Railroading in the Ozarks

Arkansas & Missouri Railroad
25 Years of Evolution

Northwestern University
July 26, 2012
Where We Operate
A&M Characteristics

• 140 mile main line
• Mountain railroad – max 2.7% grade
• Interchange with BNSF, KCS and UP
• Diverse customer base
• Robust infrastructure
• Wealth of management experience
Winslow, AR
Arkansas River Bridge
Arkansas River Bridge
Hazards of Mountain Railroading
In the Beginning

- Line built by Missouri, Arkansas & Southern
- Completed and acquired by Frisco in 1882
- Operated from Monett, MO to Paris, TX
- In later years Frisco’s Central Division
The Class I Century

• Relegated to secondary status after Frisco completes main line to Texas
• Sustained by several generations of online traffic, fruit to poultry in Northwest Arkansas and furniture to appliances in Fort Smith
• End of passenger service on 9/18/65
A New Beginning

- BN divides the line
- North end becomes A&M
- KCS purchase trackage rights section
- Antlers – Paris becomes part of Kiamichi RR
- Poteau – Antlers abandoned
Early Days

• Tony Hannold, short line pioneer, founds A&M with other shareholders in 1986
• Line leased from BN, later BNSF with partial paper barrier, purchased in 2001
• Traffic principally oriented to poultry industry
• Alcos arrive
The Nineties

- A&M begins passenger service – first via mixed trains, then dedicated passenger trains
- Online sand traffic starts in 1993
- Lease of Van Buren trackage from UP
Passenger Service
Sand Loading
Port Operations – Arkansas River
The 2000’s

- Replacement of main line jointed rail
- Traffic surge of 2005-2008
- Shuttle trains
- Expansion of logistics activities
- Recession and Ethanol
- Recovery
Transportation Partners
UP Corn Shuttle - Springdale
Packaging Silo
Todays A&M

• Three principal industry groups:
  – Poultry and Food
  – Construction (especially sand)
  – Industrial Product

• Passenger Excursions and Car Repair Services
Allied Enterprises

- Freight Car Leasing
- Warehousing, transloading and packaging
- Sand sales and trucking
- Industrial Switching
It’s About Infrastructure
It’s About Customers

APAC Central – Arkhola Div.

Ash Grove Cement
It’s About People

- Crossing renewal near Avoca and precision alignment prior to rail welding
- Car repair in Springdale and Ft. Smith
- Measuring a plastic pellet sample for a customer at the JJJ warehouse in Ft. Smith