

## WEEKLY RAIL REVIEW

For The Week Ending SAT, April 17, 2004

By Dave Mears

(NOTE: The abbreviation "ffd" represents "for further details" and denotes a website or other news reference where further details of this news item may be found.)

### THE WEEK'S TOP NEWS (in chronological order):

(TUE) Trains operating on the Union Pacific main line through Reno, NV. began using a temporary bypass track. Concurrent with the bypass track becoming operational, digging will begin on the city's \$264 million trenching project, which will put 2.1 miles of the line below grade, eliminating 11 grade crossings in Reno's downtown area. The project is targeted for completion in Spring, 2006. (ffd: AAR)

(TUE) The U.S. Federal Railroad Administration requested comments from interested parties on how the U.S. Department of Transportation should "develop and implement procedures for fair and competitive bidding by Amtrak and non-Amtrak operators for State-supported intercity passenger rail routes." The request is mandated by the omnibus appropriations bill that funds transportation programs for FY2004. (ffd: NARP)

(WED) The U.S. Transportation Security Administration announced that it would test the feasibility of security checks for rail passengers. A TSA spokesman said that the tests would be conducted at New Carrollton, MD. station just outside Washington, DC., which is served by Amtrak, MARC commuter trains and the Metro subway system. The spokesman said the TSA is presently looking at a range of technologies and that testing is expected to begin by the end of May. (ffd: wire services)

### STATS:

(THU) For the week ending April 10, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 0.7 percent from the comparable week last year, down 0.3 percent in the East and up 1.5 percent in the West. This week this year versus this week last year, notable traffic increases included lumber and wood products up 8.2 percent, grain up 5.9 percent and coal up 4.6 percent; notable traffic decreases included motor vehicles and equipment down 11.0 percent and food and food products down 9.0 percent. Also for the week ending April 10, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 6.4 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 0.1 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 4.5 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic was down 7.5 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was down 30.9 percent, all when ranked with the comparable week last year.

For the period January 1 through April 10, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 3.0 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 7.2 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 6.2 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 1.5

percent, TFM's carload rail traffic was down 7.9 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was down 8.5 percent, all when ranked with the comparable period last year. (ffd: AAR)

ACQUISITIONS, ABANDONMENTS AND ALIKE:

None of note this week.

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

(WED) Canadian National appointed Stan Jablonski VP-Sales and Jean-Jacques Ruest VP-Marketing. Mr. Jablonski was most recently CN's VP-Forest Products and Mr. Ruest was most recently CN's VP-Industrial Products. (ffd: CN Corp.)

(FRI) R. J. Corman Railroad appointed Sherman Petree President. Mr. Petree, who was most recently an assistant superintendent with CSX in Huntington, WV., succeeds Ron Boles, who recently retired. (ffd: Progressive Railroading)

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Weekly Rail Review is edited from public news sources and published weekly, usually on Sunday or Monday, to the rail and transit industries and those interested in them. Send an e-mail to [weeklyrailreview@aol.com](mailto:weeklyrailreview@aol.com) to receive it, with my compliments.

HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS WEEK,  
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