



Center for Railway  
Research and Education  

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

# Railway Management Certificate Program XX

Week/Module 2: Railway Regulation, Safety, and the Rail Industry

June 23 - 27, 2025

## Presenters



Center for Railway  
Research and Education  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 1, 2024

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## **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY WELCOMES RON BATORY**

EAST LANSING, MI — Michigan State University's [Center for Railway Research and Education](#) announces Hon. Ronald L. Batory assumes the role of the Edward A. Burkhardt Chair in Railway Management & Executive Director, to further provide leadership, vision, strategy, and direction to the center's program starting October 1, 2024.

Batory's experience now spans over 52 years in the railway industry fulfilling an array of leadership and advisory capacities in both private and public sectors, thus bringing extensive expertise and knowledge of the full breadth of North American railways to this role. The CRRE, housed in MSU's [Broad College of Business](#), will foster continued growth and recognition as a leading center for railway management research and education.

"I'm both humbled and honored to serve the Center for Railway Research and Education," said Ron Batory. "Contributing through an academic venue is a unique opportunity to collaborate with growing rail transportation talent and passion residing in our logistics system."

In this role, Batory will help fulfill the vision of the center's benefactor Ed Burkhardt, whose generous gift established the Burkhardt Professor in Railway Management, a key component of the center's mission to bring innovative leadership and new thinking to the industry.

"I look forward to Ron's experience and knowledge as the center develops new and improved educational programs," said Nick Little, CRRE director. "Expanding the center's relationships with key rail industry leaders will provide students and staff with valuable information and opportunities."

The CRRE is delighted to welcome Batory in this capacity, renewing his relationship with MSU. Batory was once a member of the center's advisory group establishing the Railway Management Certificate Program in 2007. Since then, hundreds of continuing education participants from all parts of the North American railway industry and selected areas around the world have completed the program and enhanced their knowledge and career opportunities.

### **ABOUT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Michigan State University has been advancing the common good with uncommon will for more than 165 years. One of the world's leading research universities, MSU pushes the boundaries of discovery to make a better, safer, healthier world for all while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

### **ABOUT THE BROAD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

The Broad College of Business creates and disseminates knowledge through collaboration, developing global transformational leaders who positively impact organizations and society.



## **RON BATORY BIOGRAPHY**

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Ronald L. Batory is a career professional with more than 52 years of associated experience in the railroad industry. He spent the first 23 years of his career working for both eastern and western Class I railroads in addition to serving along with a court appointed Trustee's successful oversight of a regional railroad bankruptcy.

Then in 1994 he was appointed President of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago, a multiple owned subsidiary of then nine competing Class I carriers. His leadership success of serving their needs in Chicago Gateway led to CSX and Norfolk Southern Corporation later recruiting him to Consolidated Rail Corporation in preparation of their Surface Transportation Board approved partitioning of the eastern carrier and establishing what is now commonly known as the Shared Assets Areas.

Accomplishment of that unique task in providing a plane of equality for joint competition later favored him in being appointed to his last position of President and Chief Operating Officer for the entire corporate entity.

Upon his retirement in 2017 he pursued public service in Washington, D.C., which resulted in a Presidential nomination and unanimous consent by the United States Senate to become the 14th Administrator of The Federal Railroad Administration.

Ron is a graduate of Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan, with a B.A. degree along with an M.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University. He continues to serve on various governing and advisory boards associated within the sectors of both industry and education.

Ron resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his wife, Barbara.

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## **VALERII (VAL) KUCHERENKO**

A commercially savvy international sales, marketing, and supply chain professional with a focus on driving excellence and enhancing competitive advantage. With extensive experience across various levels of the maritime transportation and supply chain industry, I've honed a broad skill set in leading Fortune 150 and CPG companies. Over 20 years, I've built a strong track record in designing new strategies and leading change initiatives that have led to significant improvements. I have deep knowledge of local markets in North America and Europe, having held various roles across these regions. Multinationally experienced professional with specialized M.I.S.E. (Maersk International Shipping Education) background gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark and MBA from McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. I have successfully completed five international assignments across the USA, Spain, Italy, Russia, and Canada.

**IAN JEFFERIES**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO - AAR**



As the Association of American Railroads (AAR's) president and CEO, Jefferies advocates for and works with member railroads to ensure the continued viability of America's railroad industry. Prior to assuming the role on January 1, 2019, Jefferies was the senior vice president of AAR's government affairs where he led the development, promotion and implementation of legislative priorities for the AAR.

Before joining the AAR, Jefferies cultivated more than a decade of experience working within government. From 2009 to 2013, Jefferies served as a senior policy advisor to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. In this role, Jefferies provided policy guidance on a host of transportation issues, including railroad economic regulation, rail safety and passenger rail. Jefferies also led the successful development, negotiation and reauthorization of major infrastructure legislation and managed the successful conference of Committee legislation relating to the 2012 surface transportation reauthorization law, MAP 21.

Jefferies began his career in government serving as a Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, before transitioning to the federal government. Prior to serving in the United States Senate, he worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Government Accountability Office. In these roles, Jefferies led program reviews on a variety of issues including infrastructure development, international trade, major weapon systems acquisition and federal contracting.

**JEFF MOLLER**  
**ASSISTANT VP TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS & PRACTICES - AAR**



Jeff has been with the Association of American Railroads serving in multiple capacities since 1992. In his current role since 2010, Jeff is the Assistant VP Transportation Systems & Practices where he Originates and facilitates industry activities designed to increase the safety, security and efficiency of railroad operations.

His railroad career started in 1973 when he was an engineering employee with Union Pacific Railroad in California. Throughout his railroad career, he has held various positions in California, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Indiana and the District of Columbia.

In addition to serving the industry in his role on the NARS Board, Jeff is Vice Chair of the International Railway Union, North American Region and a fellow of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport – North America.

Jeff is a graduate with honors of Principia College and lives in Washington DC.

Partial list of current/past responsibilities:

- Member, Rail Safety Advisory Committee and Affiliated Working Groups / Task Forces
- Presenting testimony before the US House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials
- Prior Board Member Chartered Institute of Logistics in Transportation - North America
- Member, National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Industry Activities
  - o Railroad Operations Security Task Force / Railway Alert Network
  - o New Orleans Gateway Infrastructure Improvement Committee
  - o AAR Operating Rules, & Derailment Prevention Info. Exchange Forums
  - o Guest Speaker - MSU Railway Management Program
  - o Chairman 2008 International Railway Safety Conference, Denver

**RAND GHAYAD**  
**SVP & CHIEF ECONOMIST - AAR**



Ghayad, an accomplished economist with over a decade of expertise in economic consulting and public policy, will lead AAR's Policy and Economics team, advancing AAR's economic strategies and policy initiatives. Ghayad will succeed John Gray, who is retiring after almost 16 years of dedicated service at the AAR.

Ghayad recently served as the Head of Economics at LinkedIn. In this role, he delivered thought leadership and conducted cutting-edge research on the dynamics of labor markets. His work explored the impact of current and emerging trends on the future of work and workers.

During his tenure at the International Monetary Fund, Ghayad advised member countries on a wide spectrum of international economic policy and stabilization issues. His work involved innovative research on macroeconomics and finance, analyzing economic issues and delivering policy recommendations to both fragile and emerging market countries.

As a senior economist with the Brattle Group, he worked with the US Department of Justice and federal agencies on a broad range of complex financial and economic investigations. He also provided economic analyses and damages estimates in litigation matters across diverse industries, including aviation, railroads, postal and shipping.

Dr. Ghayad serves as a global fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center of Scholars and has been an adjunct faculty member at Harvard University since 2014. He holds M.S. degrees in Financial Economics and Multinational Commerce from Boston University and a Ph.D. in Economics from Northeastern University.

## **CHUCK BAKER PRESIDENT - ASLRRRA**



Chuck Baker joined ASLRRRA as President after a 15-year career in the railroad industry. Before joining ASLRRRA he was a Partner at Chambers Conlon & Hartwell (CC&H), where, in addition to the ASLRRRA, he represented clients such as the National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRC), the OneRail Coalition, the American Railway Development Association, Norfolk Southern, and Canadian National.

For the NRC, Mr. Baker also served as its President. In that capacity, he had responsibility for the association's core financial, operational, and legal programs, including the federal legislative and regulatory program in front of both Congress and the Administration.

For the OneRail Coalition, a coalition of freight rail, intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, rail labor, and rail supply industry interests, Mr. Baker coordinated the group's activities and messaging. Prior to joining CC&H, Mr. Baker worked with the Surface Transportation Policy Project in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Baker has also worked for Deutsche Bank Securities as an investment banker specializing in Corporate Finance and Mergers & Acquisitions in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Baker is a native of Baltimore, MD, and a graduate of Rice University in Houston, TX.

**JOHN CLINE**  
**SENIOR MEMBER - CLINE STRATEGIC CONSULTING**



John Cline is a seasoned transportation policy expert with extensive experience in both public service and private sector consulting. He currently serves as a Senior Member at Cline Strategic Consulting, LLC, where he advises clients on government relations and transportation policy.

Throughout his career, Mr. Cline has held several significant positions in the transportation sector. He is a founding partner of C2 GROUP, a bipartisan government relations and lobbying firm that was acquired by FTI Consulting in 2013. At FTI Consulting, he continued to provide strategic advice to clients in transportation, financial services, and energy sectors.

In the public sector, Mr. Cline served as the Director of Commuter Rail at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), overseeing daily operations of the Boston metropolitan area's commuter rail service. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where he played a key role in the enactment of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). He also served in the White House as a Special Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs under President George H.W. Bush.

Mr. Cline holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business, with an emphasis in labor relations, from Northern Illinois University. In addition to his consulting work, Mr. Cline has been active in industry discussions on commuter rail policy. He has participated in podcasts and forums, such as the Commuter Rail Coalition's "CRC Sound Bites," where he discusses topics like federal appropriations and infrastructure legislation.

**ANDREA WALDOCK NIETHOLD**  
**HEAD OF U.S. PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – CN**  
**RAILWAYS**



Andrea Waldock Niethold is the Director of U.S. Government Affairs at CN. Based in Washington, D.C., Ms. Waldock Niethold engages with federal lawmakers and regulators on issues important to CN and the freight railroad industry.

In 2020, Ms. Waldock Niethold founded and now chairs the Women's Employee (WE) Resource Group (ERG) at CN, and she is currently a member of the League of Railway Women Events Committee. In 2021, Ms. Waldock Niethold was named a Rising Star by *Progressive Railroading Magazine*.

Ms. Waldock Niethold has a decade worth of experience working in various legislative capacities on Capitol Hill. Before joining CN, she served as Chief of Staff to a former senior member of the House Railroad Subcommittee.

Ms. Waldock Niethold holds an A.B.D. and a Master's Degree in Education Policy and Administration from the Catholic University of America and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Butler University in Indianapolis, IN. She currently lives in Washington, DC with her husband and three young sons.

**LUISA FERNANDEZ-WILLEY**  
**PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST - CN RAILWAYS**



Luisa Fernandez-Willey serves as the Principal Economist at Canadian National Railway (CN), where she directs economic research and analysis concerning the North American transportation market. Her work provides essential insights that aid CN's strategic decision-making across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Luisa has 20 years of professional experience, including 14 years in the rail industry, with extensive expertise in economic analysis and strategic planning.

Additionally – she attended RMCP in 2015 as part of the AAR team at that time. The Michigan State University Railway Management Program was created to provide the necessary education associated with railroad operations and management. The program covers many topics associated with railroad operations and management. These topics include a thorough working familiarity of internal operations, financial considerations, and customer service requirements that will enable fact-based decision making. The course was developed by working closely with Class I railroad education and training directors, as well as the AAR, AS L& RRA, and FRA decision makers, and other transportation industry leaders.

**KATHRYN GAINES**  
**SENIOR DIRECTOR, HEAD OF GLOBAL REGULATORY AFFAIRS**  
**- CN RAILWAYS**



Broad experience as in-house strategic advisor in federal regulatory matters, including those relating to service, operations, rail safety, technology, and cybersecurity. More than 17 years of experience in rail transportation regulatory, legal, and policy matters. Experience across multiple disciplines: economic regulation, antitrust, safety regulation, strategic initiatives, economic development, mergers and acquisitions, hazardous materials, administrative law, risk management, information technology, and operating technology. Manage teams to respond to legal and policy proposals relating to rail transportation. Creative problem solver. Collaborative

team member who works across departments to advance business objectives and develop alignment. Experienced in change management, compliance, dispute resolution, and corporate governance.

Previously served as the Chair of the Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section of the Federal Bar Association. Also served as the President of the Association of Transportation Law Professionals.

**LUCINDA HENRIKSEN**  
**SENIOR ADVISOR, OFFICE OF RAILROAD SAFETY - FRA**



Lucinda Henriksen currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Federal Railroad Administration's Chief Safety Officer (CSO). In this capacity, Lucinda advises the CSO on a wide variety of railroad safety related matters, including regulatory oversight, development, and enforcement, and the development and implementation of non-regulatory safety programs designed to further the safety of the U.S. freight and passenger rail systems.

Prior to her position within FRA's Office of Railroad Safety, Lucinda served as both staff counsel and a Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel in FRA's Office of Chief Counsel. During her time in the Office of Chief Counsel, Lucinda focused on the safe and secure transportation of hazardous materials and a broad range of regulatory and enforcement programs and initiatives.

**JAMES GARLAND**  
**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF RAIL PLANNING AND ENGINEERING,**  
**OFFICE OF RAILROAD DEVELOPMENT - FRA**



James Garland is the Director of the Office of Rail Planning and Engineering at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). In this role, James oversees railroad planning, operations, and engineering technical support for national and regional rail networks, corridors, and projects, to advance plans, programs, and projects through their lifecycle for potential capital investment.

Prior to coming to FRA, James served as the Deputy Director of Transportation at the Houston-Galveston Area Council; Deputy Regional Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 5 office in Chicago; and as the Transportation Planning Capacity Building Team Leader for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty.

James holds a master's degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York, and a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Public Policy from Dillard University in New Orleans. He is a board member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Transportation Planning, Policy, and Process Committee, and co-chair for TRB's Subcommittee on Megaregions.

**PATRICK FUCHS**  
**CHAIRMAN - SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**



Patrick Fuchs was designated as Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board by President Donald J. Trump, effective January 20, 2025. He was sworn in on January 17, 2019, as a Member of the Board and re-confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 14, 2024. His second term expires on January 14, 2029.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Fuchs was senior professional staff member working on surface transportation and maritime issues for the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation under the leadership of Chairman John Thune of South Dakota.

Mr. Fuchs has played an integral role in the development and enactment of major railroad legislation, including the first reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board since its creation in 1996. He also worked on legislation to improve rail project delivery, rail financing, and hazardous materials safety, all of which were enacted as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the five-year, \$305 billion surface transportation authorization.

Mr. Fuchs helped develop and enact the first reauthorization of the National Transportation Safety Board in over a decade. He also worked on legislation to increase safety by addressing opioid abuse in transportation, reforms enacted as part of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. His work also includes reauthorization of the Federal Maritime Commission as well as three reauthorizations of the Maritime Administration, enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Prior to serving Chairman Thune, he was a policy analyst and Presidential Management Fellow at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where he managed railroad and maritime regulatory reviews. During his time at OMB, Mr. Fuchs worked on regulations pertaining to rail safety technology, rail tank car safety, and railroad operating practices, among other issues. His experience also includes time with the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Government Accountability Office, and the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education.

A Wisconsin native, Mr. Fuchs graduated with a distinction in economics and political science and earned an M.P.A. from the University of Wisconsin.

## **BRETT JOHNSON**

### **RAILROAD ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR – NTSB**



Brett Johnson was appointed to the National Transportation Safety Board in September of 2023, as an accident investigator in the Office of Rail, Pipeline, and Hazmat. He has been in the rail industry since 2006 and has completed several NTSB accident investigations since joining the agency, with several more investigations underway. Brett's technical discipline is Communications & Signaling, and Electrical Motive Power & Distribution. Some of the investigations that Mr. Johnson has contributed to include East Palestine, OH train derailment and Hazmat release, New Castle, PA derailment, New York City Transit, NY Side Collision, and several other employee fatalities across the nation.

Prior to joining the NTSB, Brett had an extensive career with the freight railroad CSX Transportation, over the course of 17 years. In Brett's most recent position, he served as the Director of Communications and Signals of the Baltimore Zone from 2015 to 2023 and Division Engineer of the Huntington Division, from 2012 to 2015 in Huntington, WV. In both locations, Brett led a team of front-line C&S managers and craft employees through day-to-day operations including FRA testing & Inspections, reliability initiatives, capital project management, and supporting the implementation of Positive Train Control.

Brett's began his railroad career in Jacksonville, FL in 2006 as a Management Trainee, to then become a Signal Manager in Tallahassee FL the following year. In 2011, Brett moved from Tallahassee, FL to Montgomery, AL to begin the full-scale implementation of PTC as a Signal Construction Engineer, on the Atlanta Division. Then in late 2012, was promoted to Division Engineer of the Huntington Division.

Before his railroading career, Brett grew up in Savannah GA and attended Georgia Southern University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology.

While living in Tallahassee FL, Brett met his wife Liz and together they have two children. Brett's daughter Chelsea (11) enjoys playing travel softball and dancing, and his son Andrew (13) enjoys Boy Scouts, flying radio control model airplanes and working on any engineering projects. In addition to driving his son and daughter to all their activities, Brett's hobbies include home improvement projects, playing and producing music, playing with the family's two bulldogs, playing video games, flying radio control model aircraft, and designing & building electronic gadgets.

**PAUL WASIK**  
**DEPUTY POLICY DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORTATION POLICY - U.S.**  
**SENATE**



Paul Wasik is the Deputy Policy Director for the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports under Ranking Member Red Cruz. He joined the Commerce Committee in August 2021, working for then-Ranking Member Roger Wicker. Prior to joining the Commerce Committee, he worked for 8 years in the office of Senator Deb Fischer, including 4 years as the legislative assistant for transportation policy. He holds a B.A. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

**MICHAEL DAVISSON**  
**SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER - U.S. SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**



Experienced Legislative Aide with a demonstrated history of working on housing, transportation, labor, immigration and judiciary policies for a senior member of the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees.

Proven skills as a field organizer for a national presidential race, comfortable in high intensity situations. Strong community and social services experience with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) focused in Mathematics and Political Science from Santa Clara University.

**MARIAH C. MORALES**  
**DIRECTOR GOVERNMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - AMTRAK**



Mariah has been a part of the Amtrak Government Affairs team since 2015. Over the years she has managed Amtrak's relationships with external partners including industry, labor and advocacy groups; managed House relationships with a focus on annual Appropriations; and, led policy related public information channels including "New Era of Rail", "AmtrakConnectsUS" and Amtrak.com.

Before joining the Amtrak team, she was a government affairs and city representative for transit, transportation, and municipal clients in Washington, D.C. where she served as a federal policy and planning expert and coordinated local, state, and Federal partnerships.

Her earlier work included public involvement and project design for public entities including: the Anacostia Waterfront; the National Park Service; the Smithsonian; and the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Before venturing into the world of planning and government affairs, she spent more than 10 years in hospitality and tourism including the Skagway Streetcar Company and Holland America Line.

She has an M.A. from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, and a B.S. in Communications from Portland State University. A native Oregonian, she has lived in Alaska, Guatemala, and the Caribbean, and now resides in Washington, D.C. If you don't find her in the office, you might catch her riding the rails with her bike "Mr. Blue."

**BRUCE LIEBERMAN**  
**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**- ANACOSTIA RAIL HOLDINGS**



Bruce A. Lieberman is the Chief Financial Officer of Anacostia Rail Holdings Company. He specializes in railroad finance and risk management. Mr. Lieberman is also non-executive chairman of the New York & Atlantic Railway.

He is a past president of the Railroads of New York and past chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA). Hamilton College (BS); Columbia University (MBA).

**ADAM BAGINSKI**  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF RAIL/TRANSIT SERVICES - ENVISION**  
**CONSULTANTS**



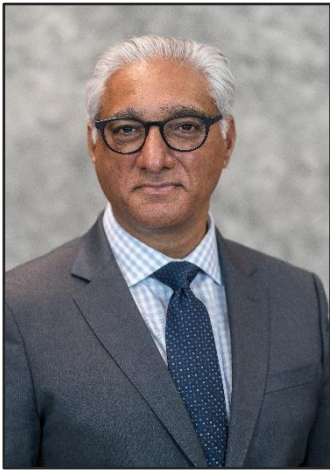
Adam Baginski is Vice President of Rail and Transit Services at Envision Consultants, Ltd. He has more than 13 years of experience in transportation planning, engineering design, project management and project management oversight of major rail infrastructure projects, including highly complex track, structures, communications and signaling work throughout the Northeast and Mid-West.

Mr. Baginski specializes in managing both work planning and processes, developing and managing prudent capital budgets, and ensuring compliance with standards and regulations across multiple agencies and locations.

Mr. Baginski is a registered Professional Engineer and, notably, a certified Locomotive Engineer and Train Conductor. He has an M.S. in Transportation Management from the University of Denver Transportation & Supply Chain Institute and a B.E. in Civil Engineering from McGill University. He also has a Railway Management certificate from Michigan State University and is a member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association.

## **KRIS KOLLURI**

### **PRESIDENT & CEO – NJ TRANSIT**



NJ TRANSIT President & CEO Kris Kolluri was appointed to lead the agency effective January 16, 2025. Mr. Kolluri is responsible for the nation's largest statewide public transportation system with more than 11,000 employees providing more than 944,000 weekday trips on over 250 bus routes, three light rail lines, 12 commuter rail lines and through the agency's Access Link paratransit service.

Prior to his appointment, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Gateway Development Commission, a bi-state entity overseeing the \$16.1 billion Hudson Tunnel Project, the nation's largest and most urgent infrastructure project. In two years, he transformed the organization from a start-up to one that received the largest investment the federal government has ever made in any mass transit project, closed on the largest Railroad & Rehabilitation Improvement Program loan package in United States history, and initiated construction of the first set of heavy rail tunnels under the Hudson River in over one hundred and fourteen years.

Previously, Mr. Kolluri served as President & Chief Executive Officer of Camden Community Partnership, Inc., a community and economic development nonprofit located in Camden, New Jersey. He oversaw an organization focused on designing and implementing outcome-focused and resident-driven programs. Under his leadership and in partnership with the local government, the organization implemented a first mile/last mile transportation solution for residents, an innovative job placement program, a once-in-a-generation street improvement program, the development and rehabilitation of six waterfront and neighborhood parks, and a large-scale COVID vaccine site.

He also previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the Rowan University/Rutgers - Camden Board of Governors. During his tenure, he oversaw the development of the first of its kind multi-institutional research and teaching facility and implemented the Medical Assistants Training Program and the Alzheimer's Patient Navigator Program, which were a pathway to serve a community health need and create jobs for residents.

He was the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, where he oversaw the state's \$5.3 billion school construction program, focused primarily on socio-economically disadvantaged communities. He was also Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, where he led the effort to increase investment in mass transit and served as Board Chair of NJ TRANSIT and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and South Jersey Transportation Authority Commissioner, overseeing seventeen thousand employees.

Prior to his work in the infrastructure and social equity space, Mr. Kolluri worked as a staff member in the United States Congress for over a decade, eventually becoming a senior policy advisor to House Democratic Leader Richard A.

Gephardt. In that capacity, he assisted freshman members of Congress in developing long-term policy initiatives.

Mr. Kolluri has a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University. He was an adjunct faculty member at Rutgers University Law School (2011 & 2012 academic years). He also served on the Rowan University Board of Trustees, the Southern New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Board, and the New Jersey Board of the Regional Plan Association.

**MICHAEL KNAPP**  
**SUPERVISOR, TRAIN OPERATIONS – NJ TRANSIT**



Michael Knapp is a transportation operations professional with over 30 years of experience in the rail industry. He currently works as Director of New York Operations for New Jersey Transit Rail, where he oversees daily passenger train operations over the Northeast Corridor and as a liaison between New Jersey Transit and Amtrak.

Michael comes from a railroad family. His father was a locomotive engineer for Erie Lackawanna, Penn Central, Conrail and finally NJT, and finished his career as Vice President/General Manager of Rail Operations. His Uncle was a conductor for NJT for over 30 years

until retirement.

Michael started his career with NJT as a block operator on the North Jersey Coastline and was then promoted to the Train Dispatcher class in 1996 where he would become cross qualified on all NJT territories. He served as the General Chairman for the local ATDA union representing the Train Dispatchers. Michael was then promoted to Supervisor of Train Operations followed by Senior Manager Train Operations before his recent promotion to Director.

**MARK KIELY**  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER - PORT LIBERTY TERMINALS**



Mark Kiely is a Senior Operations maritime executive with over 20 years of extensive experience in terminal operations. Mr. Kiely began his career with GCT New York in 2003 as Yard Manager. He has held various positions of increasing responsibility since then before being named as Chief Operating Officer for GCT USA in 2022. In this capacity, Mr. Kiely is responsible for overseeing Operations, Maintenance, Operational Excellence and Engineering. He works closely with the President and functional leaders to develop and execute processes that ensure the daily operations of the organization align with overall business objectives and strategy. Mr. Kiely has a reputation for delivering inventive strategies and customer service-based solutions that significantly improve margins.

Additionally, Mark holds close relationships with key port stakeholders and has strong relationships with ILA leadership and their members. He is a Trustee for the Metro-ILA Pension/Benefits Funds and serves as a member of the NYSA-ILA Seniority Board and the NYSA-ILA Accommodations Committee. He also has served as a member of the SUNY Maritime Industry Advisory Board. Mark began his career in the industry after graduating from SUNY Maritime College with a B.S. in Marine Transportation.

**BOB NIXON**  
**COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE – PORT LIBERTY**  
**TERMINALS**



Bob Nixon, a Senior Maritime Executive with over 35 years of experience in ocean shipping and terminal operations, has commercial responsibility for Port Liberty USA, with a focus on the Beneficial Cargo Owner.

Bob joined Port Liberty in 2001 and has worked in all facets of the operation. He previously held the position of Vice President of Operations for Port Liberty New York, leading a strong management team and a 350-member ILA Union staff, while ensuring a safe and profitable workplace.

Prior to Port Liberty, Bob spent 13 years with Inchcape Shipping Services in various positions on the steamship agency side of the business. Bob is also a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran.