

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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*MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 4, 2013*



THE NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION IS AN ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF RAILROADS SERVING THE GREAT STATE OF NEW JERSEY. THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS WHICH FACE SHORT LINE RAILROADS AND TO FIND MEANS OF MITIGATING PROBLEMS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND COOPERATION.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM](http://WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM)**

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Once again we thank Ron Batory and Karen Rosella of Conrail for hosting the meeting and giving us lunch. We especially thank Zachary Maras for setting up the extra audiovisual equipment for a more complicated presentation.

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>March 2-4, 2014</b>	<b>CSX Short Line Workshop, St. Augustine, FL</b>
<b>March 13, 2014</b>	<b>Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC</b>
<b>April 8-10, 2014</b>	<b>TransAction 2014, Atlantic City, NJ</b>
<b>April 22-25, 2014</b>	<b>ASLRRA Convention, San Diego, CA</b>

## MEETING ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT	609-530-4574
Dominick Critelli	NJDOT	609-530-2847
John McCreavy	SMS Rail Lines	609-864-1342
Larry Salcedo	Norfolk Southern	303-910-0235
Elizabeth Griswold	PTSI Transportation	908-797-1256
Gordon Fuller	PTSI Transportation	908-313-4366
Arthur C. Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk	215-499-3275
Pamela Mann	GoRail	518-708-9220
Michael R. Weinman	PTSI Transportation	201-933-5530
John Ward	PS Technology	610-212-3670
Denise Bailey	Norfolk Southern	215-796-1497
Gary A. Brennfleck	NJDOT	609-530-2912
John B. Fenton	NYSW.	607-592-2816
John K. Fiorilla	Capehart/Scatchard Inc.	856-914-2054
Jon Broder	Conrail	215-209-5020
John Scullin	Conrail	856-231-2010
Ronald S. Weening	AS-W Inc.	908-654-5144
William G.M. Goetz	CSX	215-209-1350
Michael Allen	NJ OL	609-929-6421

## MEETING MINUTES

Since Kelvin MacKavanagh, the NJSLRRA secretary, was the only officer able to be present at the meeting, he called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. Kel then gave a safety briefing and had everyone introduce themselves.

### **1. Presentation by PTSI Transportation on its Route Learning System.**

Michael Weinman was PTSI's principal presenter on its Route Learning System. PTSI has been around since 1972. Its specialties are freight and passenger rail, and rail safety. It also does some bus work. Clients are in the USA, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The Route Learning System was initially purchased by the Belt Railway of Chicago when Conrail president Ron Batory was still at the BRC. Caltrain (CA), Hudson Bergen Light Rail, and the NJ TRANSIT Newark City Subway are the other current users.

The Route Learning System is a multi-colored track chart with a video of the line with a voiceover describing where the operator or engineer is on the line. The voiceover can be done in any voice accent the client desires.

Detailed brochures describing the Route Learning System and PTSI Transportation are attached to these minutes. Preparation costs for a demonstrator are approximately \$25,000. The program was shown at the annual meeting of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents in July 2013.

### **2. Proposal for a 2014 Statehouse Railroad Day in Trenton.**

Pamela Mann, the national field director for GoRail, suggested that the NJSLRRA consider holding a statehouse railroad day in Trenton. We would meet with selected legislators, stressing the importance of railroads to NJ and our role in creating jobs in the state. We would try to send a positive message instead of going in and just talking about measures which the railroads oppose.

Sixteen or seventeen other state railroad associations play to have railroad days in their state capitals in 2014.

GoRail is willing to do the developmental work on handouts and schedule the meetings with particular legislators.

GoRail itself is a sister organization of CABT (Coalition Against Bigger Trucks). It is working in 35 states and is usually involved in federal issues. The bulk of its funding comes from railroad industry suppliers.

The NJSLRRA will discuss this proposal at the next meeting on January 15, 2014.

### **3. Discussion of Rep. Andrews' bill requiring periodic independent inspection of railroad bridges, signals, and switches.**

On November 20, 2013 Rep. Rob Andrews, the representative of New Jersey's First Congressional District, introduced H.R.3551, the *Railway Inspection and Transparency Act*. If enacted into law, the bill would require railroad bridges to be inspected by an independent professional engineer at least once every two years; railroad signals and switches would have to be inspected by an independent professional engineer at least once every six months.

This bill is his response to the Conrail derailment of tank cars containing vinyl chloride monomer in Paulsboro, NJ on November 30, 2012. Paulsboro is in Rep. Andrews' district. The derailment prompted an evacuation of residents and numerous subsequent lawsuits.

The bill does not yet have any co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials on November 21, 2013.

Kel MacKavanagh said that Gordon Davids, who was in charge of the Federal Railroad Administration's bridge safety programs and policies until his retirement in 2011, had advised him that approximately 95 percent of the persons qualified to perform these inspections work for railroads and that engineering schools have not taught structural design and rating for railroad bridges in more than forty years. The only way to gain this experience is by working for a railroad.

The consensus of the members was that this bill would have to be attached as an amendment to a much larger bill in order to gain passage in Congress. The railroad industry is opposed to the bill; it has an excellent safety record and has employees who are qualified and do make inspections and reports in accordance with FRA regulations.

### **4. Update on other federal rail-related legislation.**

Kel MacKavanagh said that all other rail-related legislation is still in House and Senate committees. H.R.721, the *Short Line Railroad Rehabilitation and Investment Act of 2013*, now has 208 co-sponsors, including seven from New Jersey.

### **5. Current status of NJ legislation affecting railroads.**

There are three bills which would affect railroads:

- Senate 966 would increase railroad franchise and property taxes.
- Senate 1557 would authorize the creation of stormwater utilities for certain local government entities.

- Assembly 3587 would permit cities of the first class to operate weigh stations and to inspect vehicles and railroad cars transporting hazardous materials within their jurisdiction.

All of these bills were introduced in 2012. It remains to be seen if any will pass into law before the NJ Legislature ends its lame duck session in December 2013.

#### **6. Status of NJDOT rail grants.**

Dominick Critelli stated that the agreements for the twelve approved rail projects for FY 2013 left his office on December 2, 2013. The total amount of the grants is \$12.99 million. Dominick said that the railroads should not do any work until they have an executed agreement.

Fourteen applications have been received thus far for the FY 2014 rail grants. They are being evaluated. Municipal resolutions of support are still required.

#### **7. TransAction 2014 session topics.**

Kel MacKavanagh reviewed the topics which have been proposed thus far:

- The Modern Streetcar: the new ‘old’ mode of transportation .
- Pre-emption: When can railroads condemn land to expand their facilities in NJ?
- NJDOT highway issues and challenges.
- Crude oil unit trains to New Jersey: the new oil pipeline.
- Port terminal velocity: Getting shipments THROUGH ports is what really matters..
- Trucking issues.
- Energy’s future impact on land use patterns and transportation flows.

Bill Goetz suggested a presentation on the Delair Bridge TIGER III Project. Pam Mann recommended a session on how railroads mean jobs for the economy.

Kel said that the next meeting of the TransAction Steering Committee was going to be on December 6, 2013; the previous meeting was on November 15, 2013.

#### **8. 2014 NJSLRRA dues.**

Kel MacKavanagh told the group that he would send out the dues notices in mid-December. Dues are on a calendar year basis.

#### **9. 2014 Benjamin J. Friedland Award.**

There being no other nominations for the award, the 2014 Benjamin J. Friedland Award will be presented to the late Bill Herkner of NJ TRANSIT. The award will be given to his widow Barbara in a private ceremony.

## **10. Member reports.**

### **a. CSXT**

Tony Giobbie, who has been CSX's manager-regional and short line development for the Northeast for a number of years, is retiring at the end of December; he will be replaced by Dave Scott. Dave has been in chemical sales in North Carolina. (Kel MacKavanagh forgot to announce this at the meeting itself). We hope Tony will still join us at meetings after his retirement. We look forward to welcoming Dave at our meeting in January 2014.

### **b. Operation Lifesaver**

Michael Allen reported that Operation Lifesaver has unveiled a new system to recruit and manage its volunteers. The journey to become a volunteer starts online at <http://oli.org/training/volunteer-for-oli>. Additional information is available at <http://www.oli.org>.

## **11. New business.**

New business was covered under the previous items.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Kel MacKavanagh  
Secretary, NJSLRRA  
609-704-1270

