

## WEEKLY RAIL REVIEW

For the week ending SAT, February 7, 2004

By Dave Mears

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

(SUN) A Norfolk Southern freight train derailed 26 cars near Corunna, IN. The train, which totaled 100 cars in length, was enroute from Burns Harbor, IN. to Detroit, MI. There were no injuries in the derailment. The cause of the accident was still under investigation at press time. (ffd: Fort Wayne Journal Gazette)

(SUN) A Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train derailed 36 cars in Ashland, NE. The train, which totaled 130 cars in length, was carrying coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to an Illinois destination. There were no injuries in the derailment. The cause of the accident was still under investigation at press time. (ffd: Lincoln Journal Star)

(MON) The first passenger train to operate the length of Australia's new north-south transcontinental rail line departed from the city of Adelaide. The train's route from Adelaide in the south to the northern coastal city of Darwin totaled 1,851 miles and includes the new 882-mile north-south link completed last year. The train included 2 locomotives and 43 passenger cars, making what was believed to be Australia's longest-ever passenger train consist. Freight service over the new line began on January 17. (ffd: wire services)

(MON) New Jersey Transit announced that it was again delaying the opening of revenue service on its new River Line light rail line. An NJT spokesman said that that service was now scheduled to start on March 14 and that the new delay was attributable to additional work needed to assure that several highway-rail grade crossing devices along the line were working properly. The line, which will operate between Trenton, NJ. and Camden, NJ., was originally projected to open in 2002. (ffd: NJ Transit, Railpace)

(MON) The board of New York State's Metropolitan Transportation Authority voted to advance by 18 months the purchase of 120 new commuter rail cars. Once acquired, the new cars will replace older cars still in service on the Metro North Railroad, which at times has seen between 25 percent and 30 percent of its commuter rail car fleet out of service this winter. The new cars, which will be of the Class M7 electric-multiple-unit type and will be built by Bombardier Corporation. (ffd: Railway Age)

(TUE) A report from the Railway Supply Institute stated that North American railroads and other rail car owners had taken delivery of 32,183 cars in 2003, up from 17,736 cars in 2002. The report further stated that orders were placed for 47,249 cars in 2003, up from 28,459 car orders in 2002. (ffd: Railway Age)

(THU) Union Pacific announced a new service to expedite cross-border shipments to and from Mexico. Called "Passport Plus," the service will review bills-of-lading and related shipping documents to verify accuracy, monitor all transportation and customs events, and attempt to resolve any enroute problems that might cause delays. The service is being offered by Union Pacific in partnership with TransMex Logistics, a subsidiary of OrderPro Logistics. (ffd: UP Corp.)

(SAT) A CSX freight train derailed 34 cars in Elkton, MD. The train, which totaled 72 cars in length, was enroute from Richmond, VA. to Philadelphia, PA. There were no injuries in the derailment. The cause of the accident was still under investigation at press time. (ffd: WPVI TV)

### STATS:

(THU) For the week ending January 31, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 0.5 percent from the comparable week last year, down 4.9 percent in the East, but up 5.0 percent in the West. Also for the week ending January 31, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 5.6 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 5.0 percent and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 7.3 percent, all when ranked with the comparable week last year.

For the period January 1 through January 31, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 2.5 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 5.4 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 3.1 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 2.1 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic was down 10.3 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was down 20.6 percent, all when ranked with the comparable period last year. (ffd: AAR)

### ACQUISITIONS, ABANDONMENTS AND ALIKE:

(WED) The Utah Central Railway filed to acquire from the Boyer Business Depot Ogden entity and, also, from the City of Ogden, UT., approximately 15 miles of line in or near Ogden. (ffd: STB)

### PERSONNEL CHANGES:

(FRI) OmniTrax, operator of 11 short line railroads and 5 terminal railroads in the U.S. and Canada, appointed Bob Parker as COO. Mr. Parker was previously OmniTrax's EVP-Rail. (ffd: OmniTrax Corp.)

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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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