



## **BNSF Railway, ATDA and FRA reach C<sup>3</sup>RS safety agreement**

**FORT WORTH, Texas, April 25, 2024** – BNSF Railway (BNSF) and The American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA), along with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), have reached a landmark agreement to participate in a one-year pilot program of the FRA’s Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C<sup>3</sup>RS).

As part of the C<sup>3</sup>RS pilot program, the approximately 650 BNSF train dispatchers represented by ATDA can report unsafe events confidentially while being protected from BNSF disciplinary action and FRA enforcement.

“BNSF is committed to improving safety on our railroad and is proud to have reached an agreement to voluntarily participate with ATDA in C<sup>3</sup>RS,” said BNSF President & CEO Katie Farmer. “We hope this program will further empower our employees to provide confidential feedback on critical safety issues in an actionable, timely manner. We look forward to working with the FRA and ATDA on this positive step forward.”

“The adoption of the C<sup>3</sup>RS at BNSF marks a pivotal moment for rail safety,” said ATDA President Ed Dowell. “As a program focused on proactive safety measures, it will serve as the new standard for reporting, understanding, and preventing rail incidents. Furthermore, this would not have been possible without the BNSF’s willingness to be the first Class I railroad to reach a C<sup>3</sup>RS agreement with ATDA. The ATDA is proud to be the first organization to reach C<sup>3</sup>RS agreement with BNSF.”

C<sup>3</sup>RS is an FRA-sponsored program that improves railroad safety through a confidential and non-punitive reporting process. FRA has partnered with NASA to operate C<sup>3</sup>RS as an independent third-party. The program will permit train dispatchers to confidentially report close call events (which include unsafe practices, behaviors, or situations that cause railroad safety concerns) and details of those events to NASA through a secure website or a written form. NASA will de-identify the reports and share them with a Peer Review Team (PRT), which is composed of representatives from the ATDA, BNSF, and FRA. The PRT will then review the reports and develop recommended corrective actions that can help improve railroad safety.

“The Federal Railroad Administration is pleased that ATDA and BNSF came together to join C<sup>3</sup>RS, a vital safety program, and we are confident that providing opportunities for dispatchers to share their experiences will have real results on rail safety,” said FRA Administrator Amit Bose. “Rail workers have experience and expertise that are vitally important, and hearing from them can lead to proactive safety measures. The C<sup>3</sup>RS program is a proven, long-standing avenue to achieve just this, and that’s why USDOT and FRA have been working so hard to secure Class I freight railroad participation in the C<sup>3</sup>RS program.”

**About BNSF Railway**

BNSF Railway is one of North America's leading freight transportation companies. BNSF operates approximately 32,500 route miles of track in 28 states and also operates in three Canadian provinces. BNSF is one of the top transporters of consumer goods, grain and agricultural products, low-sulfur coal, and industrial goods such as petroleum, chemicals, housing materials, food and beverages. BNSF's shipments help feed, clothe, supply, and power American homes and businesses every day. BNSF and its employees have developed one of the most technologically advanced, and efficient railroads in the industry. We work continuously to improve the value of the safety, service, energy, and environmental benefits we provide to our customers and the communities we serve. You can learn more about BNSF at [www.BNSF.com](http://www.BNSF.com).

**About the American Train Dispatchers Association**

The American Train Dispatchers Association is an AFL-CIO-affiliated craft union representing members on Class 1, Commuter, Passenger, and Shortline Railroads who safely and efficiently control trains and on-track equipment, as well as protect signalmen, maintenance of way employees, and other on track workers. Additionally, the ATDA represents bridge operators, clerks, conductors, engineers, load dispatchers, maintenance of way, power directors, power supervisors, and yardmasters. The Organization is headquartered in Cleveland, OH. You can learn more about ATDA at [www.ATDA.org](http://www.ATDA.org).