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## RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, DC

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### 2024 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 2024.

#### 1. Membership

The following individuals were members of the 15-member RSTAC as of January 4, 2024:

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

- Mr. Richard Erstad, Hawkins, Inc. (term through March 9, 2026)
- Mr. Ross Corthell, Packaging Corporation of America (term through December 5, 2025)
- Mr. Doug Sampson, Acme Distribution (term through December 3, 2027)
- Mr. Ben Abrams, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. (2<sup>nd</sup> term through May 1, 2025)

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

- Mr. Dean Piacente, OminiTRAX (term through July 8, 2027)
- Mr. Don Itzkoff, Patriot Rail Company LLC (2<sup>nd</sup> term through March 5, 2027)
- Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Anacostia Rail Holdings Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> term through March 3, 2027)
- Mr. Justin Broyles, R.J. Corman Railroad Group, LLC (term through May 16, 2026)

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

- Ms. Holly Pixler, Ardent Mills (2<sup>nd</sup> term through November 6, 2025)
- Mr. Robert McRae, Univar Solutions (2<sup>nd</sup> term through November 26, 2025)
- Mr. Dana Hansen, Archer Daniels Midland (term through May 6, 2027)

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

- Mr. Stefan Loeb, Norfolk Southern Railway Co. (term through March 9, 2026)
- Mr. Robert “Buck” Rogers, Canadian National Railway Co. (term through May 16, 2026)
- Mr. Ryan Dreier, BNSF Railway Co. (term through March 7, 2027)

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

- Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, SMART – Transportation Division (term through August 21, 2026)

##### Ex-Officio Members:

- Martin Oberman, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
- Karen Hedlund, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
- Patrick Fuchs, Member, Surface Transportation Board

- Michelle Schultz, 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 2024, effective at the June 2024 meeting:

- Ross Corthell, Chairman
- Justin Broyles, Vice Chairman
- Robert McRae, Secretary/Treasurer

## **2. RSTAC Meetings**

The RSTAC met four times in 2024: in June and December at STB Headquarters in Washington, DC, March in Chicago, IL, and in September in Memphis, TN. All of the meetings included railroad, shipper and rail labor updates as well as discussions about those update topics with Board members.

The March field trip and meeting was hosted by CN and included a tour of CN's Chicago Metro operations as well as presentations and discussions on the benefits of projects funded by Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE).

The September field trip and meeting in Memphis was hosted by BNSF and included a tour of BNSF's intermodal yard as well as a track and site tour at US Steel's Big River Steel complex in Arkansas.

Topics discussed over and above normal rail shipper and labor updates:

- Overall rail service.
- Growth opportunities for freight rail shipping.
- Infrastructure investments.
- Shipper / Carrier collaboration opportunities.
- Technologies to enhance visibility and service.
- Members' views of macro and micro economic dynamics.
- Safety.

## **3. RSTAC Accomplishments**

During the 2024 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. In the December meeting, members had a discussion of the public and private benefits of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) Grants and decided to open a project to promote the benefits on a more national scale, deliverable in 2025.

## **4. Future Plans**

RSTAC is comprised of a membership of professionals, with differing backgrounds, 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/>