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Welcome to Butte Montana

2023 Annual Conference

August 8th — August 10th



Annual Conference Agenda

August 8th

Welcome Reception - Headframe Spirits, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

August 9

(all meetings at Finlen Hotel)

Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Study Update, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Amit Bose, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); Katie List Community Planner, Passenger Rail Policy and Oversight (FRA); and Frank Loetterle, Intercity Passenger Rail Planner (FRA)

Station Development, 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

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

BSPRA Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker and Lunch, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Karen Hedlund, Vice Chair Surface Transportation Board

Board Responsibilities, 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Western Skies Strategies

Strategic Planning 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dan Clark, MSU Local Government Center

Evening Gala - Front Street Station, 6:00 p.m.

August 10th

Homestake Pass Tour 8 a.m.—10 a.m.

Leave from the Finlen Hotel

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.

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



Chase Kitchen, Amtrak Government Affairs Manager



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.

Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Study Update Speaker

FRA Administrator Amit Bose



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.



Big Sky Passenger Rail 2022-2023 Business & Organization Partners



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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
- 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)