



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: October 22, 2014

In reply refer to: R-14-52

Mr. Edward R. Hamberger
President and Chief Executive Officer
Association of American Railroads
425 Third St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Mr. Richard F. Timmons
President
American Short Line and Regional
Railroad Association
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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 Association of American Railroads and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On October 8, 2014, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the May 28, 2013, accident in which a Mack Granite three-axle roll-off straight truck carrying a load of debris to a recycling center was struck by a freight train at a highway–railroad grade crossing in Rosedale, Maryland.¹ 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, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/HAR-14/02.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued 12 new recommendations—to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); the Federal Railroad Administration; the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the National Fire

¹ See *Highway–Railroad Grade Crossing Collision, Rosedale, Maryland, May 28, 2013*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-14/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2014).

Protection Association, and CSX Transportation Company—including the following recommendation to the Association of American Railroads and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association:

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Develop and disseminate to your members a model program for railroads to (1) evaluate the safety of private highway–railroad grade crossings in their territories, including identifying visibility obstructions and other factors that increase the risk of grade crossing collisions; and (2) work with landowners and communities to mitigate that risk.

The NTSB also reiterated two previously issued recommendations to the FMCSA and reclassified two previously issued recommendations to the US Department of Transportation.

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 HART and Members SUMWALT, 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. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart
Acting Chairman