

Deputy Administrator Biography



**Karen Rae, Deputy Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration**

In March 2009, the Obama Administration named Karen Rae **Deputy Administrator** of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). As Deputy Administrator, Ms. Rae assists in the oversight of the nearly eight hundred-person organization. This includes administering comprehensive safety programs; developing and implementing national freight and passenger rail policies; and managing research and development activities. In her capacity as Deputy Administrator, Ms. Rae plays a leading role in the FRA's efforts to successfully implement the President's historic commitment to advance the development of high-speed intercity passenger rail and implement the Administration's public policy directive to improve intercity passenger rail for passengers and communities. Ms. Rae's nearly 30 years of experience building partnerships amongst states is beneficial to these efforts.

Prior to joining FRA, Ms. Rae served as **Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Planning** at the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and **Deputy Secretary** at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), in 2007 and 2006 respectively. During her tenure at PennDOT, she led efforts in support of the state's Funding and Reform Commission on transit related issues; created a streamlined performance based funding program for transit; and successfully initiated the 110 mile per hour Pennsylvania Key Stone High-Speed Rail Service.

Prior to her tenure at PennDOT, Ms. Rae served as **Director** of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, where she advanced the development and implementation of Virginia's first ever rail funding program. She also finalized an agreement with CSX Transportation to fund rail line improvements in order to expand Virginia Railway Express commuter service. She later led negotiations for the engineering of the Dulles Metro Rail Project. Earlier in her career, Ms. Rae worked for 18 years as director or general manager of transit systems in Austin, Texas and Glens Falls and Buffalo, New York. In all, Ms. Rae brings nearly 30 years of successful transportation experience to the agency.