

Issued on: February 3, 1998.

**Kenneth R. Wykle,**

*Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.*

[FR Doc. 98-3303 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[Finance Docket No. 32760]

#### **Union Pacific Railroad Company, Control and Merger; Southern Pacific Transportation Company: Reno Mitigation Study, Preliminary Mitigation Plan**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Issuance of Final Mitigation Plan (FMP), request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) issued the Final Mitigation Plan (FMP) for the Reno, NV Mitigation Study on February 11, 1998 for public review and comment. On August 12, 1996, in Decision No. 44, the Board approved the Union Pacific/Southern Pacific merger. As part of its approval, the Board directed SEA to conduct a mitigation study to develop further tailored environmental mitigation measures, in addition to those already imposed in Decision No. 44) to address unique local conditions in Reno and Washoe County. The FMP is part of this ongoing Reno mitigation study process. The FMP contains SEA's proposed environmental conditions at this time for mitigating the potential effects of increased train traffic through Reno as a result of the UP/SP merger. The FMP also contains comments from over 530 commenters on the Preliminary Mitigation Plan (released on September 15, 1997), SEA's responses to those comments, and additional technical analysis conducted by SEA.

The Board encourages public comment on the FMP during the 30-day review period, which will end on March 12, 1998. SEA will distribute copies of the FMP to interested parties, and copies will also be available at the Reno and Sparks branches of the Washoe County Public Library.

SEA will consider all timely public comments before making its final recommendations to the Board. The Board will consider SEA's final recommendations, the Preliminary Mitigation Plan, the Final Mitigation Plan, and all public comments when making its final decision imposing additional specific mitigation measures

for Reno and Washoe County that it deems appropriate.

Individuals who wish to file a comment may submit one original; government agencies and businesses are asked to submit an original plus 10 copies. Public comments should be submitted in writing no later than March 12, 1998 to: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Finance Docket No. 32760, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Room 715, Washington, DC 20423-0001. Mark the lower left-hand corner of the envelope: Attention: Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis, Environmental Filing—Reno.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Harold McNulty, Section of Environmental Analysis, Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423, (202) 565-1539, TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-3461 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of Transportation Statistics

#### **Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 10(A)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 72-363; 5 U.S.C. App. 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics (ACTS) to be held Wednesday, November 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC, in conference room 10234-38 of the Nassif Building.

The Advisory Council, called for under Section 6007 of Public Law 102-240, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, December 18, 1991, and chartered on June 19, 1995, was created to advise the Director of BTS on transportation statistics and analyses, including whether or not the statistics and analysis disseminated by the Bureau are of high quality and are based upon the best available objective information.

The agenda for this meeting will include a review of the last meeting, identification of substantive issues, review of plans and schedule, other items of interest, discussion and agreement of date(s) for subsequent meetings, and comments from the floor.

Since access to the DOT building is controlled, all persons who plan to attend the meeting must notify Ms. Carolee Bush, Council Liaison, on (202) 366-6946 prior to November 10. Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space available. With the approval of the Chair, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Noncommittee members wishing to present oral statements, obtain information, or who plan to access the building to attend the meeting should also contact Ms. Bush.

Members of the public may present a written statement to the Council at any time.

Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Ms. Bush (202) 366-6946 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 5, 1998.

**Robert A. Knisely,**

*Executive Director, Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 98-3427 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### **Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds; United States Surety Company**

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Surety companies acceptable on Federal bonds; United States Surety Company.

**SUMMARY:** (Dept. Circ. 570, 1997 Rev., Supp. No. 7).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Surety Bond Branch (20) 874-6905.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety on Federal Bonds is hereby issued to the following company under Sections 9304 to 9308, Title 31, of the United States Code. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1997 Revision, on page 35578 to reflect this addition:

United States Surety Company.  
Business Address: P.O. Box 5605,  
Timonium, MD 21094. Phone: (410)  
453-9522. Underwriting Limitation  
b/: \$185,000. Surety Licenses c/:  
MD. Incorporated IN: Maryland.

Certificates of Authority expire on  
June 30 each year, unless revoked prior  
to that date. The Certificates are subject  
to subsequent annual renewal as long as  
the companies remain qualified (31  
CFR, Part 223). A list of qualified  
companies is published annually as of  
July 1 in Treasury Department Circular  
570, with details as to underwriting  
limitations, areas in which licensed to  
transact surety business and other  
information.

The Circular may be viewed and  
downloaded through the Internet (<http://WWW.fms.treas.gov/c570.htm1>) or  
through our computerized public  
bulletin board system (FMS Inside Line)  
at (202) 874-6887. A hard copy may be  
purchased from the Government  
Printing Office (GPO), Subscription  
Service Washington, DC, telephone  
(202) 512-1800. When ordering the  
Circular from GPO, use the following  
stock number: 048-000-00499-7.

Questions concerning this Notice may  
be directed to the U.S. Department of  
the Treasury, Financial Management  
Service, Funds Management Division,  
Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West  
Highway, Room 6A11, Hyattsville, MD  
20782.

Dated: January 30, 1998.

**Charles F. Schwan III,**

*Director Funds Management Division,  
Financial Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-3431 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

## UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

### Announcement of the 1998 Unsolicited Spring Grant Program

**AGENCY:** United States Institute of Peace.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Agency Announces its  
Upcoming Deadline for the 1998  
Unsolicited Grant Spring Competition,  
which offers support for research,  
education and training, and the  
dissemination of information on  
international peace and conflict  
resolution.

Deadline: March 1, 1998.

**DATES:** Application Material Available  
Upon Request

Receipt Date for Return of  
Application: March 1, 1998

(applications will be accepted on March  
2.)

Notification of Awards: June, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** For Application Package:  
United States Institute of Peace Grant  
Program, 1550 M Street, NW • Suite  
700, Washington, DC 20005-1708,  
(phone) (202) 429-3842, (fax) (202) 429-  
6063, (TTY) (202) 457-1719, Email:  
[grant\\_program@usip.org](mailto:grant_program@usip.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
The Grant Program, Phone (202) 429-  
3842 [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org).

Dated: February 5, 1998.

**Bernice J. Carney,**

*Director, Office of Administration.*

[FR Doc. 98-3398 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-AR-M

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### OMB Control No. 2900-0252

#### Proposed Information Collection

#### Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits  
Administration, Department of Veterans  
Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits  
Administration (VBA), Department of  
Veterans Affairs, is announcing an  
opportunity for public comment on the  
proposed collection of certain  
information by the agency. Under the  
Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of  
1995, Federal agencies are required to  
publish notice in the **Federal Register**  
concerning each proposed collection of  
information, including each proposed  
extension of a currently approved  
collection, and allow 60 days for public  
comment in response to the notice. This  
notice solicits comments on the  
application for authority to close loans  
on an automatic basis for nonsupervised  
lenders.

**DATES:** Written comments and  
recommendations on the proposed  
collection of information should be  
received on or before April 13, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments  
on the collection of information to  
Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits  
Administration (20S52), Department of  
Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue,  
NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer  
to "OMB Control No. 2900-0252" in  
any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-5079 or  
FAX (202) 275-5146.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the  
PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C.  
3501-3520), Federal agencies must  
obtain approval from the Office of  
Management and Budget (OMB) for each  
collection of information they conduct  
or sponsor. This request for comment is  
being made pursuant to Section  
3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following  
collection of information, VBA invites  
comments on: (1) Whether the proposed  
collection of information is necessary  
for the proper performance of VBA's  
functions, including whether the  
information will have practical utility;  
(2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the  
burden of the proposed collection of  
information; (3) ways to enhance the  
quality, utility, and clarity of the  
information to be collected; and (4)  
ways to minimize the burden of the  
collection of information on  
respondents, including through the use  
of automated collection techniques or  
the use of other forms of information  
technology.

**Title:** Application for Authority to  
Close Loans on an Automatic Basis—  
Nonsupervised Lenders, VA Form 26-  
8736.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0252.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a  
currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Title 38 U.S.C. 3702(d)(3)  
provides for nonsupervised lenders to  
make automatically guaranteed loans if  
the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
approves them for such purposes.  
Automatic lending privileges eliminate  
the requirement for submission of loans  
to VA for prior approval. Lending  
institutions with automatic loan  
privileges may process and disburse  
such loans and subsequently report the  
loan to VA for issuance of guaranty. VA  
Form 26-8736 is used by nonsupervised  
lenders to request approval to close  
loans on an automatic basis. The form  
requests information considered crucial  
for VA to make acceptability  
determinations as to lenders who shall  
be approved for this privilege.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-  
profit.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 50 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per  
Respondent:** 25 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Generally one  
time.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:**  
120.

Dated: January 26, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-3401 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

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