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Welcome to Butte Montana

2023 Annual Conference

August 8th – August 10th



Thank you for attending 2023 Annual Conference

Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Study Update Speaker



Amit Bose was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on January 12, 2022. He was previously appointed as Deputy Administrator on January 20, 2021. Immediately prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Amit worked at HNTB, an architectural and engineering firm, where he also served as board chair of the Coalition for the Northeast Corridor and on the New Jersey Restart and Recovery Advisory Council. He also served at the FRA during the Obama-Biden Administration as Deputy Administrator, Chief Counsel, Senior Advisor and Director of Governmental Affairs and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) as Associate General Counsel and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs. In those positions, he worked on safety, policy, regulatory, and governmental affairs matters, and provided legal counsel, guidance and advice to the Office of the Secretary and DOT's operating administrations. Before joining DOT, Amit also worked for New Jersey Transit, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and as a transportation staffer in the U.S. Congress. His involvement in many rail and transportation projects prior to joining the Executive Branch includes securing the full funding grant agreement for the Hudson Bergen Light Rail, Newark Light Rail and Congressional authorization for the 50-foot deepening of New York Harbor. In addition, he was in private practice in Georgia, focused on land use, environmental, and municipal law. Amit has an AB from Columbia College, a MIA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and a JD from the University of Georgia.

Katie List, AICP, is a Community Planner with the FRA in the Office of Amtrak and Northeast Corridor Program Delivery. In this role, Katie focuses on Amtrak service performance, particularly on long – distance routes. Katie has been with FRA for three years; prior to joining FRA, she worked for six years as a public transportation consultant. In 2019, Katie was named one of the top 40 under 40 leaders in transportation demand management by the Association of Commuter Transportation. Katie has a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications from Iowa State University and a M.S. in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin.



Francis E Loetterle, PhD, AICP is acting Deputy Director of the Office of Railroad Planning and Engineering in the Office of Railroad Development at the Federal Railroad Administration. Frank has over 35 years' experience as a planner working both in the public and private sector and on a wide variety of transportation and transit modes. Prior to joining FRA in February 2023, Frank was the principal intercity passenger rail planner for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, guiding the development of the TCMC project, a second daily train between Minneapolis and Chicago that will begin operation by early 2024, and the Northern Lights Express, which will provide multiple daily round trips between Minneapolis and Duluth, MN and which recently received full local funding for capital and operating costs from the Minnesota legislature. Frank has a PhD in Geography, is a member of AICP and for fifteen years taught a transit planning class as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota.

Station Development Presenters

Chase Kitchen, Amtrak Government Affairs Manager, John Bender, Amtrak Director of Stations Facilities Management, and Bruce Agnew, Director, PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator



John Bender, Amtrak Director of Stations Facilities Management

John Bender is an urban and transportation planner. As a long-time advocate for transit and rail, John has worked on a variety of projects ranging from the Roaring Fork Valley Corridor Investment Study in Aspen, Colorado to the Metrorail to Dulles Airport Draft EIS. For 14 years, John has worked with Amtrak guiding states and communities in the planning and construction of new passenger

rail stations and platforms to meet the needs of the communities and customers, and to expand the competitiveness of America's passenger rail network. John has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech and lives in Baltimore.

Chase Kitchen, Amtrak Government Affairs Manager

Chase Kitchen is the State and Local Government Affairs Manager for Amtrak in the Greater Northwest where he is focused on helping communities take advantage of the opportunities available to use intercity passenger rail to address regional mobility needs. Prior to joining the Amtrak team, Chase spent over a decade in public service helping federal and local government leaders make progress on complex policy and political challenges to support more sustainable, equitable, and just communities.



Bruce Agnew Director, PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator

Bruce has been a key player in regional transportation development since his days on the Puget Sound Regional Council in the 1980's. Since then, he served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative John Miller, led the Northwest Cascadia initiative as Director of the Cascadia Center of Discovery Institute in Seattle, and established the ACES NW Network to accelerate the development and adoption of Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared (ACES) transportation technologies. Bruce has a deep

passion for improving infrastructure to help the Pacific Northwest grow and prosper and reducing congestion by making shared mobility options (including transit and employer shuttles) more accessible and functional.

Upcoming BSPRA Events



Thursday August 17th, 2023

Philipsburg Brewing Company

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

\$1 from every pint sold will support BSPRA



Keynote Speaker

Karen Hedlund, Vice Chair Surface Transportation Board



Karen J. Hedlund was sworn in on January 3, 2022, as a Member of the Board for a term of office expiring on January 3, 2027, following her confirmation by the United States Senate on December 16, 2021. Karen served in the Obama Administration as Chief Counsel of the Federal Highway Administration from 2009 to 2010, and as Chief Counsel and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration

from 2010 to 2014. Since stepping down from that position, Karen has advised governmental authorities and private investors on the development of passenger rail and transportation-oriented development projects. Prior to joining the FRA, Karen had a long career as a legal advisor to governmental agencies and private lenders and investors on the development of a broad range infrastructure projects across the United States, including rail, transit, highways, airports, water and energy facilities. She practiced with leading national law firms in Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, DC. Karen is a graduate of Harvard University (AB) and Georgetown University Law Center (JD). Karen has two children and two grandchildren in Brooklyn, New York, who love to ski and hike with her near her home in Colorado.

August Board Meeting Agenda

- **Call to order and welcome (11:00)**
 - Comments from congressional delegation and governor's office
- **Business and Association Partnership recognition (11:05)**
- **Roll call of board members and introductions (11:08)**
- **Public comment on items not on the agenda (11:10)**
- **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (11:14)**
 - June 14, 2023
 - July 12, 2023
- **Scheduled Presentations**
- **Executive Director's Report – Jess Peterson (11:15)**
- **Committee Reports**
 - Executive Committee – Dave Strohmaier (11:20)
 - Communications & Public Relations – Jason Stuart (11:22)
 - Planning and Resource Development – Dan Olsen (11:24)
 - Governance – Rich Wallace (11:26)
 - Fundraising – Dan Bucks (11:28)
 - Finance – Jerry McDonald (11:30)
 - Treasurer's report
 - Current claims list
- **Unfinished Business**
 - KLJ Professional Services Agreement (PSA) Amendment (11:32)
Motion: Approve KLJ professional services agreement amendment related to report preparation.
- **New Business**
 - FY 24 Preliminary Budget – Open Public Hearing (11:34)
 - Proposed BSPRA Policies (11:45)
 - Grant Administration Policy
Motion: Adopt the BSPRA Grant Administration Policy
 - Procurement Policy
Motion: Adopt the BSPRA Procurement Policy as a replacement to the BSPRA Purchasing Policy (No. 2021-3, December 8, 2021)
 - Conflict of Interest Policy
Motion: Adopt BSPRA Conflict of Interest Policy
- **Correspondence**
 - Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study Round 2 Comments (11:55)
- **General Comments from Board Members (11:50)**
- **Unscheduled Matters**
- **Next steps**
 - Next Meeting: **September 13, 2023**
 - Agenda – Primary Issues for Discussion and Decision
- **Adjournment (12:00)**

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