

Members

Sen. Ron Alting, Chairperson
Sen. Robert Jackman
Sen. Rose Ann Antich
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Rep. Dan Stevenson
Rep. Claire Leuck
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. John Ulmer



RAIL CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 14, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Ron Alting, Chairperson; Sen. Robert Jackman; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. Claire Leuck.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Rep. Robert Alderman; Rep. John Ulmer.

Sen. Alting called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m, and introduced the members of the Committee.

I. Operation Lifesaver

Sen. Alting recognized Tom Kinser from Operation Lifesaver Indiana. Mr. Kinser described the Operation Lifesaver organization and provided an overview of the goals of the organization. Mr. Kinser explained that Operation Lifesaver uses a philosophy of three "E's", which are "engineering", "education", and "enforcement". Mr. Kinser discussed the information contained in the "Look Listen & Live" handout (designated "Exhibit A").

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Mr. Kinser discussed train whistles and whistle bans, including the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed ban on whistle prohibition ordinances. Mr. Kinser discussed Operation Lifesaver Indiana's budget versus the budget of Operation Lifesaver organizations in other states. Mr. Kinser reported that Operation Lifesaver Indiana has a budget of \$10,000, while Operation Lifesaver Illinois has a \$2 million dollar budget.

Rep. Stevenson asked if \$10,000 was the total budget. Mr. Kinser replied that it was the total budget, and that \$5,000 of that total went toward participation in the state fair. The Committee discussed the Operation Lifesaver Illinois sponsorship of a race car. Mr. Kinser explained the importance of media cooperation. Mr. Kinser then turned to the need for Operation Lifesaver volunteers, and the importance of education about the dangers of railroad crossings.

Rep. Leuck asked about the effectiveness in rural areas of stop signs as compared to automated warning signals. Mr. Kinser explained the impact of a stop sign and the problems of motorists driving around warning gates. Mr. Kinser discussed the need for maintenance and upgrades on existing passive and active warning signals.

Rep. Leuck asked about the responsibility for placing stop signs at rural railroad crossings. Mr. Kinser noted that it is the responsibility of local government.

Sen. Alting recognized Mr. Steve Hull, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), who asked to speak on the question. Mr. Hull identified himself both as being from INDOT and as an Operation Lifesaver volunteer. Mr. Hull noted that to place a stop sign at a crossing an engineering study must be completed, and a local ordinance must be adopted. Mr. Hull emphasized the low cost of a stop sign compared to the reduction in collisions which the stop sign would cause.

II. Shortline railroads and prior information request

Sen. Alting recognized Ron Thomas, INDOT, who distributed information (marked "Exhibit B") concerning the definition of shortline railroads requested by the Committee at the previous meeting. The Committee discussed the differences in shortline railroads versus other types of railroads. The Committee discussed the Industrial Rail Service Fund. Kathy Noland, INDOT, distributed a document (marked "Exhibit C") answering questions the Committee asked at a prior meeting.

III. Other business and next meeting

Sen. Alting called for other business of the Committee, but heard none. Sen. Alting then discussed the next meeting of the Committee, and decided the next meeting would be Wednesday October 18, 2000, in Lafayette, Indiana. Sen. Alting announced that the meeting details would be determined later.

Sen. Alting adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.