

FALL 2024 MRA RAIL UPDATE

A publication of the
Michigan Railroads Association



CONSIDER A JOB IN THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY

The rail industry attracts employees from a wide range of backgrounds – from high school graduates to those holding graduate degrees – to help safely transport the raw materials, products and finished goods that sustain the nation's economy and people. Railroads provide the opportunity to build lifelong careers in fields such as engineering and dispatching, law enforcement, information technology and industrial development. And with a strong track record of hiring America's veterans, rail companies are military friendly employers. Because of high wages and benefits, technical training and



professional growth opportunities, freight rail employees often stay in the industry for their entire careers. In fact, many have family railroad legacies that stretch back generations. Railroads also continue to aggressively hire. Total Class I rail employment was 122,967 in April 2024. Total T&E employment in April 2024 was 52,863.

HIGHLY COMPENSATED
Freight rail employees are among the highest-paid in the nation. The average freight rail employee earns 52% more than the average U.S. employee. In 2022, Class I freight rail employee compensation, including benefits, averaged about

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Jon Cool, President
@MI_FreightRail

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you ever considered a career in the railroad industry? In this edition of the MRA Rail Update, we explore the many positive opportunities and benefits of working with one of the 29 freight railroads in Michigan.

Most railroads have employment portals on their website for job postings. Take a look at the website of the specific railroad company you might have interest in or call them for job opportunities. The state's rail map can be found

at www.michiganrailroadsassociation.com.

Please share this career idea with someone who might like the challenge of pursuing a hardworking, satisfying career.

The MRA would like to thank Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the legislature for funding the Michigan Rail Enhancement Program, the Local Surface Program and making a deposit into the Local Grade Separation fund. We appreciate the strong partnership and willingness to bolster our state's rail network.

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CONSIDER A JOB IN THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY

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\$143,000 per year. Railroad jobs range from locomotive engineers, train dispatchers and maintenance professionals to law enforcement, IT and industrial development experts. Railroad retirees are covered by the Railroad Retirement System, which is separate from social security and is funded by railroads and their employees. In 2021, nearly 500,000 beneficiaries received \$13.4 billion in benefits from Railroad Retirement.

SAFER THAN MOST OTHER INDUSTRIES

Railroads are safe and continue to get safer. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reviews workplace injuries annually across different sectors. Year after year, railroads consistently outperform other transportation modes (including trucks, water transportation, and airlines) and most other major industries (including agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and construction). In fact, the Class I railroad employee injury rate per hour worked is lower than the rate for grocery and department stores.

SUPPORTED BY TECHNOLOGY

Advanced training centers with simulators and virtual reality enable employees to practice real-life skills in a safe, rigorous and controlled environment, while innovations like remote control locomotives and high-definition cameras allow employees to perform their jobs effectively from a distance where possible, keeping them out of harm's way.

REPRESENTED BY UNIONS

Approximately 85% of Class I rail employees are unionized, and rail employees are represented by one or more of a dozen different labor unions. In their last round of negotiations,

employees received historic wage increases and maintained best-in-class healthcare and meaningful progress was made in creating more predictable, scheduled work shifts and time-off policies.

MILITARY PARTNER

America's freight railroads have a history of hiring veterans, acknowledging their valuable skills such as dedication, discipline, teamwork and safety adherence. Railroads emphasize on-the-job training, offering lifelong, skilled careers without the need for a college degree.

5 SURPRISING RAILROAD JOBS

- **Fuelmaster:** Railroads are the most fuel-efficient way to move freight over land. Railroad engineers are trained in smart driving techniques and fuel management systems – anticipating terrain, coasting and reduced braking – that minimize fuel consumption and air pollution.
- **Simulations Developer:** The first rail operations simulation program was developed by two

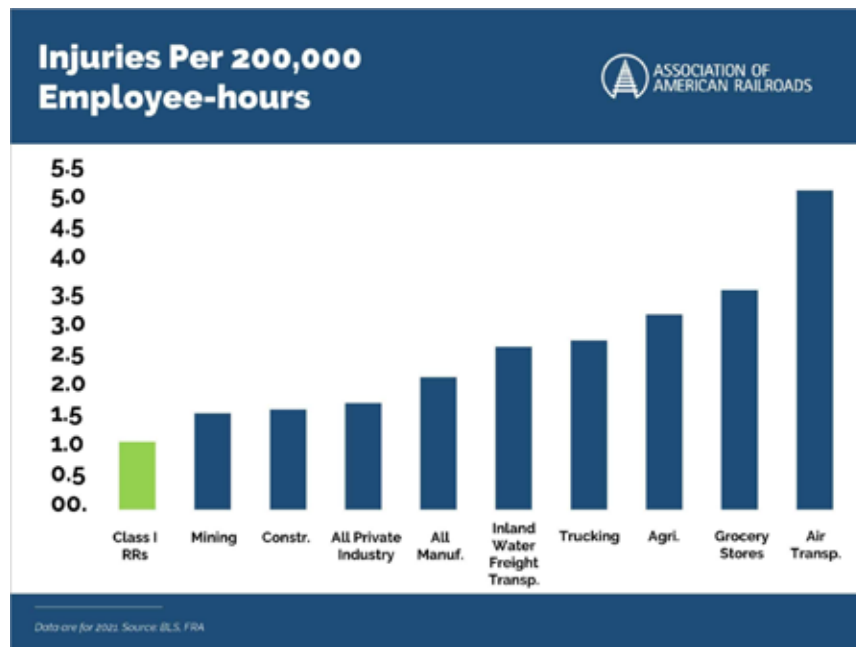
young railroad workers, who turned their favorite hobby into a virtual training program that teaches employees to maneuver locomotives, operate switches, and sort cars onto different tracks depending on their destination.

- **Police Officer:** Railroad police forces date back to 1849 when they were set up to maintain order in railroad towns and to investigate the losses of freight and luggage. Two famous railroad police officers, Allen Pinkerton and Wyatt Earp were hired to investigate train robberies. Today, railroad police officers still protect the rail network by investigating cases of theft and vandalism and patrolling rail yards, depots and railroad property.
- **Beer Conductor:** In a rail yard outside of Chicago, temperatures can get so cold that a product like beer can freeze. Using remote control devices or manually switching out cars, train conductors keep the beer cars in motion so cans and bottles don't freeze. It's no small

feat – especially in the months leading up to Cinco de Mayo when there are often 80 cars of beer in the yard at once.

- **Avalanche Control:** In mountainous states with heavy snow accumulation, avalanches are a common occurrence. Railroads operating in this rugged terrain have avalanche teams that use data from mountaintop weather stations and US Army 105mm howitzer guns mounted on Hirail cars to routinely shoot the mountains near railroad tracks to trigger controlled avalanches and prevent larger dangers.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The Michigan Rail Conference was held in Livonia in August. (See photos) This is always a wonderful opportunity for railroads and all partners to convene to network and share ideas pertaining to the industry. Keep an eye out for next year's conference location and please consider attending. We seek to invite high school and college students to attend (sponsored) who may

have an interest working in the rail industry.

The 2024 Rail Safety Week kickoff event (now known as See Tracks? Think Train!) was held in Lansing. Every year we pick a different region of the state to encourage greater rail safety education.

The MRA continues to promote greater awareness of the blue emergency sign at every railroad crossing. This sign is the Emergency

Notification System (ENS) sign and has the railroad emergency phone number on it. If there is an emergency at a rail crossing, call this number and explain to the dispatcher what is happening. Help spread the word by telling loved-ones, coworkers and friends to look for the blue sign at rail crossings. Especially new drivers.

Have a wonderful fall.

MOVING MICHIGAN

FEATURING



CSX is one of the nation's leading transportation suppliers. The company's rail and intermodal businesses provide rail-based transportation services including traditional rail service and the transport of intermodal containers and trailers.

Overall, the CSX Transportation network encompasses over 20,000 route miles of track in 26 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. CSX's transportation network serves some of the largest population centers in the nation. Nearly two-thirds of Americans live within CSX's service territory.

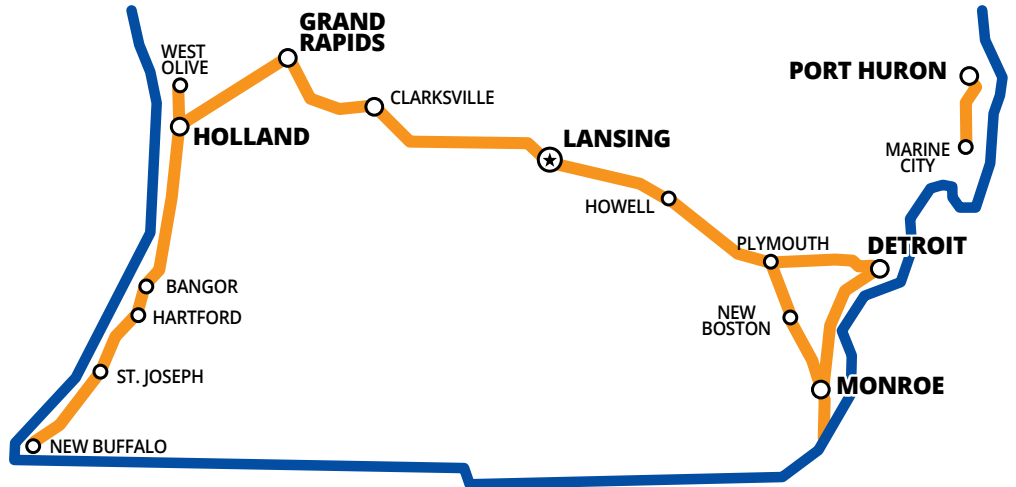
CSX serves major markets in the eastern United States and has access to over 70 ocean, river and lake port terminals along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway. The company also has access to Pacific ports through alliances with western railroads.

CSX moves a broad portfolio of products across the country in a way that minimizes the effect on the environment, takes traffic off an already congested highway system, and minimizes fuel consumption and transportation costs.

CSX IN MICHIGAN

CSX Transportation has been an integral part of Michigan's economy for over a century, providing critical connections to the world for the state's business community.

The CSX rail network in Michigan covers nearly 1,200 miles of track and moves 500,000 carloads of freight each year on behalf of Michigan based



customers. CSX serves a wide array of Michigan customers including those in the automotive, intermodal, agricultural, chemical and other businesses. Hundreds of dedicated railroaders work daily to provide safe, efficient and reliable service across the state.

Two terminal locations in Michigan highlight the service provided the state's automotive industry.

TDSI

The CSX Total Distribution Services (TDSI) terminal in Romulus links the state's automotive manufacturers to the world. TDSI, a subsidiary of CSX Corporation, specializes in vehicle-handling services through a network of automobile distribution facilities, storage locations, and service centers serving Eastern, Gulf, and Southeastern ports.

Our TDSI New Boston facility in New Boston, near Romulus, stands out as both an Origin and

Destination Facility. It offers comprehensive services including load adjustments, full mechanical inspections, heavy repairs, and air brake component testing and servicing.

The ONECSX Team ensures that 100% of all railcars undergo a pre-trip inspection before loading, guaranteeing a damage-free product for Michigan customers. The facility features seven inbound tracks in the north yard and three departure tracks in the south yard, with over 10.2 miles of rail infrastructure. Currently, CSXT operates two daily outbound trains for picking up loaded auto-racks in addition to two daily inbound trains.

LIST OF CUSTOMERS SERVED

- Ford
- Stellantis
- Chevrolet
- Honda

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An eastbound CSX freight L303 led by 4757 hauls mixed freight for Lansing and Detroit. Photo Courtesy of Kyle Korienek.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

By operating responsibly, generating economic opportunities, and giving back, CSX makes a positive impact in the communities where we operate.

Each year, CSX contributes millions of dollars in grants and in-kind donations to nonprofit organizations. We also offer community service opportunities for employees and their families.

CSX PRIDE IN SERVICE

- Honoring veterans, active military and first responders
- Impacting more than 100,000 heroes and their families
- Multi-million dollar commitment through not-for-profit partnerships

MOVING MICHIGAN

FEATURING



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ANNUAL VOLUME

370,000 automobiles (loading/unloading)

32,250 auto racks

At TDSI New Boston, the safety of our associates, customers, and visitors is our top priority while providing exemplary service to our Michigan based customers.

CSX INTERMODAL

Similarly, the CSX Intermodal Terminal in Detroit serves the state's auto suppliers with service connecting both auto suppliers and manufactures to world markets.

Under current conditions, the terminal handles 200,000 containers by utilizing over 30,000 feet of reprocessing and storage track.

However, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation via their Rail Enhancement Program Grant program, the terminal facility is completing a massive overhaul to improve service even more.

The current project will add capacity within the terminal and limit public impacts from operations via equipment upgrades and other targeted

investments. The overall project, slated to be completed in 2025, shares support from the City of Detroit, Wayne County and State Rep. Tyrone Carter and demonstrates CSX Intermodal Terminals engagement with both customers and public officials.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS TO SUPPORT MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY

Each year, CSX reinvests millions of dollars back into the rail network to improve safety and service to Michigan industries. These investments keep the CSX rail infrastructure in optimal condition, allowing for safe operations and service to Michigan customers.

Moreover, CSX partners with federal, state and local governments on additional infrastructure investments to improve public safety. The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$24 million



A westbound CSX freight L302 rolls through Howell with mixed freight for Lansing and Grand Rapids. Photo Courtesy of Kyle Korienek.

via the Grade Crossing Elimination (GCE) program to the City of Monroe to construct a grade separation, with that project expected to go to construction in 2026. Furthermore, through the leadership of Sen. Darrin Camilleri and others in the Legislature, the state of Michigan has now an established grade separation program to eliminate public at-grade crossings. This is a major initiative that, if fully funded, will have a dramatic impact across Michigan to advance similar types of grade separation projects in the state.

THANK YOU, JOHN RICKOFF

Mr. Rickoff moves to new role at Lake State Railway



From left: John Rickoff, Lake State Railway, former Senator Ken Horn (R-Saginaw), former Senator Jim Stamas (R-Midland) and the late former Senator Mike Green (Mayville).

This past summer John Rickoff moved from his position as President & CEO of the Lake State Railway Corporation to Chairman of the Board for LSRC. The Michigan Railroads Association would like to congratulate Mr. Rickoff on his long and fulfilling career within the railroad industry. Under the leadership of Mr. Rickoff, the Lake State Railway earned prestigious national awards for Shortline Railroad of the year and Regional Railroad of the year—two highly regarded recognitions for a railroad. John earned many other individual recognitions and awards throughout the decades, far too many to list here.

In addition to his exceptional career within the railroad industry, we would like to remind readers that Mr. Rickoff served as Chairman of the Michigan Railroads Association from 2015-2018. Mr. Rickoff

routinely testified in front of legislative committees and regularly took part in legislator visits over the years. John's involvement in freight railroad policy was immense.

Another note about Mr. Rickoff's involvement with rail policy was his inclination towards inviting elected officials out to the LSRC properties for informational tours. From state legislators to members of Congress—don't forget the Secretary of USDOT—John would highlight the benefits of a strong freight rail network to Michigan's economy with policy makers.

The Michigan Railroads Association offers our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Rickoff for his endless contributions to the MRA, the railroad industry in Michigan, and to the industry overall.

MICHIGAN OPERATION LIFESAVER FALL UPDATE - 2024

The national headquarters of Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI) has recently released the newly updated series of educational videos that offers tips and resources for school bus driver education. The listed videos offer tips and resources for bus drivers. The video content can be found here: www.oli.org.

The videos are available for public downloading or free presentations by an Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer (OLAV). In addition, OLI has announced that a new program for firefighters is in the works and will be available shortly.

Michigan Operation Lifesaver and its team of supporters has seen a steady reduction of crashes and fatalities over the past several years. The goal of Michigan Operation Lifesaver and its partners is to reduce and eliminate highway/rail crashes and trespasser/pedestrian incidents in Michigan by emphasizing the three E's: **Education, Engineering and Enforcement**.

The number of fatalities in Michigan has gone down from 40 people killed in 1972 to an average of three in recent years. Operation Lifesaver Inc. has seen a reduction of over 82% in railroad tragedies nationwide since 1972, down from over 12,000 in 1972 to less than 2,000 for the past four years.

Some recent activities and events for Michigan Operation Lifesaver include:

- Rail Investigation Safety Course (RISC) presentations to law enforcement groups is being used to educate first responders and police across the state. CN and CSX police departments have officers trained to make these presentations.
- MI-OL and CN police attended the two day Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) Convention in Grand Rapids where many contacts were made with law enforcement officers from across the state.



Sept. 23-29, 2024 for See Tracks? Think Train® Week

- MI-OL had an exhibit at the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Conference in Lansing at Kellogg Center.
- MI-OL participated in the 'Railroad Day' at the Capitol where many elected officials were contacted about rail related issues, with a reception in the evening.
- Classes and special events were held at the Great American Train Show in Novi for over 2,500 visitors; Boy Scouts show in Northville; Ann Arbor Train Show for 1,500; new DNR facility in Detroit next to the Detroit River for 250 patrons; Huckelberry Railroad in Flint for 800 people over two days; Tulip Festival in Holland; Gizzard Fest in Potterville; Iron Mountain 'Car Show; at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant; St. Clair Safety Town; and Holly Safety Days. Also, O.L. presentations occurred in Taylor, Sterling Heights, Lansing, Durand, Hamilton, Owosso, and Detroit.

- State Coordinator Curtis Stewart attended a Trespasser Prevention conference at Rutgers University in New Jersey.
- Rail Safety Week was held in September covering enhanced efforts from various safety groups across the State.

For more information contact State Coordinator - Curtis Stewart frmn2009@sbcglobal.net, ph. 517-974-1737, www.oli.org or Sam Crowl at samcrowl@comcast.net, ph. 248-980-4636.

2024 MICHIGAN RAIL CONFERENCE

The 2024 Michigan Rail Conference in Livonia included many excellent speakers and panelists, including MRA members. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Speakers were (from left): Julie Eddy, Genessee and Wyoming, Sean Pengelly, LSRC, Chris Bagwell, Adrain and Blissfield Railroad. MRA Associate Member Bradon Smith, Fletcher Sippel, moderated the Shortline Industry discussion panel.



The Intermodal Opportunities for Michigan panel included (from left) MRA members Kory Johnson, General Manager Conrail and Girish Nair, VP Multimodal Operations CN. Also on the panel was Kulin Zhang from Michigan Tech University.

TWO MRA MEMBERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Sean Pengelly of the Lake State Railway.

The Michigan Railroads Association is pleased to offer our heartfelt congratulations to two members for recent national recognition:

Sean Pengelly, a projects & development engineer for the Lake State Railway, was named a top North American railroader under the age of 40. This recognition goes to 25 individuals nationally for those making an impact in the railroad industry.

Kyle Hnatiuk, director of business development at the Adrian Blissfield Railroad, was named by Progressive Railroading as a 2024 Rising Star. The Rising Stars program identifies individuals under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the rail industry.

Congratulations Sean and Kyle. Keep up the great work!



Kyle Hnatiuk of the Adrian Blissfield Railroad.



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Members of the Michigan Railroads Association are: Adrian & Blissfield Railroad Co., Ann Arbor Railroad, CPKC, Charlotte Southern Railroad Co., CN, Consolidated Rail Corp. (Conrail), Coopersville-Marne, CSX Transportation, Delray Connecting Railroad, Detroit Connecting Railroad Co., Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad, Grand Elk Railroad, Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad, Great Lakes Central Railroad, Hamilton Northwestern Railroad Co., Huron & Eastern Railway, Indiana Northeastern Railroad, Jackson & Lansing Line, Lake State Railway Co., Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad, Lapeer Industrial Railroad Co., Marquette Rail, Michigan Shore Railroad, Michigan Southern Railroad, Mid-Michigan Railroad, Mineral Range, Inc., Norfolk Southern Corp. and West Michigan Railroad Co.

LEGISLATORS TOUR TTX WATERFORD FACILITY

In May the Michigan Railroads Association and TTX/Draco partnered with Rep. Mike Harris to host a tour of the TTX rail car fabrication and modification facility in Waterford. The facility is in Rep. Harris's district.

The rail car modifications performed here in state by TTX/Draco allows for the safe and efficient shipment of automobile and truck frames to all auto manufacturing locations.



Reps. Alicia St. Germaine, Mike Harris and Donni Steele.



Automobile frames at TTX Waterford facility.

