

ROBERT T. MCCARTHY

RAIL SAFETY AND OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

Rio Rico, AZ 85648 | (520) 873-7191

rtm8575@gmail.com | [LinkedIn](#)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Strategic leader with 20+ years of progressive experience in rail operations, regulatory compliance, and safety program development. Proven track record of transforming safety cultures, eliminating systemic risk, and aligning organizations with federal regulations while reducing operational costs. Known for cross-functional leadership, union collaboration, and technical expertise in Positive Train Control (PTC), investigations, and system overhauls.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Total Rail, LLC – Los Angeles, CA

Expert Witness, Rail Litigation

2018 - Present

- Provide expert witness services for complex litigation involving PTC design and contractor liability.
- Review contractual scopes and federal requirements to assess risk exposure for rail providers.
- Author and audit FRA program submissions.

Keolis Commuter Services – Boston, MA

Vice President, System Safety, Security & Regulatory Compliance

2016–2018

- Led turnaround of one of the nation's worst safety records into a model system recognized nationally.
- Reduced accident frequency rate from 19.6% to 2.9% in under 12 months by implementing audit metrics, PPE protocols, and employee-driven risk assessments.
- Cut reportable injuries by 81% in one year and achieved zero red signal violations by introducing a pioneering "Safe Harbor" program.
- Averted \$3M+ in FRA fines through compliance overhaul of 49 CFR Part 217.9 protocols.
- Increased EAP participation by 36% through predictive safety modeling and proactive substance testing campaigns.

Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) – Los Angeles, CA

Deputy Chief Operating Officer

2013–2016

- Oversaw daily operations across 512 miles of track and 165 trains, with a \$200M annual operations budget.
- Led the launch of the nation's first Positive Train Control (PTC) system in Revenue Service Demonstration.
- Directed field testing, radio/vehicle integration, and interoperability for four Class I and commuter carriers.
- Transformed Compliance Department into a proactive investigative unit focused on reducing rule violations and optimizing safety protocols.

Federal Railroad Administration (U.S. Department of Transportation)

Operating Practices Investigator

2007–2013

- Lead investigator in several high-profile accidents, including two U.S. Border Patrol fatalities and a major Amtrak derailment.
- Recognized for investigative excellence by both the FRA and NTSB.
- Conducted compliance audits and safety evaluations for Class I railroads across the country.

Union Pacific & Southern Pacific Railroads

Various Leadership Roles in Safety & Operations

- Directed national upgrades for PTC systems and Distributed Power Units (DPUs).
 - Managed operational divisions, safety programs, and technical training for engineers and dispatchers.
 - Specialized in software integrations, electrical systems training, and derailment investigations.
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CORE COMPETENCIES

- Transportation Safety Strategy
 - Risk Mitigation & Regulatory Compliance (FRA, CFR)
 - Positive Train Control (PTC) & Train Energy Management (Cruise Control)
 - Operations Auditing & Safety Analysis
 - Root Cause Analysis (RCA)
 - Labor Relations & Union Negotiation
 - Multi-Million Dollar Budget Oversight
 - Government & Legal Affairs | Expert Witness
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EDUCATION & TRAINING

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Leland Stanford Junior University, Palo Alto, CA

Graduate Coursework

USC Marshall School of Business – Business Accounting

Professional Certifications & Training

- Locomotive Engineer Class I Certified
- DSLE Certified
- NTSB Academy Graduate
- FRA & NTSB Derailment Investigations
- HazMat Technician / Trainer
- Complex Incident Commander – ICS 900 (TEEX)
- Advanced Accident & Traffic Investigation
- Railroad Safety Programs
- Train Dispatcher
- Arizona Ranger - Lieutenant
- PTC Systems On-board and Back Office
- WMD & IED Recognition Training, USDOE