

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY
IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM
BY THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995, Congress established the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (“RSTAC”) to provide regulatory, policy and legislative advice to Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Surface Transportation Board (STB); and

WHEREAS, The 15 appointed members of RSTAC represent small shippers and small railroads, rail employees, and large railroads and large shippers, with a common goal to strengthen the nation’s freight rail industry, improve service levels and foster mutually beneficial relationships between large and small railroads and shippers, across all commodity groups, with an emphasis on capacity constraints and the evolution of the freight railroad carload network; and

WHEREAS, RSTAC’s short line members represent a core segment of our nation’s freight logistics network that creates jobs and economic growth, is privately owned, operates locally, and serves as the first and final miles of a rail network that connects manufacturers and farmers across the American economy; and

WHEREAS, In 2015 Congress enacted the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) to invest in projects that improve railroad safety, efficiency and reliability; and

WHEREAS, Congress specifically made short line railroads directly eligible applicants for CRISI, thus streamlining the application process, aligning available project funding and project outcomes, and allowing short lines to better compete with well-funded larger entities with more prominent projects; and

WHEREAS, Since CRISI’s enactment, approximately 240 CRISI grants benefitting short lines have been awarded, enabling short lines to improve safety, create jobs, accelerate economic development, and improve service to customers as an essential component of America’s freight rail transportation system;

NOW THEREFORE, RSTAC by unanimous consent of its voting members adopts the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: RSTAC strongly supports the ongoing, efficient and accelerated administration by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) within USDOT of all currently awarded CRISI projects to obligation and completion; and

RESOLVED: FRA should streamline the CRISI grant delivery process and enhance transparency, including improved administration of the National Environmental Policy Act review process; and

RESOLVED: FRA should progress a CRISI Notice of Funding Opportunity to administer Congressionally-appropriated FY 2025 CRISI funds as soon as practicable, and ensure that short line freight rail projects receive the fullest consideration in order to benefit American shippers and our nation's economy; and

RESOLVED: Congress should continue to advance appropriations and allocate robust annual discretionary appropriations for CRISI, in order to assure predictability, stability, and long-term success for this vital infrastructure investment program that strengthens our nation.

Adopted this 29th day of April, 2025.