



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Railroad Advisory Board

Thursday, August 14, 2025

8:00 AM

Regular

701 E Broadway

Columbia, MO

Conference Room 1C

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Wilke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Staff: Erin Keys, Utilities Director; Sarah Talbert, Assistant Utilities Director; Shane Riley, Railroad Operations Manager; Matt Sabath, Railroad Operations; James Day, Railroad Operations; Terri Clark, Sr. Administrative Support Assistant; Jason West, Utilities Division;

Consultant: Tina Worley, Marketing Consultant

Guest: Terry Bodine, Hallsville resident; Mike Murphey, COMO Buz; Ted Curtis, City Public Works

Present: 6 - Gregory Eiffert, Marty Paten, John Wilke, Blair Hendrickson, Zach Sandner and Randal Meyer

Absent: 1 - Scott Harness

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There was a round robin for introductions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Wilke asked the Board to approve amending the agenda to include a discussion under the Chairman's Reports, regarding a previous tour of the Transload Facility by the County Commissioners on July 30, 2025.

Mr. Zach Sandner made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted with a second by Mr. Randall Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 08, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with a motion by Mr. Greg Eiffert and a second by Mr. Marty Paten. Motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Draft 050825](#)

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS as available

Sarah Talbert noted that the financial reports are only through June 30, 2025. The Railroad Dept. is holding steady, but expenses are up due to personnel, signal and locomotive maintenance. Discussions and comments regarding how and where to bring in extra funds for the Railroad dept. are ongoing, and will be continued at the next meeting. Transload investment revenue is up and cash has also increased.

Attachments: [Railroad Utility Financial Statements](#)
[Transload Utility Financial Statements](#)

VI. DISCUSS RAIL BANKING SOUTH END OF RAILROAD - MR. CURTIS

Mr. Ted Curtis with City of Columbia Public Works Dept., spoke about creating interim trail use for the rail corridor extending from Brown Station Rd., south, to Rogers St. The proposal he presented would entail using “Railbanking”. Railbanking is the practice of preserving rail corridors for possible future use. Railbanking leaves the railroad, railbed, bridges or bridge corridor, and other infrastructure intact while either using the corridor for other purposes, or not using it at all. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Wilke made the decision to add this topic to the next meeting agenda, and invited Mr. Curtis to return, so that the board could visit more in depth and the railroad can get more information to answer questions.

VII. TRAFFIC REPORTS

Traffic, as well as storage cars has doubled since this same time last year. Mr. Shane Riley predicts that this will stay consistent into the future as the traffic is contract bound.

Attachments: [COLT Traffic Report FY 2025 - \(July 2025\)](#)
[FY End Totals of COLT Traffic - \(July 2025\)](#)
[COLT YTD Comparisons - \(July 2025\)](#)

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

In an effort to promote and bring awareness to the COLT Transload/Railroad facility, the board requested that Tina Worley extend an invitation to the current Boone County Commissioners and to the City of Columbia Mayor. The County Commissioners arranged a tour of the COLT Transload facility on July 30, 2025 and took a ride on the locomotive. Mr. Kip Kendrick, Presiding Commissioner; Mr. Justin Aldred, Southern District Commissioner; Ms. Janet Thompson, Northern District Commissioner all rode to Centralia MO. Commissioners were able to witness COLT railroad operations and staff at work. COLT staff identified current customers and highlighted potential economic development opportunities along the corridor. The Commissioners were also provided a copy of the 2023 University of

Missouri Extension's Economic Impact Study. This visit expressed the enterprise value and future economic development potential for the City of Columbia and Boone County. Future date for the City of Columbia Mayor and members of the City Council are pending the coordination of schedules.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Matt Sabath mentioned "Meet the COLT" in Centralia, MO on August 27, 2025 sponsored by the Centralia Unified School System. The locomotive will be parked near the school to allow the school children and community to receive valuable rail safety information, look at the locomotive and ask questions. The event is co-sponsored by the Missouri Operation Lifesaver Program and is aimed at promoting railroad safety to the community.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

November 13, 2025 Room 1C

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. with a motion by Mr. Marty Paten and a second by Mr. Blair Hendrickson. Motion passed unanimously.

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