
RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, DC

2025 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 2025.

1. Membership

The following individuals were members of the 15-member RSTAC as of January 4, 2025:

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. (2nd 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 (2nd term through March 5, 2027)
- Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Anacostia Rail Holdings Co. (2nd 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 (2nd term through November 6, 2025)
- Mr. Robert McRae, Univar Solutions (2nd 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:

- Robert Primus, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
- Karen Hedlund, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
- Patrick Fuchs, 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, effective at the June 2025 meeting:

- Justin Broyles, Chairman
- Richard Erstad, Vice Chairman
- Robert McRae, Secretary/Treasurer

2. RSTAC Meetings

The RSTAC met four times in 2025: in March, June, September and December at STB Headquarters in Washington, DC. The meetings included railroad, shipper, and rail labor updates as well as discussions about those update topics with Board members.

Topics discussed over and above normal railroad, shipper, and rail 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 2025 meetings, RSTAC provided the STB Members with guidance and information on the health of the transportation industry. Insight was shared in a candid and open forum with robust discussion and engagement.

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/>