
RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, DC

2022 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 2022.

1. Membership

The following individuals were the appointed members of the 15-member RSTAC for 2022:

Small Shippers (Four Voting Members):

- Mr. Kevin Murray, Red Gold, Inc.
- Mr. Mathew Brainerd, Brainerd Chemical Co., Inc. (Mr. Brainerd left the RSTAC in 2022 and Mr. Ross Corthell, Packaging Corp. of America, was appointed on December 6, 2022)
- Mr. W. Paul Delp, Lansdale Warehouse Co.
- Mr. Ben Abrams, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc.

Small Railroads (Four Voting Members):

- Mr. Mark Wegner, Twin Cities & Western Railroad and Red River Valley & Western Railroad
- Mr. Michael Peters, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc. (Mr. Peters' term ended after the September meeting and Mr. Stefan Loeb, Watco Companies, was appointed on December 6, 2022)
- Mr. Don Itzkoff, Patriot Rail Company LLC
- Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Anacostia Rail Holdings Co.

Large Shippers (Three Non-Voting Members):

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

Large Railroads (Three Non-Voting Members):

- Mr. Arthur Adams, Jr., CSX Transportation
- Mr. Mike Bilovesky, Kansas City Southern Railway Co.
- Ms. Kari Kirchhoefer, Union Pacific Railroad Co.

At-Large (One Voting Member):

- Ms. Brandy Christian, Port of New Orleans

Ex-Officio Members:

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

RSTAC Officers for 2022, effective at the February 2022 meeting:

- Mark Wegner, Chairman
- Ben Abrams, Vice Chairman
- Robert McRae, Secretary/Treasurer

2. RSTAC Meetings

Due to the continuation of the national COVID emergency, the RSTAC did not meet in-person until May 2022, in Washington, DC. Three meetings were held virtually in early 2022, prior to May. Meetings included railroad and shipper updates, and presentations made by GATX Corp. at the May 2022 RSTAC meeting, and TTX Company at the December 2022 RSTAC meeting.

A field visit and meeting were hosted by Red Gold, Inc. in Elwood, Indiana in September 2022. The field visit included tours of Red Gold's tomato plant and railcar loading facilities, as well as CSX Transportation's Avon Yard in Indianapolis. Following the yard visit, the meeting continued at the Indianapolis Airport conference center, where airport personnel provided an overview of the airport and its operations, with a focus on cargo traffic. The meeting concluded with additional field reports.

3. RSTAC Discussion Points during Meetings

- How the pandemic situation is affecting employees, operations, suppliers, and customers
- Dynamics related to transportation services
- Percentage of workforce having been vaccinated
- Percentage and numeric representation of workforce unable to work due to quarantine or having contracted COVID
- Effects of work-from-home policies on businesses and eventual return-to-work policies
- Service segment performance during the pandemic (i.e., autos, coal, and raw material shortages) and continuing into 2022
- U.S. seaport challenges
- Reduction of railroad boxcar supply
- Railroad labor supply concerns
- Management of challenges relating to the bullets above

4. RSTAC Accomplishments

During the 2022 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.

5. 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/>