

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO ALLOCATE MOST OF ITS HEARING ROOM SEATING TO GENERAL PUBLIC FOR VIEWING OF "CSX-NORFOLK SOUTHERN-CONRAIL MERGER" [footnote 1]VOTE; TO PROVIDE CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV TO "OVERFLOW" ROOM, SPACE FOR NEWS CONFERENCES AT VOTE'S CONCLUSION**

Surface Transportation Board (Board) Chairman Linda J. Morgan announced today that the Board will allocate to the general public **80** of the 95 seats available in its Hearing Room for direct observation of the Board's **Monday, June 8, 1998**, open voting conference concerning the "CSX-Norfolk Southern-Conrail merger" proceeding on a "first-come, first-served" basis. [FOOTNOTE 1: *CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company--Control and Operating Leases/Agreements--Conrail Inc. and Consolidated Rail Corporation*, STB Finance Docket No. 33388.]

As previously announced, the Board will begin the voting conference promptly at **1:00 p.m.** in its Hearing Room, Room 760, on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor of its offices in the Mercury Building, 1925 K Street, N.W. (corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and K Streets), in Washington, D.C. Eighty "general public" admission badges for the voting conference will be made available on a "first-come, first-served" basis at the Board's **20<sup>th</sup> Street entrance (between K and L Streets) beginning at 9:00 a.m. on June 8.** Only one badge will be given per person, and--with the exception of several seats allotted to the three "primary" merger applicants[FOOTNOTE 2: That is, representatives of CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc.; Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company; and Conrail Inc. and Consolidated Rail Corporation. ] and certain members of the media [FOOTE NOTE 3: That is, those who responded promptly to "Surface Transportation Board News" release No. 98-34, "Media Advisory: Surface Transportation Board Requires Media Seating Reservations for 'Direct' Observation of June 3-4 Oral Argument, June 8 Voting Conference re Proposed 'CSX-Norfolk Southern-Conrail' Merger," issued to the public on Monday, May 18, 1998, in hard-copy form at the Board's headquarters and through its news release mailing list, and electronically on the Board's website and through its news release e-mail list. ] --only those holding such badges will be admitted to the Hearing Room to observe the Board's vote directly. The Hearing Room will be open to all authorized attendees beginning at **12:00 noon on June 8.**

No admission badges will be needed for public attendance--on a "first-come, first served" basis--in a second room, the Brick Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Mercury Building, which will be open and linked to the Hearing Room by a live, closed-circuit telecast of the entire voting conference. The Brick Room also will be opened at **12:00 noon on June 8.** The Board will videotape the voting conference, and will make arrangements for tape duplication, at cost, if there is a public demand for such copies.

At the conclusion of the voting conference and all Board business immediately following the voting conference, the Hearing Room will be made available to **participants** in the merger proceeding, should they desire to speak to the news media. Those seeking to use the Hearing Room for such purpose must first contact **Dennis Watson, in the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services, at (202) 565-1596.**

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