lists Class I railroad narrowband migration schedule at http://www.aar.com/aar_rf.php. The ASLRRA website also features an informational page on the transition to narrowband. It includes key dates, related website links and documents, and important topics. Link to the ASLRRA narrowband page at www.aslrra.org/regulatory/narrowbanding/.

Railinc And Embargo/OPSL Notes: For the Railinc website, link to www.railinc.com. To use the Railinc AAR Embargo/OPSL Notes & Permit System, which includes both embargoes and open & prepay station (OPSL) notes, link to aarembargo.railinc.com.

Railroad Retirement And Job Vacancies: For the Railroad Retirement Board website, link to www.rrb.gov. To check the Railroad Retirement Board's Railroad Jobs Vacancies page, link to <http://www.rrb.gov/PandS/Jobs/rjjobs.asp>.

SOFA Quarterly Reports: Statistical reports for the FRA's Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) initiative may be reviewed by linking to http://www.aslrra.org/safety_training/SOFA_Reports/.

TIGER Grant Assistance: The webinar of USDOT's July 18, 2011 presentation, "Lessons On How to Compete for a USDOT TIGER Grant," is now available online. It may be viewed by linking to <http://mediasite.yorkcast.com/webcast/Viewer/?peid=d52bbcdc6c9440a3b521eb0c33286e541d>. The accompanying Powerpoint may be referenced by linking to http://www.yorkcast.com/dot/2011/handouts/07/18/TIGER3_seminar_7-18-2011.pdf.

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