



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** August 14, 2013

**In reply refer to:** R-13-25

Mr. Mike Futhey  
President  
United Transportation Union (SMART Union)  
24950 Country Club Boulevard, Suite 340  
North Olmsted, OH 44070

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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the United Transportation Union to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On June 18, 2013, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the June 24, 2012, accident in which two Union Pacific Railroad freight trains collided head-on near Goodwell, Oklahoma.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/RAR-13/02.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB reiterated 2 safety recommendations to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and 1 to the Association of American Railroads; reclassified 3 safety recommendations to the FRA; and issued 16 new recommendations, including 6 to the FRA, 1 to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, 1 to all Class I railroads, 1 to all railroads subject to the positive train control provisions of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, 6 to the Union Pacific Railroad, and the following recommendation to the United Transportation Union:

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see *Head-On Collision of Two Union Pacific Railroad Freight Trains Near Goodwell, Oklahoma, June 24, 2012*, NTSB/RAR-13-02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2013), available online at <http://www.nts.gov>.

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Work with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen to develop and implement a nonpunitive peer audit program focused on rule compliance and operational safety for the Union Pacific Railroad.

This safety recommendation is derived from the NTSB's investigation and is consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Acting Chairman HERSMAN, and Members SUMWALT, HART, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. To avoid confusion, please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

Original Signed

By: Deborah A.P. Hersman,  
Chairman