

## Voluntary Programs Underway

### **Confidential Close Call Reporting (C<sup>3</sup>RS)**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the railroad industry share an interest in improving railroad safety. To that end, FRA is sponsoring the Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS) demonstration project to assess the effectiveness of allowing employees to anonymously report close calls or an unsafe working environment without retribution. Close call reporting represents an opportunity to identify and correct weaknesses in a railroad's safety system prior to an unsafe event. This voluntary and anonymous reporting system captures information that would otherwise remain unknown, and provides railroad carriers and FRA with opportunities to identify and address safety issues. The C3RS pilot program involves multiple stakeholders, two freight railroads and two passenger railroads. The participating railroads include: Union Pacific Railroad, Canadian Pacific Railway, New Jersey Transit, and Amtrak. Two government agencies, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are participating as third parties collecting reports from employees. The Volpe Center is coordinating the implementation of the demonstration project and evaluating the impact of the system on carrier safety. The three major benefits of the C3RS are: (1) it allows risks and unsafe conditions are identified before an accident can occur; (2) it provides a proactive mechanism for risk mitigation; and (3) it encourages the development of a learning safety culture in which employees and managers openly share safety information and learn from their experience.

### **Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Electronic Device Distraction (EDD RSAC)**

The EDD RSAC was assembled by the full Rail Safety Advisory Committee and tasked with prescribing mitigation strategies, programs and processes for governing the use of personal electronic devices which could cause distractions to railroad employees engaged in safety critical activities.

The Working Group has developed awareness and educational material which will be presented by the individual organizations. In addition several railroads have conducted peer to peer coaching programs made up of rail management, rail labor and FRA specialists. These teams have met with rail employees to explain rules, regulations and the underlying reasons for insuring that distractions are eliminated.