



**American
Public Transportation
Association**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Michele Wong Krause

VICE CHAIR

MJ Maynard

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Jeffrey Wharton

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.

Jose Bustamante
Francis "Buddy" Coleman
Jim Derwinski
Charles DiMaggio
Dawn Distler
Denise Figueroa
Sharon Fleming
Gary S. Giovanetti
Carolyn Gonot
Beth Holbrook
Bacarra Mauldin
Allan Pollock
Naomi Renek
Leslie S. Richards
Erin Rogers
Rita A. Scott
Kimberly Slaughter
Doug Tisdale
Matthew O. Tucker
Jannet Walker-Ford
Evalynn "Eve" Williams

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Paul P. Skoutelas

1300 I Street NW
Suite 1200 East
Washington, DC 20005
p: (202) 496-4800
f: (202) 496-4324

APTA.COM

307918

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 5, 2024
Part of
Public Record

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Oberman,

On behalf of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), which represents the \$79 billion public transportation industry that provides mobility for millions of Americans each year, directly employs 430,000 people, and supports millions of private-sector jobs, **I write to nominate Mr. Bryan Sooter, PE, to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as a representative from a rail passenger advocacy organization or as an at-large representative.**

Through its more than 1,500 public- and private-sector member organizations, APTA is the voice of all modes of public transportation, including passenger rail. APTA members include intercity passenger railroads (e.g., Amtrak, Alaska Railroad); 30 of 32 commuter rail agencies operating in the United States, accounting for 99 percent of commuter rail ridership; State Departments of Transportation; labor organizations (e.g., Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division—International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Transport Workers Union of America); and the private-sector service operators, manufacturers, and suppliers of the passenger rail industry. In 2005, we incorporated the former High-Speed and Ground Transportation Association into APTA, enhancing our voice on intercity passenger rail issues and complementing APTA's long-standing role representing commuter railroads and all modes of public transportation. APTA also has strong working relationships with the international transportation community, including the International Union of Railways, which provides APTA access to passenger rail issues and solutions in countries around the world.

In its long history, APTA has frequently interacted with the Surface Transportation Board on issues associated with commuter and intercity passenger rail, including railroad mergers, passenger rail access to the nation's rail network, and cost allocation.

It is with this rich history and wide perspective that APTA nominates Mr. Sooter to the PRAC as a representative from a rail passenger advocacy organization or as an at-large representative, preferably for a three-year term.

Mr. Sooter currently serves as APTA's Director of Standards and Commuter Rail. He is the primary engineering resource within APTA and leads APTA's rail engineering and standards initiatives. He has more than 17 years of experience in the railroad industry in a variety of roles and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Georgia. Before joining APTA, he worked as a consultant for a forensic engineering firm where his responsibilities included train operation assessments, evaluation of train handling issues, and data analysis.

Prior to working as a consultant, Mr. Sooter worked for the Alaska Railroad for more than 12 years, where he gained firsthand experience in the challenges of operating passenger and freight trains on shared corridors. While at the Alaska Railroad, he served in the roles of certified passenger and freight locomotive engineer, certified conductor, and train dispatcher. Mr. Sooter holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Alaska Anchorage with coursework that included railroad track/transportation engineering and construction.¹

Mr. Sooter serves as the Staff Advisor to several APTA passenger rail committees, including the Commuter Rail Committee and the Commuter Rail CEOs Committee.² He also participates in APTA High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Committee meetings. In this capacity, Mr. Sooter will be able to leverage APTA members' vast institutional knowledge and information sharing networks to quickly gather and disseminate information to positively contribute to the PRAC's work.

Mr. Sooter is willing to serve as a member of the PRAC and agrees to serve in a representative capacity. His contact information is as follows:

Bryan Sooter, PE

Title: Director of Standards and Commuter Rail

Phone: (907) 317-3967

Email: BSooter@apta.com

¹ For Mr. Sooter's full resume, please see Appendix A.

² Appendix B provides a list of U.S. commuter railroad agencies. APTA's list includes all commuter and hybrid rail agencies that receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and report data to the National Transit Database. The list also includes information regarding APTA membership and ridership numbers.

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

February 5, 2024

Page 3

With the highest respect and praise, APTA enthusiastically nominates Mr. Bryan Sooter to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee as a representative from a rail passenger advocacy organization or as an at-large representative, preferably for a three-year term.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul P. Skoutelas
President and CEO

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board Member

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board Member

The Honorable Robert E. Primus, Surface Transportation Board Member

The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz, Surface Transportation Board Member

Mr. Brian O'Boyle, Designated Federal Officer – Passenger Rail Advisory Committee,
Surface Transportation Board

BRYAN CHRISTOPHER SOOTER, PE**Appendix A**

1300 I Street, NW Suite 1200 East · Washington,
DC 20005 · (907) 317-3967 · bsooter@apta.com

Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Champaign, IL
<i>Master of Science, Civil Engineering</i>	2018
Railroad and Structural Engineering Emphasis	
University of Alaska, Anchorage	Anchorage, AK
<i>Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering</i>	2017
Selected Coursework: Reinforced Concrete Design, Steel Design, Surface Water Dynamics, Hydraulic Analysis & Design, Foundation Engineering, Transportation Engineering	

Professional Experience

American Public Transportation Association (APTA)	Washington D.C.
<i>Director of Standards and Commuter Rail</i>	2023 – Current
Manages the standards-generation process, including oversight of staff and supporting consultants, prioritization of the standards projects, development of metrics to guide the standards program, and interfaces with the working groups and policy and planning committees involved in generating and maintaining standards. In addition, periodically seeks grants from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under federal standards programs. Responsible for leading and managing grants awarded to APTA.	
Engineering Systems Inc.	Norcross, GA
<i>Senior Consultant</i>	2021 – 2023
<i>Senior Staff Consultant</i>	2019 – 2021
Responsible for providing consulting services in Rail Practice group involving train operation assessments, railroad accident investigation analyses, train derailment and crossing accident investigations, evaluation of train handling issues, and data analysis. Typical projects include planning, directing, coordinating, and managing and performing engineering consultation on projects of varying scale for clients regarding litigation, analysis, and support services. Investigate and analyze findings related to applicable industry standards and Federal Regulations and issue findings in technical report. Testify to findings of technical reports and analyses in depositions and trials.	
Alaska Railroad Corporation	Anchorage, AK
<i>Train Dispatcher</i>	2015 – 2019
Ensure compliance with all railroad rules and Federal regulations for railroad operations. Direct and coordinate the safe movement of railroad traffic across the Alaska Railroad system through computer aided dispatch (CAD).	
<i>Passenger and Freight Locomotive Engineer</i>	2012 – 2015
Operate freight and passenger trains safely across the entire Alaska Railroad system.	
<i>Brakeman/Conductor/Hostler</i>	2006 – 2012
Control and supervise the safe and efficient movement of train operations through crew management and obtaining authorization for main track occupancy according to company and federal regulations.	

Continuing Education, Professional Licensures, and Certifications

Professional Engineer, GA

Traffic Signal Academy University of Tennessee

Traffic Signal Timing Records Interpretation & Analysis - 2020

Northwestern University Center for Public Safety

Traffic Crash Reconstruction for the Forensic Engineer - 2020

National Academy of Railroad Sciences, Overland Park, KS

Locomotive Engineer Training Certificate – 2012

Railroad Conductor Training Certificate – 2007

Fundamentals of Engineering, FE NCEES – 2017

Alaska Avalanche School, Hatcher's Pass, AK Level 1 Avalanche Course - 2011

Fundamentals of Engineering (EIT) Certificate - NCEES 18-386-06

49 CFR Part 240 Certified Passenger and Freight Locomotive Engineer

PADI Advanced Open Water Diver Certification

Publications/Presentations

“The Basics of Railway Job Duties: Engineering Department,” Webinar for NARTC, May 2022 (co-presented with F. J. Peterson and C.S. Moale)

“The Basics of Railway Locomotives,” Webinar for NARTC, November 2021 (co-presented with F.J. Peterson and C.S. Moale)

“The Basics of Railroad Worker Protection Rules: Roadway Worker Protection, Blue Signal Protection, and 3-Step/Red Zone Protection,” Webinar for NARTC, August 2021 (co-presented with F.J. Peterson and C.S. Moale)

“Basics of Railway Track Design and Inspection with a Focus on 49 CFR Part 213,” Webinar for NARTC, June 2021 (co-presented with F.J. Peterson and C.S. Moale)

“The Basics of the Operating Rules and Their Relationship to FRA Regulations,” Webinar for NARTC, September 2020 (co-presented with F.J. Peterson)

“Basics of Cars and Locomotives: Safety Appliance Act History and Application,” Webinar for NARTC, May 2020 (co-presented with F.J. Peterson)

“Fundamentals of Air Brakes: How Does a Train Stop?,” Webinar for NARTC, March 2020 (co-presented with F.J. Peterson)

“Railway Derailment Investigation”, California State University, Fresno, March 2020.

“Effect of Automatic Train Protection Technologies on Railroad Accident Prevention”, 2020 TRB Annual Meeting (co-presented with Chen-Yu Lin)

“Physics for Locomotive Engineers”, Training presentation to student Locomotive Engineers at the Alaska Railroad (2015 – 2018)

Positive Train Control Training Program for Train Dispatchers (2018)

Professional Affiliations

American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA), Member

Committee 24 – Education and Training

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Member

32 Commuter Rail Agencies

Appendix B

State	Primary City Name	Urbanized Area	Agency	Year Opened	Ridership Oct 2022 - Sept 2023 (Unlinked Passenger Trips)	APTA Member
Alaska	Anchorage	Anchorage	Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)	1923	225,282	Yes
California	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) (Metrolink)	1991	4,443,195	Yes
California	San Diego	San Diego	North San Diego County Transit District (NCTD) (Coaster & Sprinter)	1995	2,038,055	Yes
California	San Francisco	San Francisco	Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB) (CalTrain)	1992	7,038,777	Yes
California	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (Bart) (eBART)	2018	936,565	Yes
California	Santa Rosa	San Francisco	Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART)	2017	705,391	Yes
California	Stockton	San Jose	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) (ACE Rail)	1998	524,168	No
Colorado	Denver	Denver	Regional Transportation District (Denver RTD)	2016	8,348,967	Yes
Connecticut	New Haven	New Haven	Connecticut Department of Transportation Shore Line East (SLE)	1990	193,300	Yes
Florida	Miami	Miami	South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Tri-Rail)	1989	3,519,472	Yes
Florida	Orlando	Orlando	Central Florida Commuter Rail (SunRail)	2014	1,021,753	No
Illinois	Chicago	Chicago	Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corp (Metra)	1856	30,207,022	Yes
Indiana	Chicago	Chicago	Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) (South Shore Line)	1908	1,501,441	Yes
Maine	Portland	Portland	Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) (Downeaster)	2001	540,446	Yes
Maryland	Baltimore	Baltimore	Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC & Maryland Transit Administration)	1830	3,131,662	Yes
Massachusetts	Boston	Boston	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	1931	25,058,961	Yes
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Minneapolis	Metro Transit Northstar Commuter Rail (Northstar)	2009	86,544	Yes
New Jersey	New York	New York	New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) (Rail & River Line)	1839	56,083,059	Yes
New Mexico	Albuquerque	Albuquerque	New Mexico Department of Transportation (Rail Runner)	2006	569,302	Yes
New York	New York	New York	Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company (Metro-North)	1832	58,472,082	Yes
New York	New York	New York	MTA Long Island Rail Road (LIRR)	1844	77,261,240	Yes
Oregon	Portland	Portland	Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet)(Westside Express)	2009	114,402	Yes
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Keystone Line (Keystone)	1980	409,981	Yes
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)	1834	19,109,233	Yes
Tennessee	Nashville	Nashville	Regional Transportation Authority (WeGo Star)	2006	98,336	Yes
Texas	Austin	Austin	Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro Rail)	2010	478,134	Yes
Texas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Trinity Railway Express (TRE)	1990	1,136,779	Yes
Texas	Denton	Denton	Denton County Transportation Authority (A Train)	2011	225,235	Yes
Texas	Fort Worth	Dallas	Trinity Metro (TEXRail)	2019	652,195	Yes
Utah	Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City	Utah Transit Authority (Front Runner)	2008	3,607,925	Yes
Virginia	Washington	Washington	Virginia Railway Express (VRE)	1992	1,498,252	Yes
Washington	Seattle	Seattle	Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sounder)	2000	1,649,834	Yes

APTA's list includes all commuter and hybrid rail agencies that receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration and report data to the National Transit Database. NNEPRA and Keystone are operated by Amtrak and are counted in the FTA National Transit Database.