



Coordinator's Corner



This quarter I want to bring your attention to changes that are happening in the rail industry. The more we are aware of industry changes the faster we can adapt to changes before they are commonplace.

In this issue I have included three articles I feel are important and connected. Each illustrates a change and push in the industry to make freight and passenger rail faster, more efficient, and eco-friendly. While these are all great changes it will make our job more difficult.

Words like high-speed and eco-friendly translate into less "get out of the way" time. With Amtrack trains in California now approaching 150+ mph and quieter electric freight trains coming online across the country pedestrians will have less notice of an approaching train due to higher speeds and reduced noise levels. As the industry changes so will our need to adapt our emphasis on specific messaging.

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FRA Announces Climate Challenge to Meet Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050

Washington, D.C. – This Earth Day, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced its rail industry Climate Challenge. The agency is asking owners and operators along the national rail network, and manufacturers of rail equipment, to join FRA's commitment to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the rail industry and rail transportation by 2050. Achieving this target will contribute to FRA's key goals of building a safe, efficient, and modern transportation system that will expand economic opportunities, create cleaner and safer communities, and help avert the worst effects of climate change. Simultaneously, FRA's Climate Challenge will promote the country's global leadership in innovation and climate protection.

"FRA commits to supporting innovation in the rail industry to keep rail one of the most sustainable transportation choices," said FRA Administrator Amit Bose. "Together, we will expand access to passenger and freight rail, ensure that they are powered by environmentally-friendly technologies, and eliminate emissions across the rail supply chain."

Freight rail is up to 75% more efficient than truck transportation, while passenger rail is up to 46% more efficient than driving and 34% more efficient than flying. FRA's Climate Challenge builds on the strengths of rail transportation by encouraging the rail industry to decarbonize their operations, which will ensure that rail continues to be a model of sustainability and resiliency well into the future. FRA will highlight those companies that meet or beat its challenge and support the reduction of transportation emissions by expanding access to rail transport and partnering with the rail industry in the research and development of renewable energy sources.

In order to leverage every opportunity to combat climate change, FRA is also announcing its partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SmartWay program. SmartWay emphasizes supply chain sustainability by helping freight transportation companies measure, benchmark, and improve their energy efficiency. As the regulator of over (continue page 3)



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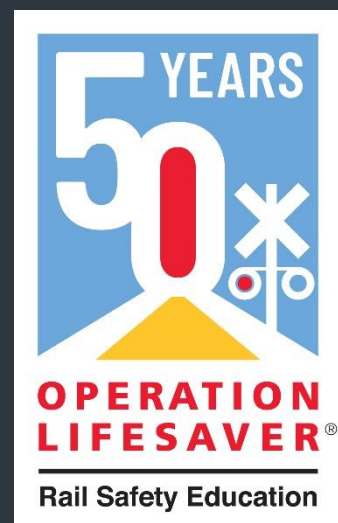
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UP to assemble largest battery-electric locomotive freight fleet

1/31/2022

[Union Pacific Railroad](#) last week announced plans to assemble the world's largest battery electric freight locomotive fleet.

UP will purchase 20 battery-electric locomotives from [Progress Rail](#) and [Wabtec Corp.](#) for testing in yard operations. The combined purchases and upgrades to yard infrastructure are expected to exceed \$100 million, representing the largest investment in battery-electric technology by a U.S. railroad, UP officials said in a press release.

President Joe Biden shared UP's announcement during a Jan. 28 speech in Pennsylvania.

"We're committed to actions that reduce Union Pacific's environmental footprint as we work toward our ultimate goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050," said UP Chairman, President and CEO Lance Fritz. "These investments will contribute to further developing this important technology and providing industry-wide benefits."

UP officials anticipate the first units to arrive on site in late 2023, with complete delivery by late 2024. The locomotives will be used in yards in California and Nebraska, where they will be tested for performance in cold and warm weather, helping identify the locomotives' capabilities and challenges for broader deployment.

Battery-electric locomotives do not use fuel and emit zero emissions.

The purchase includes 10 FLXdrive battery-electric locomotives from Wabtec. The approximately 2.5-MWh locomotives are each powered solely by 7,000 battery cells, providing UP a zero-emission solution for its yard operations. The FLXdrives will enable the railroad to eliminate 4,000 tons of carbon annually from its rail yards, the equivalent of removing 800 cars from the highway, UP officials said.

The 10 EMD Joule locomotives the Class I will purchase from Progress Rail will be manufactured in Muncie, Indiana, Progress Rail officials said in a press release.

The Class I is collaborating with community partners on its environmental goals. The Port of Los Angeles, which recently received a Diesel Emission Reduction Act grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, awarded UP a sub-award that will partially cover the cost of one battery-electric locomotive.

[Progressive Railroading](#) 1/31/2022

UP COMING EVENTS

June 9th, 2:00: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting,
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Menninger Room 206
[1515 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604](#)

August 11th, 2:00: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting,
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Menninger Room 206
[1515 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604](#)

November 10th, 11:00: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting (lunch provided),
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Anton Room 202
[1515 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604](#)



FRA Announces Climate Challenge to Meet Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050 (Cont.)

140,000 freight route miles – the largest freight rail network U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Public Affairs 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590 www.transportation.gov/briefingroom News in the world – FRA is proud to embrace solutions to the climate crisis alongside its partners and stakeholders.

Over the past two decades, FRA has worked extensively with its industry partners to research and develop clean energy sources for rail transportation. These continuing efforts will provide the rail industry with multiple avenues to offset or eliminate climate-changing emissions by 2050. For example, FRA has previously partnered with Amtrak to develop biodiesel fuels for locomotives and has funded programs dedicated to battery and electrification technologies. The agency is also conducting ongoing research on the feasibility of hydrogen fuel cells as alternatives to diesel use.

President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law further advances FRA and the rail industry’s ability to meet ambitious climate goals through funding projects that can reduce transportation and rail GHG emissions. The legislation is a 500% increase over recent funding levels for rail. Much of this funding will be dedicated to expanding passenger rail access and improving the freight rail network through FRA’s competitive discretionary grant programs, enabling modal shift away from less energy efficient modes of travel.

Kansas Incidents

2022

Trespassing Incidents

0

Crossings Incidents*

5

(1 injury, 1 fatality)

*Current through 2/22

2021

Trespassing Incidents

14

Deaths

11

Injuries

3

Crossings Incidents

35

Deaths

5

Injuries

10

Total Incidents

49

Deaths

16

Injuries

12

KS OL OUT & ABOUT



Capt. Vogt honored by the Valley Center City Council 4/19

Captain Matt Vogt: KS OL Board President received KDOTS 2022 People Saving People Award for his service to KS OL & Valley Center



We are back out & about raising awareness and winning awards!



Buckle Up Driving School, LLC, New Driver Education and Training Program in Lawrence



school bus drivers at USD 204 Bonner Springs / Edwardsville in Bonner Springs Council



White Line CDL Training Incorporated School for Professional Truck Drivers in Topeka



Schuetz Driving School, New Driver Education and Training Program in Olathe





FRA Kansas Statistics Last 5 years:

2017:

Incidents: 52
Crossings: 34
 Fatalities: 5
Trespass: 18
 Fatalities: 10

2018:

Incidents: 46
Crossings: 35
 Fatalities: 5
Trespass: 11
 Fatalities: 9

2019:

Incidents: 44
Crossings: 32
 Fatalities: 5
Trespass: 12
 Fatalities: 3

2020:

Incidents: 49
Crossings: 36
 Fatalities: 9
Trespass: 13
 Fatalities: 6

2021:

Incidents: 49
Crossings: 35
 Fatalities: 5
Trespass: 14
 Fatalities: 11

EVERY 3 HOURS

A PERSON OR VEHICLE IS HIT BY A TRAIN.

THINK TRAIN DON'T BE A STATISTIC

KDOT Receives \$10,991,971 to Upgrade SW KS Rail Infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 2, 2022- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) today announced over \$368 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program funds to 46 projects in 32 states and the District of Columbia. These investments will play a crucial role in modernizing our country’s rail infrastructure and strengthening supply chains, helping to reduce congestion and get people and goods where they need to go quickly and more affordably. The program will create good-paying jobs and benefit urban and rural communities across the country.

The selected projects announced today will not only improve and expand passenger rail and fund conventional and high-speed rail, but they will also increase supply chain resilience and fluidity, support short line railroads, invest in new technology and safety advancements, and benefit rail industry workforce development and training activities – helping to create jobs and increase economic growth.

President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has nearly tripled funding for this critical rail infrastructure program - to \$1 billion a year for the next five years. Strengthening supply chains and increasing the productive capacity of the economy are key tenets of President Biden’s plans to get goods from ships to shelves more quickly and lower costs for American families.

"Americans deserve a world-class rail system that allows people and goods to get where they need to go more quickly and affordably, while reducing traffic and pollution on our roads," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "We're proud to award these grants to improve passenger rail for riders and strengthen the freight rail that makes our supply chains and our economy work."

"This round of CRISI grants – one of the largest ever – is a major step forward for the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to revitalize and rebuild the country’s infrastructure," said FRA Administrator Amit Bose. "These awards will

FRA ANNOUNCES OVER \$368 MILLION IN GRANTS TO IMPROVE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE, ENHANCE & STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS

allow FRA to support rail projects that lay the groundwork for future economic growth."

CRISI aims to advance intercity passenger and freight rail projects that promote FRA’s key goals of safety, economic growth, transportation equity, and sustainable and resilient infrastructure. CRISI-funded projects will enhance multi-modal connections, address slow orders, and fix up 100-year-old track to speed up the movement of goods from ports to rail to trucks to shelves. As the nation continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, these upgrades and expansions will help state and local governments and rail carriers meet renewed travel demand and strengthen supply chains.

Southwest Kansas Infrastructure Upgrade Project (Up to \$10,991,971) KDOT

The proposed project will make a series of improvements on the Cimarron Valley Railroad (CVR) in from Dodge City to Hugoton, Kansas. The project will replace approximately 51,618 crossties, relay 3.7 miles of rail in curves, apply new ballast to 67 miles of track, and surface 85 miles of track. These improvements will enable the rail to support biodiesel transport operations as well as local agricultural products, raise the allowable speed from 10 mph to 25 mph, and increase the weight capacity.