

**FRA**

**RAIL**

**PROGRAM DELIVERY WORKSHOP**

JULY 2024 | WASHINGTON, DC

**Engineering Task  
Force Workshop  
Session**

# Panelists – ETF Co-Leads



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# Session Objectives

- Offer an introduction to the FRA Engineering Task Force (ETF) and its activities
- Highlight the ETF's activities and initial observations
- Facilitate dialogue between RRD and its customers on potential improvements to the engineering aspects of project delivery

# What is the ETF?

# Engineering Task Force Overview

## Challenges in the Office of Railroad Development

- Process clarity
- Workload and timeliness
- Agility and currency

## ETF Mission

- Clarify roles in conducting engineering oversight
- Optimize the use of engineering talents and resources
- Update and synchronize business processes to the most current and effective engineering practices

# ETF Progress

- Diverse cohort of experts established April 2024
- Developed Roadmap identifying:
  - Process needs
  - Priority of tasks
  - Expected deliverables
  - Potential contractor activities
- First Roadmap tasks
  - ✓ **1. Definitions:** inventory, inconsistencies, and recommended language
  - ✓ **2. Process Baselineing:** narrative, holistic descriptions, pain points, and needed improvements
  - **3. Benchmarking:** Transfer S&O lessons from across USDOT

# What has the ETF done?

# Preview of Findings

- Confusion on requirements to move from one phase to the next
- Fuzzy distinctions between activities (CE, PE, project development, etc.)
- Guidelines and requirements, but few rubrics/checklists
- “All or nothing” approach to reviews
- When-and-where questions for Track Configuration Change Requests



**We need you!**

# ETF Listening Session & Dialogue

## Prompt Questions

- Use the MS Forms QR code or link below to provide text answers simultaneously



<https://forms.office.com/g/RM0ksndF6N>

## Dialogue Format

- Respond and react to the questions verbally
- Open discussion – all thoughts welcome
- Time limits for each question (so use the poll)
- We will take notes on the flip charts

# Question 1

For what type of agency/organization do you work?



<https://forms.office.com/g/RM0ksndF6N>

## Question 2

How would you describe FRA's *current* role in project engineering oversight?



<https://forms.office.com/g/RM0ksndF6N>

## Question 3

Where do you feel FRA provides the most value in engineering stewardship throughout...



*Project Planning*  
*Project Development*  
*Implementation*

<https://forms.office.com/g/RM0ksndF6N>

## Question 4

How should FRA consider a railroad project higher risk, in terms of *engineering* elements?



<https://forms.office.com/g/RM0ksndF6N>

# Questions 5-6



<https://forms.office.com/g/RM0ksndF6N>

“I wish FRA project engineering spent more time on...”

“...and less time on...”

## For example:

- Operational impacts
- Safety analysis (nominal vs. substantive)
- Consistency with scope, schedule, and budget (project management)
- Network configuration change review
- Track design (i.e, standards)
- Constructability and work zone operation



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**Thank you!**

**FRA Engineering  
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