

# Railroads As Change Agents

**Speakers:** Frank N. Wilner and Francis P. Mulvey

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

UTRC presents a Visiting Scholar Seminar with two transportation experts, Frank N. Wilner; an economist and a journalist and Francis P. Mulvey; the Board Member at the Surface Transportation Board (STB). They both will share their perception on the American railroad industry with a deep insight into Wilner's latest book, "Amtrak: Past, Present, Future".

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### Frank N. Wilner



Frank, an economist and journalist who has written six books on railroad economics, labor relations and public policy, will discuss his latest book, "Amtrak: Past, Present, Future," published by Simmons-Boardman Books of Omaha, Neb.

Wilner will discuss the book in the context of how railroads have been a change agent in American public policy, being the first industry subject to economic, safety and labor relations regulation, the first subject to injured-worker compensation, and the first required to provide retirement pension plan predating Social Security. The reasons for creation of Amtrak will be examined, as well as the public policy fights that have bedeviled Amtrak and its yearly begging treks to Capitol Hill to keep its passenger trains operating.

Wilner also will discuss the little-known matter of Amtrak's common stock, which is held by an insurance conglomerate, Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, and how the common stock ownership may prevent privatization of Amtrak and its Northeast Corridor that connects Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York and Boston. He also will review some of the dreadful marketing/finance decisions of Amtrak and what he calls the "dreadful" decisions of the Obama administration with regard to creating higher- and high-speed rail in the United States.

Railway Age magazine once described Wilner as perhaps the only person who has interacted with railroads from myriad perspectives – as a railroad officer, a White House appointed regulator, a journalist and rail-union official. Wilner also is the author of "Understanding the Railway Labor Act," and "Railroad Mergers: History, Analysis, Insight."

### Francis P. Mulvey



Dr. Mulvey is a Board Member at the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the federal agency charged with economic regulation of the railroad industry. Dr. Mulvey was appointed to the STB in 2004 by President George W. Bush and is now serving his second term. At the time of his appointment, Dr. Mulvey was Staff Director for the Railroad Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he was responsible for all railroad legislative matters for the Ranking Democratic Member of the Committee and served as an advisor to the Ranking Member on overall transportation policy issues. Prior positions include Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Rail, Transit, and Special Programs, U.S. Dept. of Transportation; Assistant Director for Competition, Economic, and Regulatory Analysis, U.S. General Accounting Office; Programs Manager, Transportation Research Board; and Vice President/Research, American Bus Association.

He served as an Adjunct Faculty member at the R.H. Smith School of Business and Public Administration, University of Maryland from 1989 until his appointment, and has taught economics and statistics at Northeastern University, Wheaton College, and Bowling Green State University. Dr. Mulvey holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Washington State University (1974), an MA in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley (1968) and a BS in Economics from New York University (1966).

Dr. Mulvey's presentation will center on his early work examining the potential for revitalizing intercity passenger train service in the United States and the current role and responsibilities of the Surface Transportation Board in adjudicating on-time performance disputes between Amtrak and the freight railroads that have responsibility for dispatching Amtrak passenger trains.

## PLEASE REGISTER AT

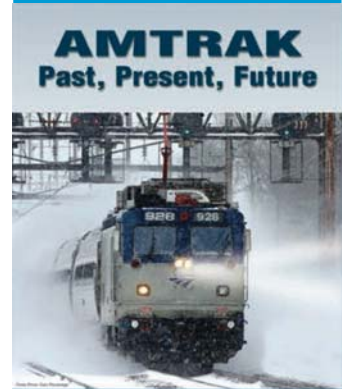
<http://www.utrc2.org/events/railroads-change-agents>

## EVENT DATE:

March 15, 2013  
10:00am to 12:00pm

## EVENT LOCATION:

Baruch College Conference  
Center New York, NY 10010



By  
**FRANK N. WILNER**

Foreword by Douglas John Bowen  
Afterword by Anthony Perl

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