SOUTH DAKOTA STATE RAILROAD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 19 2026 at 11:03 a.m. CT

Becker-Hansen Building/Commission Room – 700 East Broadway Avenue, Pierre, SD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Burket, Chairman
Jack Nelson, Vice-chairman
Scott Lockwood
Steve Scharnweber
Greg Carmon

MEMBER PRESENT VIA COFERENCE CALL: Ralph Schmidt

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, Rocky Matson and Kari Kroll

DOT STAFF PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Paul Coppock and Misty Siedschlaw

OTHERS PRESENT: Shellee Currier – WATCO and Bob Mercer – KELOland Media

OTHERS PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Mark Trottier – Dakota Missouri Valley & Eastern (DMVW) and Dick Huff

Chairman Jeff Burket called the meeting of the South Dakota State Railroad Board (the "Board") to order at 11:03 a.m. CT. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was determined.

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Burket opened the floor to the Board members to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waiver pursuant to the South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) chapter 3 – 23.

No members disclosed any conflicts of interest, and no waivers were requested.

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Burket asked for a motion to approve the March 18, 2026, Board meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Carmon and seconded by Nelson to approve the March 18, 2026, Board meeting minutes. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

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Burket opened the floor to public input.

No members of the public addressed the Board or offered input.

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Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, presented for Board consideration a request to amend the legal services agreement with Slover and Loftus, LLP to increase the maximum amount that may be expended by the Department of Transportation (the "Department") by $25,000. She generally described the additional work that has required the assistance of this law firm.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Carmon and seconded by Lockwood to authorize the Department Secretary, or his designee, to execute all documents necessary to amend the agreement to increase the maximum amount that may be expended by the Department of Transportation by $25,000. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

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Next, Engle explained that a 2025 law requires the Board to annually acknowledge review of materials provided by the Attorney General concerning open meetings laws. She pointed out that the updated 2026 Open Meeting brochure authored by the Attorney General had been provided to the Board as Attachment #2 for the Board's review.

All Board members acknowledged reviewing these open meeting materials by roll call.

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Secretary Jundt presented to the Board the following items in his Secretary's Report:

- **Federal Update:** The current surface transportation highway bill expires September 30, 2026. The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has passed a bill but the Senate has yet to act on this legislation. Knowing that both houses were not going to pass a long-term surface transportation bill before the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expired, last week the Senate passed an extension of IIJA that will apply through December 11. As part of this action, the Senate also passed a continuing resolution for appropriations to fund the federal government. When the House comes back from recess, it is expected that the House will also pass the extension for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act IIJA and the Continuing Resolution for appropriations.
- **Special Transportation Circumstance (STC) Grants:** The Department is anticipating that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will announce the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for STC funds before the end of the calendar year.
- **Sale of Wolsey Interchange and Yale Line:** The Surface Transportation Board (STB) approved the sale of the Wolsey Interchange and Yale line to Rapid City Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCPE). The decision will take effect September 5, 2026. The deadline for execution and exchange of all the documents related to the sale is October 5, 2026.
- **Napa-Platte Feasibility Study:** The consultant has been named for the feasibility study of the Napa-Platte rail line, as part of the development of the State Rail Plan. The process is moving forward, and a report is expected in February 2027.

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Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail & Transit, presented for the Board's information the results of the 2026 observation tours.

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Dokken then presented for the Board's information updates on current railroad projects and grants.

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With no further business to come before the Board, Burket declared the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m. CT