

of the alternatives. The MIS will also comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) and with the Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. After its publication, the MIS and DEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment. If a DEIS is prepared, a public hearing will be held. On the basis of the MIS and DEIS, and the comments received, RCRRA and the MPO will select a locally preferred alternative for a major investment strategy. The locally preferred alternative will then be reaffirmed by the MPO for inclusion into the Transportation Policy Plan for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (regional transportation plan) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MIS shall lead to specification of the project's mode, the design concept and scope in sufficient detail to meet the requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency's transportation conformity regulations [40 CFR 93 and 23 CFR 450.322(b)(8)]. RCRRA and the MPO will then seek approval from FTA to continue with Preliminary Engineering and the preparation of the Final EIS.

Issued on: March 8, 1999.

Joel P. Ettinger,

Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Chicago, Illinois.

[FR Doc. 99-6152 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33712 (Sub-No. 1)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempts the trackage rights described in STB Finance Docket No. 33712¹ to permit the trackage rights to

¹ On February 1, 1999, UP filed a notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedures at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). The notice covered the agreement by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) to grant temporary overhead trackage rights to UP over 235.5 miles of BNSF's rail line between milepost 885.2 at Kern Junction, CA, to milepost 1120.7 at Stockton Tower, CA. See *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33712 (STB served Feb. 11, 1999). The trackage rights agreement

expire on March 31, 1999, in accordance with the agreement of the parties.

DATES: This exemption will be effective on March 26, 1999. Petitions to reopen must be filed by March 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33712 (Sub-No. 1) must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioner's representative Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., Suite 210, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: March 5, 1999.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Clyburn and Commissioner Burkes.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-6150 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Fund Availability under the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing the availability of funds for applications for assistance under the grant component of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. This Notice contains information concerning the program, application process and amount of funding available.

DATES: An original completed and collated grant application (plus four

is scheduled to expire March 31, 1999. The trackage rights operations under the exemption became effective on February 8, 1999.

completed collated copies) for assistance under the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program must be received in Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group, Washington, DC, by 4:30 PM Eastern Time on May 10, 1999. Applications may not be sent by facsimile (FAX). In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour, and VA will treat as ineligible for consideration any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early submission of their material to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

FOR A COPY OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT: Program Officials at their toll-free number 1-877-332-0334 between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday. For a document relating to the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the final rule codified at 38 CFR Part 17.700.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: An original completed and collated grant application (plus four copies) must be submitted to the following address: Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group (116), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Applications must be received in the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group by the application deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Casey, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group (116), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; 1-877-332-0334 (this is a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice announces the availability of funds for assistance under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. This program is authorized by Public Law 102-590, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992. Funding applied for under this Notice may be used for (1) remodeling or alteration of existing buildings; (2) acquisition of buildings, acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings; (3) new construction. Applicants may apply for more than one type of assistance.

Grant applicants seeking per diem assistance should indicate this request on the application submitted for a grant. Applicants who are awarded grants will not be required to complete a separate application for per diem assistance. VA

will review those portions of the grant application that pertain to per diem.

Grant applicants may not receive assistance to replace funds provided by any state or local government to assist homeless persons. For existing projects, VA will fund only the portion of the project that will house the new program or new component of an existing program. A proposal for an existing project that seeks to shift its focus by changing the population to be served or the precise mix of services to be offered is not eligible for consideration. No more than 25 percent of services available in projects funded through this grant program may be provided to clients who are not receiving those services as veterans.

AUTHORITY: VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is authorized by Sections 3 and 4 of Public

Law 102-590, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 USC 7721 note) and has been extended through fiscal year 1999 by Public Law 105-114. The program is implemented by the final rule codified at 38 CFR Part 17.700. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on June 1, 1994, and February 27, 1995, and revised February 11, 1997. The regulations can be found in their entirety in 38 CFR, Volume 1, Sec. 17.700 through 17.731, revised July 1, 1997. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of those regulations.

ALLOCATION: Approximately \$12.5 million is available for the grant component of this program.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: The specific grant application requirements will be specified in the application package.

The package includes all required forms and certifications. Conditional selections will be made based on criteria described in the application. Applicants who are conditionally selected will be notified of the additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the application. Applicants will then have approximately one month to submit such information. If an applicant is unable to meet any conditions for grant award within the specified time frame, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other grant and per diem applicants.

Dated: March 4, 1999.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-6146 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-U