Rail – Moving America Forward

The Federal Railroad Administration’s (FRA) mission is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.

Railroads are Moving More People and Transporting More Goods Today Than in a Generation

- USA commuter ridership growth remains strong
- Freight rail traffic remains a vital contributor moving goods
- Rail must grow to balance the Nation’s transportation options

Safety First, Eliminating Risk

FRA is a data-driven agency. Every regulation and enforcement action we issue is based on facts and sound research using advanced statistical methods and modeling. We closely monitor data and trends to eliminate risk.

As a result of data and constantly searching for proactive ways to improve railroad safety, FRA is taking collaborated efforts to elevate and increase safety engagement in the industry:

- Positive Train Control (PTC) Implementation
- Rail Grade Crossing and Trespassing Prevention outreach
- Human Factor / Workers Protection
- Administering funding for rail infrastructure upgrades across the nation (including the Northeast Corridor); and
- Tank Car Enhancements (transporting flammable liquids)

Ten-Year Trend for Accident Reductions

*Fiscal Year Representing Absolute Numbers

Source: FRA

Intermodal Growth

Class 1 Railroad Loadings in Millions of Units
Source: Association of American Railroads (AAR) “Rail Intermodal Keeps America Moving” (May 2016)

Estimated USA Commuter Ridership Growth

Source: American Public Transportation Association (APTA) 2015

Railroad Crossing Deaths & Incidents from 2006-15

Source: FRA (as of 6/23/16)

To learn more about the FRA, our leadership, programs, grants, and loans, please visit our website at www.fra.dot.gov.
Ensuring Continuous Safety Improvement

While rail safety remains at an all-time best, we owe it to the public and rail workers to continue our efforts. Continuous safety improvement requires a comprehensive strategy designed to eliminate risks on railroads. We accomplish this by merging proven safety approaches – like our rail safety inspections and oversight programs – with performance-based measures that improve safety culture, harness technology and research. We then apply the best of what we’ve learned to establish benchmarks, develop and ensure adherence to best practices, and implement new safety management programs.

Here is our record:

- **Strong Oversight:**
  - 70,177 inspections (Sept. 2013-Aug. 2014)
  - 8,350 cited violations (8,350)
  - Automated Track Inspections (ATIP): 65,367 track miles covered in FY13-14

- **Harnessing Emerging Technologies and Research:**
  - Positive Train Control (PTC)
  - Standardized Next Generation Passenger Rail Equipment
  - Human Factors
  - Next-generation Track and Equipment Inspections
  - The most number of inspectors in agency’s history

- **Innovative Partnerships with Industry and Labor:**
  - Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA)
  - Fatality Analysis Maintenance-of-Way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES)
  - Operation Red Block
  - Electronic Device Distraction

Industry Collaboration is Key to Safety

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Success is Based on Collaboration

FRA established the RSAC to provide advice and recommendations to the FRA on railroad safety matters. The RSAC is a formally chartered and structured Federal Advisory Committee and provides a forum for collaborative rulemaking and program development. RSAC consist of representatives from all of the agency’s major stakeholder groups, including railroads, labor organizations, suppliers and manufacturers, and other interested parties. RSAC’s achievements are many. Since the establishment of RSAC, rail accidents per million train miles are down by nearly 30 percent as total miles and passenger counts increased significantly. Because of broad industry collaboration through committees like RSAC, success happens.

- The past 20 years have proven that industry and government can accomplish much when they work together toward a common goal (i.e., developing rulemakings, regulations and safety policies, advancement of technologies and more importantly, saving lives today and tomorrow across our great nation moving forward).

RSAC is one tool that FRA and its partners use to advance safety, and we need every effective tool to improve safety.