



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Railroad Advisory Board

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Wednesday, December 17, 2025  
8:00 AM

Regular

701 E Broadway  
Columbia, MO  
Conference Room 4A

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Wilke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

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

Consultant: Tina Worley, Marketing Consultant

Guests: Paul Eisenstein, Director Economic Development, Bernie Andrews, Assistant Director Economic Development;

**Present:** 5 - John Wilke, Blair Hendrickson, Scott Harness, Zach Sandner and Randal Meyer

**Absent:** 2 - Gregory Eiffert and Marty Paten

#### II. INTRODUCTIONS

There was a round robin for introductions.

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Blair Hendrickson made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted with a second by Mr. Scott Harness. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 14, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with a motion by Mr. Randal Meyer and a second by Mr. Scott Harness. Motion passed unanimously.

**Attachments:** [Meeting Minutes Draft 08 14 25](#)

#### V. FINANCIAL REPORTS as available

Ms. Talbert explained that Railroad operating revenue and expenses are higher than same time last year. Transload operating revenue and expenses were also up for FY2025 mostly due to a change in budgeting for current personnel.

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

## VI. REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Ms. Erin Keys reported that she has been working with Economic Development regarding bringing more awareness to the COLT RR, and what that might look like as far as coordinating with businesses along the existing rail corridor. Mr. Bernie Andrews Director of Economic Development spoke briefly about how COLT Railroad is really being under-utilized, and truly is a great asset to our city.

**Mr. John Wilke suggested a motion to convey the Board's support for the "Request for Expressions of Interest". Mr. Scott Harness made the motion and Randal Meyer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Attachments:** COLT Memo - Request for Expressions of Interest

## VII. TRAFFIC REPORTS

Mr. Riley reported that traffic has doubled since this time last year. He also stated he doesn't see this going down in the future. Mr. Zach Sandner questioned getting cars to the old Mid City facility past Vandiver. Mr. Riley said he would check into that for him.

**Attachments:** [COLT Traffic Report FY 2025 - \(FULL Year\)](#)  
[COLT Traffic Report FY 2026 - \(Nov. 2025\)](#)  
[COLT YTD Comparisons - \(Nov. 2025\)](#)  
[FY End Totals of COLT Traffic - \(Nov. 2025\)](#)

## VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Ms. Erin Keys congratulated the COLT Railroad team for their continued hard work, and for acquiring the American Short Line Railroad Association's Jake Award again this year. The Jake Award is presented to railroads for achieving a perfect safety record with no injuries reported. The COLT Railroad has won this award for 26 years in a row. CONGRATULATIONS COLT!!! Ms. Keys also mentioned that Sarah Talbert will be retiring as the Assistant Utilities Director in January 2026 after 27 years with the City. Sarah will be missed by many.

**Attachments:** Columbia Terminal Jake Award 2023  
Columbia Terminal Jake Award 2024

## IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

Mr. Wilke reported on the VIP tours provided by COLT staff at the Railroad/Transload facility. The purpose of the tours is to bring more awareness of the COLT Railroad. The tours have been well received by numerous County and City

Officials, with more planned in the future.

Mr. Wilke also spoke briefly about the recent request for merger between the NS - UP to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Mr. Wilke suggested that the City might want to consider intervening and filing a letter to the STB which would request access to the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Southern Railroad (CPKC). As a handling line for the Norfolk Southern the COLT Railroad is captive to the NS. The stated intent of the UP-NS merger is to create efficiencies and to increase competition. Mr. Wilke is asking the City to file an objection of intervention to the STB for trackage rights to the CPKC to ensure that freight rail customers have access to competitive, efficient and reliable rail service.

#### **X.. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

None.

#### **XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

March 12, 2026

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. with a motion by Mr. Zach Sandner and a second by Mr. Randal Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email [CITY@CoMo.gov](mailto:CITY@CoMo.gov). In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

**USB DRIVES PROHIBITED:** A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit [CoMo.gov/upload](http://CoMo.gov/upload).