

Job Opportunity - PTRA Switchman

The PTRA currently has openings in our transportation department for railroad switchman.

Our transportation department is responsible for providing rail service at our five rail yards, to 3 member lines (UPRR, BNSF, & CPKC), and to our 100+ customers. You are applying to work a job that works entirely outdoors, in all elements, all hours of the day. This job will require you to walk on uneven surfaces, climb ladders, hold onto the side of a moving rail car, communicate on the radio and by hand signal, identify and distinguish colored light signals, and carry up to 50 pounds for up to a half-mile.

All jobs in the transportation department are seniority-based – employees performing this job must join the applicable union. Wages and benefits are collectively bargained for on a national basis and are contained in labor agreements. The rate of pay is currently \$40.87/hour. Medical insurance begins after the first month of employment. The employee's portion of the premium is \$308.49/month. After the first year of employment, employees are eligible to participate in a 401k and will begin dental and vision coverage. In accordance with the respective labor agreement, new employees will very little compensated time off during their first year of employment.

All new hire switchmen will be provided classroom and on-the-job training. The classroom training will be 8 hours per day (7a-3p), five days per week (M-F). There will be a heavy emphasis on quizzes and tests. Academic performance in the class will determine seniority order at the completion of the class.

On-the-job training will last approximately two weeks. Typically, this will be five consecutive working days, with two consecutive off days. New employees will be provided a schedule of jobs to work, reporting times, and locations. The schedule should have each employee working all three shifts at some point during the training phase.

After completion of training (up to 5 weeks in total), new hire employees will most likely be assigned the extra board. The extra board is a group of employees who do not have a scheduled assignment but must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to fill any vacancies created by a regularly scheduled employee being absent (vacation, illness, etc.). The extra board is responsible for filling vacancies on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shifts. Extraboard employees will get at least a 90-minute call before they are needed at work. The calling time for 1st shift is 430a-630a; 2nd shift is 1230p-230p; 3rd shift is 830p-1030p. During these windows, extraboard employees must answer the phone and are required to accept the job. In return for being available and working, extra board employees are guaranteed a minimum of 88 hours of work per pay period (1/2 of the month).

Reporting locations:

- North Yard: 7299 Clinton Dr, Houston, TX 77029
- Manchester Yard: 8934 Manchester St, Houston, TX 77012
- Pasadena Yard: 910 N. Witter St, Pasadena, TX 77506
- Main Office: 8934 Manchester St, Houston, TX 77012

We plan to conclude interviews before the end of April and begin training May 11, 2026.

To apply anytime, send your resume to swresume@ptra.com.