EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fatigue Risk Management Conference: Scientific Panel II

May 11-13, 2010, Omaha, Nebraska

The aim of the conference was to assist participants in developing alertness management programs that reflect the latest scientific findings, industry best practices and the recommendations of the Rail Safety Improvement Act – 2008 (RSIA). Stakeholders also had the opportunity to influence the scientific community regarding the practical application of research findings and overall theoretical needs of the industry. The conference also expanded the scope of alertness management projects in light of research that suggest correlations between fatigue and other health-related issues and the broader cultural needs of the industry.

The major work of the conference occurred in breakout sessions chaired by the scientific panel members and made up of stakeholders from management, labor and regulators. The major topics, and analysis, from the three breakouts sessions are appended hereto as attachment A. The final breakout session focused on the take home messages of “what do we do next?” The five major participant outcome questions were:

How Can We

1. Create a collaborative ‘standards’ group to translate current scientific knowledge into a useful FRMS framework, toolkits and evaluation criteria for the industry?

2. Develop a collaborative research program to ensure real world sleep/wake data informs the modeling software used by the rail industry?

3. Ensure the optimum level of predictability for work schedules in the rail industry?

4. Develop appropriate FRMS training and education programs for regulators, managers and employees?

5. Develop a ‘just culture’ framework for introducing personal accountability for non-work related fatigue?

The next major initiative is to develop a mechanism to begin implementation of the above recommendations. This mechanism would include specific goals and deadlines to address the major themes developed at the conference including the above questions. To accomplish this, the next major initiative will require specific tasks, ‘deliverables’, timelines, outcomes and clearly defined roles. Each major stakeholder group will have specific roles and responsibilities. It is likely that a facilitator role will be necessary to coordinate the initiative and ensure coordination of deliverables provided by the various stakeholder groups.

Finally, the conference clearly demonstrated the leadership and maturity of the railroad industry in the management of fatigue-related risk. This has been an evolutionary process over the past decade, fueled by the collaboration and professionalism of the stakeholders that has led to the industry’s current leadership role and the potential for setting the future standards for managing fatigue in transportation.