



ASSOCIATION FOR INNOVATIVE PASSENGER RAIL OPERATIONS

The Future of Passenger Rail

Alfred P. Craig, Jr-PE Chairman of the Board

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Ray B. Chambers, President

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Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision – Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1) –
Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancy – Dated January 28, 2025
Attention Mai T. Dinh, Director – Office of Proceedings

To Whom It May Concern:

The Association for Innovative Passenger Rail Operations (AIPRO) is dedicated to the expansion of intercity passenger rail service. We believe PRAC will play a key role in recommending policies that lead to the creation of a high-performance intercity passenger rail network across America. As Chairman and President of AIPRO, we request that a highly qualified candidate be named to this vacancy. We are pleased to submit the name of David W. Dech, Director of SFRTA, for the current vacancy on the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC).

Below is the information requested for nominees:

Name – Position – Contact Information

1. David W Dech, Executive Director SFRTA
2. DechD@sfrta.fl.gov
3. 954-788-7926

Summary of candidate's experience and qualifications for the position

See Dech Biographical information below.

A representation the candidate is willing to serve as a member of PRAC

AIPRO Chair Fred Craig has talked with Dech. He is interested and willing to serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred Craig

Alfred P. Craig, Jr. -PE
Chairman of the Board

Ray Chambers

Ray B. Chambers
President

ATTACHMENT -David W. Deck - PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

An executive with 30 years of leadership experience in the passenger and freight rail industry. Executive level strategic planning, project development and execution. Management experience in field operations, system and division level leadership in addition to negotiating and managing contracts with Host and Tenant Railroads and leading private/public partnerships. Motivated and results oriented adept at building solid teams toward accomplishing goals. Ability to engage and motivate employees at any level of an organization.

EXPERIENCE

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
present

2023-

Executive Director

SFRTA operates the South Florida Rail Corridor on behalf of FDOT. The SFRC hosts CSX freight as well as Amtrak. SFRTA operates Tri-Rail. Tri-Rail operates 50 weekday train and 30 weekend trains as well as bus connections at Fort Lauderdale Airport.

Serve as the executive director overseeing train and bus operations as well as security and environmental. Responsible for 110M annual operating budget and 130M capital budget. Recently completed and opened the Tri Rail Miami Link over the FEC freight railroad into the Brightline Miami Central Station. This position works in close collaboration and partnership with FDOT, CSX, Brightline, Amtrak, FEC as well as Miami Dade, Broward and Palm Beach County Transit agencies.

Capital Metro Transportation Authority, Austin TX
2023

2018-

The VP of Rails Operations is an integral member of the team charged with future growth of the commuter and freight rail system and is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with Title 49 CFR Subtitle B Chapter II regarding Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), AREMA, TXDOT, APTA and Capital Metro rules, regulations and standards pertaining to design construction, test and commissioning. This position is also charged with meeting the federal requirements for successful implementation of positive train control through effective quality assurance measures. The VP, Rail Operations reports directly to the Deputy CEO/COO and oversees MOW, Mechanical, Signal, and Operations. This executive level position oversees

the management of all contracted services related to Passenger and Freight Operations. This position will oversee future rail activation and start-up activity including integrated testing to ensure delivery of a safe and efficient signal system and operation control center.

- Met all statutory requirements to qualify for an extension of the federal deadline for PTC installation
- Built 5 passing sidings while installing PTC and achieved OTP of 97%
- Grew freight throughput from 30,000 loads to 60,000 loads annually.
- Exceeded all Key Performance Indicators while constructing sidings, building downtown station, and installing PTC.
- Currently designing three additional sections of double track and two stations for construction 2022-2024.

CSX Transportation, Jacksonville, FL

1995- 2018

CSX Transportation network encompasses about 21,000 route miles of track in 23 states, the District of Columbia and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Our transportation network serves some of the largest population centers in the nation. Nearly two-thirds of Americans live within CSX's service territory.

Assistant Vice President Passenger Operations

2017-2018

Led our Passenger and Commuter Ops team of 17 people. Responsible for all aspects of passenger operations including negotiating contracts with outside agencies, managing those contracts, field operations. Represented CSX in studies aimed at expanding passenger and/or commuter operations on CSX properties

Achievements:

- Led CSX team members partnering with Gulf Coast Working Group
- Negotiated a 20-year extension of Metro North agreement to include lifting of High Axle Weight restrictions which will allow CSX to reduce operations in NY. Working toward Global Settlement with Amtrak.
- Built relationship with 3 Tenant and 7 host railroads based on a working partnership instead of adversarial.
- Represent CSX on Private Public Partnerships with Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia totaling over \$500M.

Assistant Vice President Transportation

2016-

2017

Reported to the Northern and Southern Region Vice Presidents. Represented Transportation working with support groups within Jacksonville on multiple initiatives

Achievements:

- **Mapped CSX Network of Tomorrow including four proposed service districts.**
- **Streamlined Management Training program for Transportation Dept., removing 6 weeks from training.**
- **Assumed control of Grain Express pilot. Increased express loadouts by 30%, reduced express dwell 50% and pushed from pilot to active status.**
- **Reduced Transportation spend on PPE by \$200k**

Assistant Division Manager Huntington Division
2016

2011-

Reported to the Division Manager. Responsible for Safety, Service and Cost on CSX's largest operating division to include over 100 managers, 1500 operating employees, and a \$250M annual operating budget. Huntington Division included 7 flat yards and over 40 coal loading facilities.

Achievements:

- **The only division to win CSX Service Pinnacle Award twice.**
- **Developed and implement plan to dissolving the Huntington Division resulting in \$220k savings.**
- **Set back-to-back record for Coal dumping at Newport News in 2011 and 2012.**

Assistant Division Manager Great Lakes Division **2008 2011**

Reported to the Division Manager. Responsible for Safety, Service, and Cost on CSX's Great Lakes Division which included over 50 managers, 1000 operating employees, \$130M annual operating budget. GLD included two large hump yards, NWOH intermodal facility

Achievements:

- **Assisted in the design, construction, and grand opening of CSX's new Northwest Ohio Intermodal Facility.**
- **Improved and maintained customer focused operating measure to 95% which was 3% higher than system goal.**
- **0 sort failures on UPS trains during peak season during my 3 years tenure on the Great Lakes Division**

Terminal Superintendent Jacksonville
2008

2007-

Reported to Division Manager. Jacksonville Terminal included Moncrief, Duval, Busch, Export, Pecan, and Lane Ave. yards. In 2008 took over operations of Baldwin Yard.

Achievements:

- Consolidated all yards within NE Florida under one leadership structure.
- Drove performance from last place in the CSX Out of the Park competition to back-to-back OOTP wins.
- Achieved and maintained CSX Gold Terminal Certification.

Assistant Superintendent Avon, IN
2007

2004-

Reported to The Terminal Superintendent. Avon yard is a major hump yard with a processing standard of 1800 cars per day.

Achievements:

- Drove performance from last place in the CSX Out of the Park competition to 3 consecutive quarterly wins.
- First CSX Hump yard to implement the ONE PLAN operating initiative.
- Reduced Injuries and Human Factor Derailments by 50 and 60 percent over 3 years.

Six Sigma Blackbelt
2004

2002-

Reported to the Western Region Vice President. Studied Six Sigma Methodology with a goal of completing 3 projects.

Achievements:

- Completed ITD /FTD project with initially reduced this payment by 50% with long term controls achieving a 25% reduction.
- Completed Crew Balancing Project working with the Great Lakes and Chicago divisions resulting in \$500k savings.
- Completed Human Factor Derailment Project working with Detroit Division. Identified strategic testing based on statistical analysis of HFD on Detroit Division over 5-year period.

Trainmaster – Line of Road
2002

1999-

Reported to District Superintendent. Responsible for Cleveland, Parma GM, Lester, and Akron Yards in addition to the New Castle Subdivision, Lower CT&V, Wooster Branch, CL and CLW subdivisions.

Achievements:

- **Reduced CSX assets at the General Motors support yard. Maintained service levels facing internal resistance as well as push back from GM.**
- **Achieved and maintained 94% Industrial Switching Excellence scores.**

Assistant Terminal Trainmaster- Willard OH
1999

1998-

Reported to the Assistant Terminal Superintendent. Willard is a major hump yard which is made up of two humps and Eastbound and a Westbound Hump.

Achievements:

- **Worked through the Conrail Integration**
- **Built and maintained strong working relationship with contract employees.**

FRA Certified Locomotive Engineer and Conductor
1998

1995-

Reported to the Trainmaster and Road Foreman of Engines. Qualified to operate freight trains between Willard Ohio to Chicago IL, Willard to Toledo, as well as Willard Yard.

Achievements:

- **Injury Free**
- **Built a reputation of safe and efficient work which allowed me to be promoted to management with recommendations from 3 Trainmasters and 2 RFE.**

Board Member of the Commuter Rail Coalition

Member of the Florida Transportation Plan Steering Committee

Member of the Florida Rail Safety Coalition

Vice Chair of Florida Operation Lifesaver Governing Board

Formerly member of the Austin Steam Train Association Board of Directors

Harvard Executive Leadership Program - 2016

Studied Political Science at the University of Akron 1990-1993

**Attended the University of Akron Peace Officer Training Academy earning OPATA Certification
1994**