



Southwestern Rail Conference
Hurst, Texas
May 18, 2026

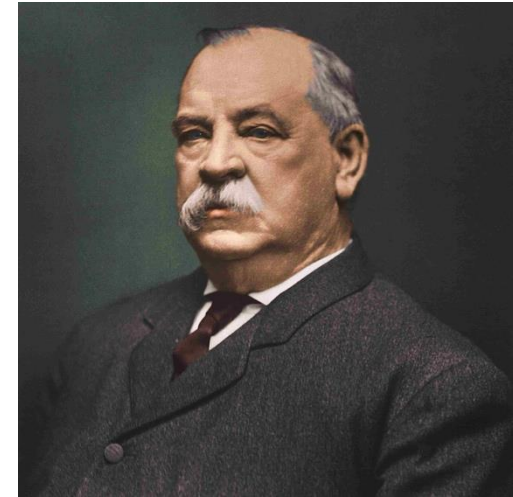
Karen Hedlund
Member
Surface Transportation Board

“The statements of Ms. Hedlund do not represent the opinions of the Surface Transportation Board or any of its other Members.”

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION
Founded 1867



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Established 1996



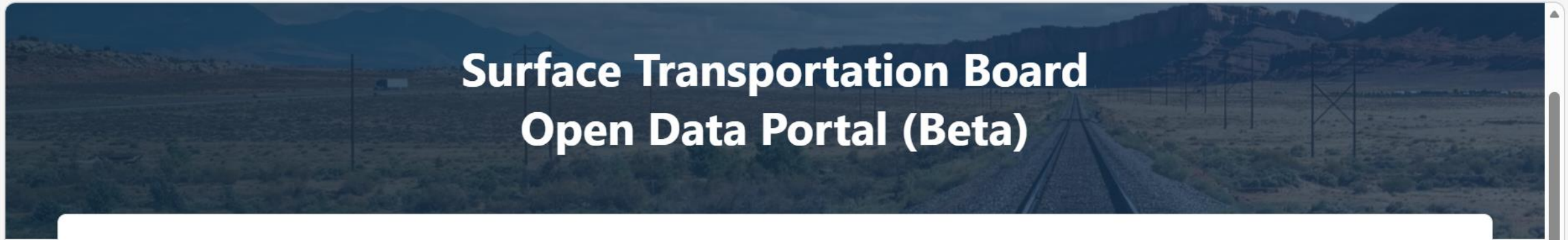
49 USC § 10101 (4)

“to ensure the development and continuation of a sound rail transportation system with effective competition among rail carriers and with other modes, to meet the needs of the public and the national defense* * *”



STB Chairman – Patrick J. Fuchs:

- Breaking down barriers to economic growth and eliminating patchwork regulations, facilitating a nationally connected supply chain.
- Protecting and advancing competition—including via merger and access cases—all with the purpose of meeting the transportation needs of the public.
- Ensuring manufacturers, farmers, energy producers, and others can access an economically viable rail system on reasonable terms—reasonable rates, reasonable practices, and appropriate service.



Surface Transportation Board Open Data Portal (Beta)

About The STB Open Data Portal (Beta)

Surface Transportation Board's Open Data Portal (Beta) makes the agency's datasets more transparent, accessible, and easy to use. The portal provides centralized access to machine-readable data and allows researchers, industry stakeholders, and the public to better understand the rail network and supports the STB's commitment to open government.

[Data Catalog](#)

Click Data Catalog to view all available datasets and visualizations.



Permitting Reform – Environmental Review

- Expanding “categorical exclusions”
- Amending procedures for preparing EAs and EISs to reflect statutory changes
- Updating procedures for designating and coordinating among agencies;
- Clarifying the Board’s process for determining the appropriate level of NEPA review;
- Refining information requirements for applicant-prepared environmental reports; and
- Creating procedures to address emergency situations.

Passenger Rail Advisory Committee – April 2026 Meeting

Expansion Subcommittee:

Working group to develop report on best practices for expansion of passenger service

Current State and Joint Operations:

Working group to develop recommendations on resolving “disputed” schedules between Amtrak and host carriers

Liability Subcommittee:

Working group to develop report outlining issues surrounding liability and indemnification and offering recommendations

Questions?

(But not on any matters pending before the Board.)