

Bill Schafer

Biographical Sketch

Bill Schafer is a Maryland native whose railroad career began in 1967 at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. After graduating from Davidson College in North Carolina in 1970, he joined Southern Railway's management training program, progressing through positions in Operations, Accounting, and Purchasing.

After the 1982 merger between Southern and Norfolk & Western, Bill spent the rest of his career in the Strategic Planning group, where he helped manage mergers, acquisitions, line rationalizations, and asset utilization. He also worked with state DOTs, transit authorities, and Amtrak on rail freight and passenger issues, particularly in former-Conrail territory.

In March 2011, Bill retired from Norfolk Southern as Director-Strategic Planning after forty years with Southern and NS. Since then, his second "careers" have included service on the boards of the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and its subsidiaries, and as editor of *TIES* Magazine, the quarterly journal of the Southern Railway Historical Association.

In his spare time, Bill can be found riding and photographing trains with his bride, Linda – herself a 30 year veteran of the Southern and NS. They make their home in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

January 20, 2026