Data show a direct correlation between increased investment in the rail network and enhanced safety performance; since 2000, America’s Class I railroads have spent $439 billion on network maintenance and capital expenditures, while the train accident rate has decreased 28% since 2000. In fact, the last decade was the safest ever for railroads. This investment also funds the development and deployment of new inspection technologies — from track-side detectors to ultrasound, machine imaging, big data and drones — designed to monitor infrastructure and equipment health.

Railroads use these tools to increase both the frequency and accuracy of inspections — often above and beyond federal regulatory requirements — while the resulting data informs proactive maintenance plans. Thanks to these and other efforts, America’s freight rail network is largely regarded as the safest, most efficient rail network in the world.

- **Top Infrastructure**: Thanks to rail’s billions of dollars in annual private investments, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) awarded America’s rail network the highest grade in its last two Infrastructure Report Cards.

- **Safe Bridges**: Freight railroads annually spend billions of dollars on bridge safety, employ expert bridge safety personnel and inspect the more than 61,000 Class I railroad bridges in the United States.

- **Safety Solutions**: MxV Rail and Railinc, two of AAR’s subsidiaries, are at the forefront of using technology, data and research to improve North America’s rail network’s safety, efficiency and sustainability.