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*Today's Signal is about a **2 minute read***



Food Logistics Editors Talk Railroad Trends with AAR's Luisa Fernandez-Willey

Last Wednesday, Luisa Fernandez-Willey, AAR AVP of Policy & Economics, joined "Link L.I.V.E." to discuss rail trends, impacts from supply chain disruptions, opportunities for 2021 and more.

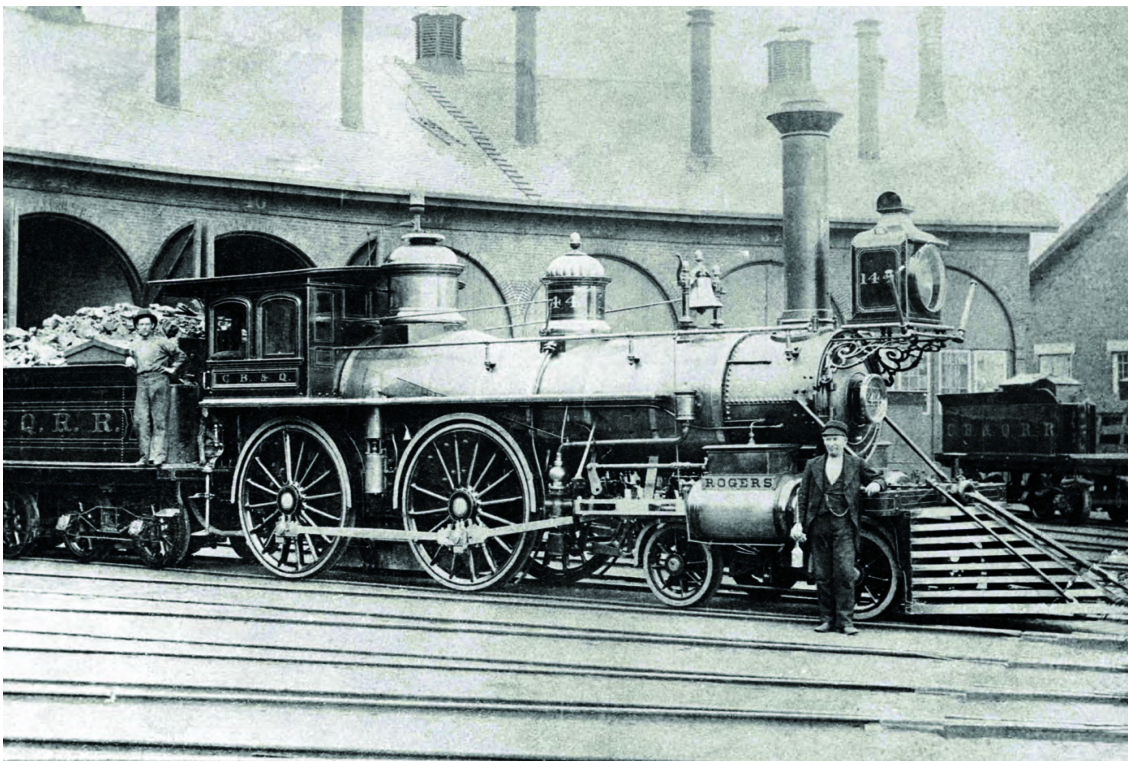
"The Class I railroads indicated a sense of optimism for 2021, at least for the second half of the year," [said Fernandez-Willey](#). "They are still a little cautious about the first quarter, due to the lockdowns currently in place across several different states where they operate. The fortunes of the railroad industry rise and fall with the U.S. economy"

If You Only Read One Thing Today...

Virginia Mercury took a look at the effect crew size legislation could have on the future of American rail, the economy and our climate. "Pushing forth undue crew size requirements would only hinder the ability for trains to be more competitive and would result in more goods being transported by trucks and thus higher carbon emissions," [said AAR AVP of Communications Ted Greener](#). "That doesn't square with our long-term climate goals or having a competitive rail sector."

FedScoop Radio: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Railroad Industry

AAR CEO Ian Jefferies recently joined the "Gov Actually" podcast to describe why the nation's railroad system plays a backbone-like role in its economic success, how regulations affect the industry and how it's been impacted during COVID-19. "In the past 150 years of the United States and the industrial development of the United States, freight rail was an integral part of that process," [Jefferies said](#). "When you look at the cross section of what makes up our economic performance...It's really a cross section of our economy."



From its beginnings as a small line connecting Chicago to its suburbs to one of the leading freight railroads in the U.S., [FreightWaves explores](#) the railroad's growth and expansion over the previous 170 years.

Top Industry Reads

New York Times

[For Buttigieg, 'Generational' Transportation Change May Not Be Easy, Experts Say](#)

Trains

[U.S. Grain Sales to China Spur Record Rail Traffic](#)

Bloomberg Government

[Vehicle Mile Tax Draws Fresh Attention as Buttigieg Takes Post](#)

Transport Topics

[Coal to Exit US Power System by 2033, Morgan Stanley Says](#)

Forbes

[The Most Important Lesson for Buttigieg and the Biden Administrations on Transportation](#) (Opinion)
