

AASHTO Efforts on Addressing Rail – Highway Grade Crossings

Shayne Gill

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AASHTO Leadership

Officers



Russell McMurry, P.E.

President; Commissioner, Georgia DOT



Marc D. Williams, P.E.

Vice President; Executive Director, Texas DOT



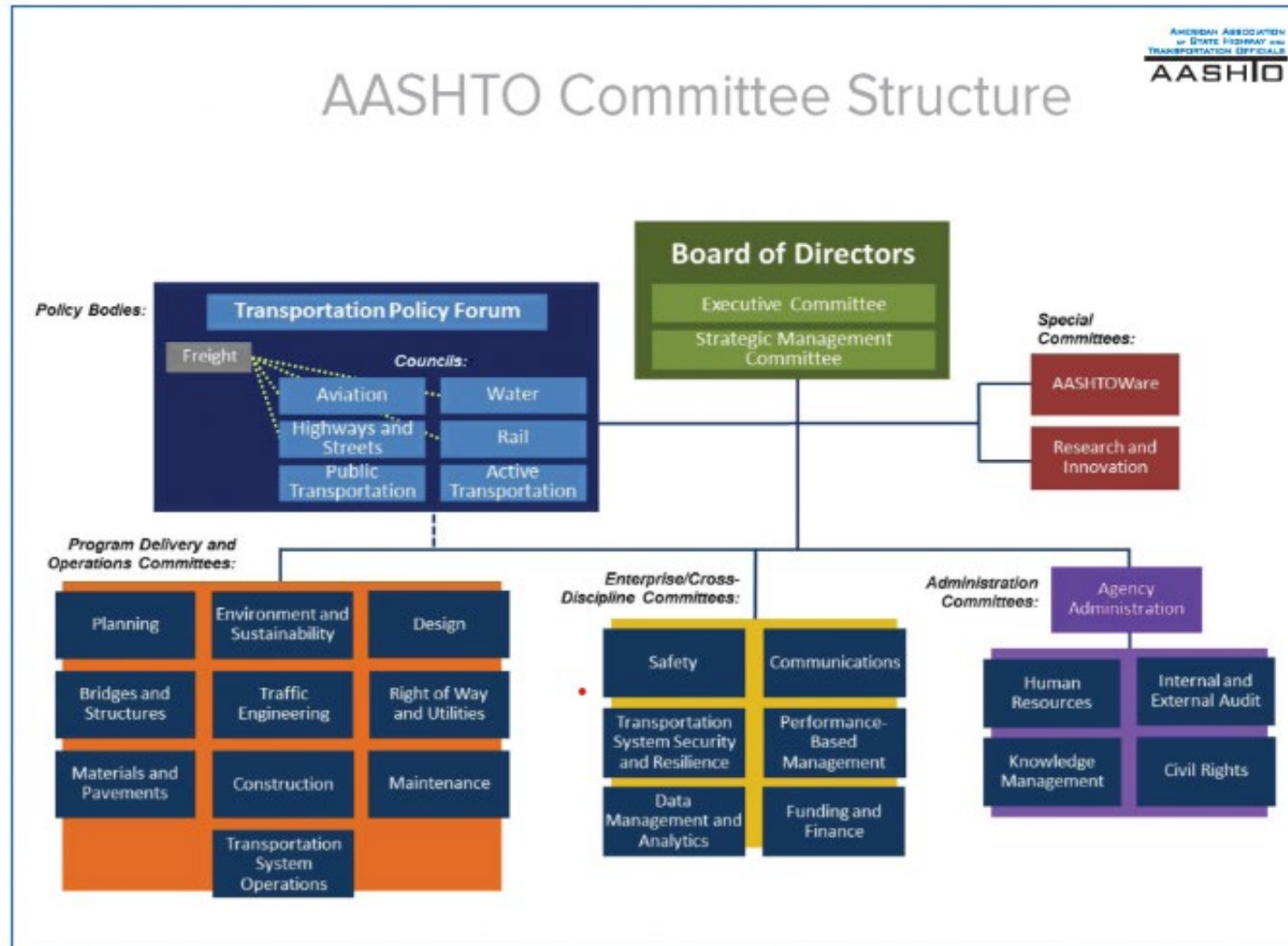
Justin Powell

Treasurer; Secretary, South Carolina DOT



Garrett Eucalitto

Immediate Past President; Commissioner,
Connecticut DOT



AASHTO CORT Meetings – Recent Topics

CORT Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, October 2025

Keynote Presentation: Federal Railroad Administration

- David Fink, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration

Federal Railroad Administration Office of Railroad Development

- Paul Nissenbaum, James Garland, and Amanda Ciampolillo

Centering on Rail Safety

- Allan Rutter, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; Daniel Sabatka, CPKC; Debra Chappell, FRA; James Dahlem, FRA; and Alex Schroeder, Missouri DOT

Spotlight Session: Rail Crossing Information Systems

- Daniel Fetahovic, Florida DOT; Garreth Rempel, Trainfo; Rich Scott, BNSF Railway

AASHTO CORT Meetings – Recent Topics

CORT Winter Legislative Meeting, Arlington, VA, 2026

Keynote Presentation: Federal Railroad Administration

- FRA Deputy Administrator Drew Feeley

Federal Railroad Administration Updates: Key Perspectives on Innovation

- Paul Nissenbaum, Mike Longley, Pam DiGiovanni, Katie Vandewater, Marlys Osterhues, Stephanie Perez-Arrieta, and Justin Zweifel

Keynote Presentation: Surface Transportation Board

- Karen J. Hedlund, Member, STB

Congressional Staff Panel: Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Rail Legislation

- U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Minority Staff
- Office of Rep. Nellie Pou (D-NJ), Legislative Staff

AASHTO Support for Federal Highway Administration's Community of Interest

-AASHTO members regularly participate in the FHWA's Community of Interest (COI) on railroad coordination for various project delivery and maintenance issues, among other topics.

-CORT has hosted FHWA to speak about the COI at our Annual Meeting, providing an opportunity for FHWA, State DOTs and Railroads to talk about key issues. Most recently, this included our Annual Meetings in Minneapolis, MN (2025), Norfolk, VA (2024), and San Diego, CA (2023).

-AASHTO members and staff participated in the March 2025 COI in person in Jacksonville, FL, and the April 2026 Virtual COI Meeting.

Regional State DOT–Class I Railroad Coordination Focus Group

- AASHTO is partnering with the class I railroads through the Association of American Railroads (AAR) to address the top issues identified by the State DOTs concerning railroad coordination.
- AASHTO and AAR are organizing efforts for their members to collaborate on these key issues. We are working on a regional basis with key states and Class I railroads in these locations.
- Top issues include flagging, right of entry processes, and other key issues affecting project delivery, maintenance work, and bridge inspections.
- We are exploring ways for our work with AAR to complement FHWA's efforts.

AASHTO Rail Management Center Webinar Series

“New Practices in Section 130 Grade Crossing Projects,” October 16, 2025

- Speakers: Troy Creasy, North Carolina DOT and Greg Breaston, G&W Railroad Services
- 115 attendees

“High Incident Crossings,” December 16, 2025

- Speakers: Julie Witcher, Minnesota DOT; Tim Brown, Ohio Rail Development Commission; Jason Mobley, Georgia DOT; and Rich Scott, PE, BNSF
- 74 attendees

“Construction and Maintenance Agreements,” February 17, 2026

- Speakers: Julie Johnston, Federal Highway Administration and Kris Foondle, Michigan Department of Transportation
- 66 attendees

Stay Tuned! AASHTO is planning its fourth and final installment of this series for April, which will address key topics in passenger rail.

NCHRP Reports – AASHTO Support for Research on Rail Crossings

-CORT Members support national research projects through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, a research program supported by State DOTs through the Transportation Research Board at the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

-Recent research includes NCHRP Research Report 1163: Assessing Safety Effectiveness of Treatments and Technologies at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



CORT 2026

ANNUAL MEETING