

*The National Academies of*  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

AGENDA

**Committee for Review of the Federal Railroad Administration's R&D Program**

Keck Building  
500 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
November 21–22, 2019

**Thursday, November 21**

Keck 103

9:00 *Welcome and introductions*

Review of statement of task, meeting objectives, and agenda

**John Samuels**, Chair

*Discussion of safety challenges and the how R&D supports safety assurance with internal FRA Stakeholders FRA Office of Railroad Safety:*

9:15 **Gary Fairbanks**, Rolling Stock

Pareto chart of rolling stock-related derailments, fatalities, and injuries by root causes, 2010-2018

9:30 **Khaled Zaazaa**, Track

Pareto chart of track-related derailments, fatalities, and injuries by root causes, 2010-2018

9:45 **Frank Frey**, Signals and Train Control

Pareto chart of signals and train control-related derailments, fatalities, and injuries by root causes, 2010-2018

10:00 **Miriam Kloeppel** (or representative), Human Factors

Progress in reducing human-factors-related injuries and fatalities, 2010-2018

10:15 *Discussion with FRA Office of Railroad Safety participant regarding interface with Office of RD&T*

10:30 Break

10:45 *Remarks by the FRA RD&T Director*

**Maryam Allahyar**

10:55 *Discussion regarding overarching RD&T support functions (communication, priority setting, strategic planning, evaluation)*

**Maryam Allahyar,  
Committee**

*Discussion Questions based on the Statement of Task:*

1. To what extent has the Office of R&D excelled in engaging, maintaining communication with, and using inputs from the full range of stakeholder groups?
2. To what extent does R&D excel in conducting and using results from needs assessments and diagnostic studies to prioritize, focus, and plan projects and programs?
3. To what extent has R&D's planning support function defined a sound mission and associated goals and priorities that reflect assessed safety needs in the railroad industry?
5. To what extent does R&D's current and planned portfolio and budget appropriately address its defined mission, goals, and priorities?
6. Do the Office of R&D's defined mission and priorities align with its staffing and budget levels?
10. To what extent does the Office of R&D evaluate its services and products prior to or during an implementation to help improve their usability and likelihood of adoption by industry?
11. To what extent is the Office of R&D effective in providing its key stakeholders with summative evaluation reports, technical reports, conference presentations, and other communications that validly assess R&D efforts, impacts, & cost-benefits?

12:00 Lunch

1:00 *Breakout Sessions by Research Division*

The committee will divide into four working groups, each devoted to one of the technical areas of the FRA R&D program: *track (Room 103)*, *rolling stock (Room 210)*, *train control and communications (Room 104)*, and *human factors (Room 102)*.

Each committee subgroup will meet with FRA staff responsible for the corresponding program area to discuss (1) specific projects as case studies and (2) the committee's findings and conclusions based on data gathered to date.

3:30 Adjourn to closed session