



Federal Railroad
Administration

April 18, 2003

TO: RSAC Members and Alternates

Reminder: The next meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2003. The meeting location will be the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW (at Massachusetts Avenue and 14th Street), Washington, D.C. 20005, Phone 202-842-1300. An agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Action Plan: In the conference report accompanying FRA's fiscal year 2003 appropriations bill, the Senate directed the Secretary of Transportation to submit with the Department's fiscal year 2005 budget request an action plan outlining specific efforts the Department will pursue to improve safety at public and private highway-rail grade crossings. With FRA designated as the lead Agency, this effort will include the related DOT agencies, as well as our industry, labor, and local jurisdiction partners, and others with an interest in grade crossing safety.

We would like to encourage your organization to take an active part in the development and implementation of this *Action Plan*. We hope that you will contribute to this document as part of the meeting of the RSAC on May 20.

If you are interested in contributing, please prepare a summary of those ideas and suggestions that are important to your organization, and come to the meeting prepared to discuss how your issues might best be integrated into an overall departmental *Action Plan*. Since this plan will be a companion document to the Department's fiscal year 2005 budget submittal, we must have it completed by December 2003.

In addition, we have created a web page for the Action Plan development effort, where you may review the previous Action Plan, and also submit comments and ideas electronically. The address is:

http://www.fra.dot.gov/safety/action_plan/index.htm

Other Items: We are preparing a proposed task on refinement and supplementation of passenger safety standards for consideration at the meeting on May 20. We will circulate a draft of the task statement in a subsequent communication.

Along with the agenda, the following documents are included in this advance mailing of the handouts:

- S Organizational Membership List
- S Membership List
- S Regulatory Overview
- S Draft Minutes of the September 19, 2002, RSAC meeting (Please provide edits/comments to me by May 9, 2003.)
- S March 17, 2003, letter to the National Transportation Safety Board on crewmember fatigue
- S Article *Effects of hot and cold temperature exposure on performance: a meta-analytic review*
- S Various Federal Register Notices

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Enclosures