

Impacts of Trains Longer Than 7,500 Feet

Committee

Debra L. Miller

Chair

Debra L. Miller is Chair of the Kansas Turnpike Authority, before which she was the Director of the Kansas University Public Management Center. She served as a member of the Surface Transportation Board from 2014 to 2017. Prior to joining the STB, Ms. Miller served as a Senior Consultant with Cambridge Systematics, Inc. From 2003 to 2011, she was the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation (Kansas DOT) with the distinction of being the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in Kansas history. Prior to serving as Secretary of the Kansas DOT, Ms. Miller was a consultant at HNTB. Previously, Ms. Miller served as the Director of the Kansas DOT's Division of Planning and Development, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation, and as a Policy Assistant to the Governor of Kansas. Ms. Miller has been active with the Transportation Research Board and was a member of the TRB's Executive Committee for five years, including a year serving as Chair. She also was active with the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials, where she headed numerous task forces and workgroups and served for nine years as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Planning. She also served on the Eno Foundation's Board of Advisors. Ms. Miller graduated magna cum laude from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Sociology.

Faye Ackermans

Member

Faye Ackermans was appointed as a Board Member to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada on July 2, 2014. She has over 25 years of rail experience, working at Canadian Pacific Railway from 1982 to 2008, with over 15 of those years in senior positions where she was responsible for corporate-wide oversight for safety management, security planning, operations regulatory compliance and occurrence investigations. Ms. Ackermans has held several rail industry committee memberships over her career, including the Safety & Operations Management Committees of both the Railway Association of Canada and the American Association of Railroads. She received a Master of Business Administration from Concordia University in Montreal and an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Carleton University in Ottawa.

C. Tyler Dick

Member

C. Tyler Dick is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). Prior to joining UT in 2022, Dr. Dick spent 10 years as a research engineer and lecturer with the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He previously spent 11 years as a railway design engineer with HDR Engineering where he attained the title of Professional Associate in recognition of his expertise in railway yard and terminal design. His current research is focused on railway capacity, network design, yard & terminal operations, operations potential of advanced railway traffic control systems with virtual and moving blocks, and railway applications of alternative energy and automation. Dr. Dick is a licensed Professional Engineer and is actively involved in AREMA committees 16, 24 and 14, TRB Committees AR030 and AR040, the ASCE Rail Transportation Committee, and the INFORMS Railway Applications Section. He is also on the board of the International Association of Railway Operations Research. Dr. Dick holds a B.Sc. in civil engineering from the University of Manitoba and a M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Illinois.

Theresa Impastato

Member

Theresa M. Impastato currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Safety Officer for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), where she has primary responsibility for the oversight and implementation of a multi-modal Safety Management System. Over the course of her 25 years in the transportation industry, Ms. Impastato has held roles in operations, engineering, project management and safety at Amtrak, the NJ Transit RiverLINE and in private industry. With a background in science and systems engineering, Ms. Impastato has served as a voting member on Federal Advisory Committees and Industry Working Groups dedicated the development of minimum safety standards in rail transportation. She is a member of the NY Academy of Sciences. She holds a MSc in data and systems analysis from the University of Oxford and a BA in applied sciences from the University of Pennsylvania.

Gary F. Knudsen

Member

Gary F. Knudsen is a retired Locomotive Engineer/Conductor from BNSF Railway, where he was employed from 2004 to 2013. At BNSF he worked in the California, Kansas, Nebraska, and Springfield Divisions operating all varieties of freight trains, including those greater than 7,500 feet in length, utilizing distributed power. Previous to BNSF, Mr. Knudsen was a commercial airline pilot. He holds an MBA from the University of Michigan and a BS in aeronautical studies from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Dennis S. Mogan

Member

Dennis S. Mogan is a Railroad Inspector/Safety Specialist III with the Illinois Commerce Commission. He is retired from the Railroad Industry, at the Chief Level, with over 50 years of continuous service in both the passenger and freight operations. This included 20 years with the Metra Passenger Rail Service, retiring as Chief Safety, Rules and Regulatory Officer and 20 years with the Milwaukee Road, Soo Line and Canadian Pacific Railroads in positions up to Acting Division Manager Administration. Mr. Mogan was a member of negotiated rulemaking committee of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for 49CFR Part 214. He has completed many training courses offered by the National Safety Council, American Red Cross, and the American Public Transit Administration (APTA). Mr. Mogan was a member of the General Code of Operating Rules for many years and assisted in the writing of the current rule book.

Jon A. Rutter

Member

Allan Rutter has been involved in transportation policy for the past 38 years and currently serves as Division Head for the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Division of Freight and Investment Analysis where he has worked for the past 8 years. Previously, he was a Senior Associate for Cambridge Systematics, before which he was the Executive Director of the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA). Mr. Rutter was appointed by President Bush to serve as the FRA Administrator in 2001. Previously, Mr. Rutter served President Bush in Texas as Director of Transportation Policy, before which he was the Deputy Executive Director of the Texas High-Speed Rail Authority. From 1984 to 1990, Rutter served Texas Governors Bill Clements and Mark White, and worked for the Texas House Transportation Committee and later developed transportation policy for Texas governor Rick Perry. Mr. Rutter holds an MPA from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in political science from the University of Texas at Austin.

John M. Samuels, Jr.

Member

John M. Samuels is the President of Revenue Variable Engineering, LLC. Prior to retiring from Norfolk Southern Corporation in March, 2006, he was Senior Vice President – Operations Planning and Support, the position he had held since March 2000. He joined Norfolk Southern in January of 1998, as Vice President Operations Planning and Budget after spending 22 years at Conrail, the major northeastern freight railroad in the USA. During his career at Conrail, he held successive positions of Assistant Vice President Industrial Engineer-Transportation, Vice President Continuous Quality Improvement, Vice President Engineering, Vice President Mechanical and Vice President Operating Assets, in charge of the planning and maintenance of Conrail's 1800 locomotives, 64,000 rail cars and 18,000 miles of right-of way. Prior to joining the railroad industry in 1978, he worked 8 years for General Motors Corporation as a co-op student and then production engineer, and 10 years as a College Professor at the Pennsylvania State University, during which time he earned a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering. While at Penn State he had a joint appointment as a Materials Research Scientist specializing in the manufacture of stainless steel and alloy steel products. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 1996.

Peter F. Swan

Member

Peter F. Swan is an Associate Professor of Logistics and Operations Management at The Pennsylvania State University where he teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses. Prior to his professorship, he worked for seven years at Chessie System (now CSX) in operations and automotive marketing. He also consulted for several railroads after leaving CSX including IANR, CRL, and RJC. Dr. Swan has written several papers relating to carrier operations and/or economics. His expertise covers operations management, safety, economics, logistics, marketing, and information systems. More recently Dr. Swan has focused his research on issues of productivity, operations, and transportation markets. Dr. Swan has chaired Transportation Research Board (TRB) Freight Systems Group and the TRB standing committee for Freight Transportation Economics and Regulation. He is currently a member of the TRB Trucking Industry Research Committee and the Freight Transportation Economic and Regulation Committee. He has also served for six years on the TRB rail freight committee and remains very active with that committee as a friend. While at Michigan Dr. Swan participated in both the UM Truckload Driver Survey and the UM LTL Case Study. Dr. Swan holds a Ph.D. in operations management from the University of Michigan, an MBA in transportation from the University of Tennessee, and a BGS in computer science from the University of Michigan.

Elton E. Toma

Member

Elton E. Toma is a senior engineer at the National Research Council Canada (NRC), where he leads a team of researchers conducting rail and road vehicle testing and simulation. He has led and been active in NRC studies related to freight and passenger rail operations concerning in-train forces, marshalling of freight cars, derailment causes, curving behavior, and vibration and noise. He is currently leading a research team investigating the performance of freight car air brake systems in cold climates and is also leading a team conducting a risk assessment of hydrogen fuel cell locomotives for freight use. He is a licensed professional engineer in the province of Ontario. He was a member of the 2016 NAS TRB Committee performing a review of DOT Testing of Electronically Controlled Pneumatic (ECP) Brakes. He holds a Ph.D. and MSc in mechanical engineering from Queen's University at Kingston (Ontario, Canada), and a BSc in mechanical engineering from the University of Alberta.

Paul E. Vilter

Member

Paul E. Vilter is retired from Amtrak where he worked from 1999 to June 2022. He led Amtrak's Planning, Commercial Services, Sustainability, and Host Railroad departments. He also worked in Amtrak's Finance department. From 1989 to 1999, Paul worked at Conrail in its intermodal marketing, short line relations, and carload sales and marketing functions. Paul started his railroad career in 1984 as a management trainee at the Chessie System Railroads where he subsequently worked in market research, metals marketing, and, after the merger that formed CSX, in intermodal planning. Paul worked closely with the Federal Railroad Administration and freight and passenger railroads around the nation during his tenure at Amtrak. He has spoken at the Transportation Research Board, Transportation Research Forum, and most recently, moderated a panel at the April 2022 American Public Transit Association conference. Paul holds a BA in Materials and logistics management from Michigan State University and an MBA from the J. L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

Micah Himmel

Staff Officer

David O. Willauer

Staff Officer