

# highlights

OFFICE OF SAFETY NEWS

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SAFETY RESEARCH PLANS EXTENDED...Plans for Fiscal Year 1974 in safety research have been expanded and will receive major emphasis in the coming year. Of the \$13 million requested, safety research programs amount to about 44 percent of the total. The overall objectives for FRA in research efforts include: continued growth in economic activities, employment and productivity without harmful inflation; and assistance in the development and maintenance of a responsive and healthy transportation system.

The FY 1974 program structure is changed somewhat from that of FY 1973 to reflect two important considerations. First, the FY 1974 programs have been realigned to conform to the new organizational structure approved by the Department to permit the FRA to better meet its objectives in the context of a coordinated Department of Transportation program.

Second, the on-going and new programs, are responsive to the long range and critical short range problems of labor and industry. This greater responsiveness to the practical needs of the transportation community is the beginning payoff of prior research investigations intended to establish meaningful requirements.

Program Proposals--FY 1974...The following program proposals highlight the thrust of the FY 1974 research program:

- . Development of a comprehensive Railroad Industry Financial Simulation Model
- . Comprehensive Logistics Analyses for Grain Movements, Ferrous Scrap and Modal Choice
- . National Intermodal Network Feasibility Study
- . Development of Analytical Techniques for Accident Information System
- . Joint FRA-AAR Train-Track Dynamics Research
- . Freight Truck Development
- . Freight Terminal Control
- . Design of a Hazardous Material Tank Car
- . Safety Freight Car Component Failure Detection System
- . Grade Crossing Numbering and Inventory

Program Accomplishments--FY 1973...The major accomplishments in FY 1973 were as follows:

- . Completed study of railroad network reliability
- . Completed demurrage study and recommendations made to industry and shippers
- . Initiated functional cost analysis of railroad roadway maintenance

- . Initiated basic economic analysis of light density lines
- . Accident Information System design ready for implementation. Software system for data compilation will be pilot tested.
- . Fire testing and protective shield testing for hazardous material tank cars
- . Developed standards for hazardous material tank cars
- . Refined track standards
- . Proposed equipment standards
- . Conducting field demonstration of train detection and warning systems for grade crossing.
- . Initiation of feasibility studies begun for railroad relocation at selected sites
- . Initiation of freight terminal information system to improve car utilization

Dollars

FY 1974 REQUEST..... \$13,000,000

The FY 1974 request of \$13,000,000 includes \$5,750,000 for research of safety problems; \$1,530,000 for research to improve freight service; \$1,770,000 directed to improving freight car management; \$3,070,000 for economic research into problems related to the industry structure and \$740,000 for policy, planning and evaluation programs, including Amtrak evaluation.

A summary of the proposed projects is as follows:

#### INDUSTRY STRUCTURE

Railroad Network.....	1,500,000
Cost and Pricing.....	505,000
Commodity Service Analysis.....	505,000
Urban Rail Relocation.....	350,000
Carrier Financial Analysis.....	250,000
Industry Structure Total.....	<u>\$3,110,000</u>

#### FREIGHT CAR MANAGEMENT

Network Reliability.....	200,000
Scheduling and Control.....	1,570,000
Freight Car Management Total.....	<u>\$1,770,000</u>

#### IMPROVED FREIGHT SERVICE

Systems Analysis.....	300,000
Terminal Configuration.....	200,000
Control and Communication.....	280,000
Component Development.....	700,000
Innovative Service.....	50,000
Improved Freight Service Total.....	<u>\$1,530,000</u>

#### SAFETY RESEARCH

Component Failure Prevention.....	1,300,000
Hazardous Material Tank Car.....	800,000
Human Factors.....	1,650,000
Grade Crossings.....	2,000,000
Safety Research Total.....	<u>\$5,750,000</u>

POLICY, PLANNING, EVALUATION..... \$ 740,000

RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT..... \$ 100,000

The Transportation Research Center, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, will conduct \$1.2 million of this research in FY 1974.