

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD RELEASES INDEPENDENT STUDY OF COMPETITION IN THE FREIGHT RAIL INDUSTRY

The Surface Transportation Board today announced that Christensen Associates (Christensen), a Madison, Wisconsin-headquartered economic consulting firm, has completed its 14-month, independent report titled *A Study of Competition in the U.S. Freight Railroad Industry and Analysis of Proposals that Might Enhance Competition* (the Study). The Study is the topic of the Board's public meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2008 in the Board's Hearing Room on the 1st Floor of the agency's headquarters at Patriots Plaza, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

This study takes a comprehensive review of the underlying economics of the railroad industry. The Board anticipates that this analysis will be of great interest to policymakers and stakeholders involved in interstate freight commerce.

The Study was undertaken pursuant to a contract the Board awarded to Christensen in September 2007. Christensen was engaged to focus on providing a comprehensive analysis of a wide range of issues in the freight rail industry, including competition, capacity, and the interplay between the two.

The Study may be accessed via the Board's Web site, at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>," by clicking the "**E-Library**" button on the home page, then by choosing "**Competition Study**" on the dropdown that will appear, or [via this link](#). The Study also is available via the Christensen Web site at <http://www.lrca.com>. A video broadcast of the November 6 meeting will be accessible via the Board's Web site under the "**Information Center**"/"**Webcast**"/"**Live Video**" on the home page.

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