

Specific Crashworthiness R&D topics are:

- Preparation of new dummies for assessment of advanced air bag technology,
- Improved frontal crash protection (program status, problem identification, offset testing),
- Vehicle compatibility,
- Upgrade side crash protection,
- Child restraint/air bag interaction (CRABI) dummy testing,
- Head and neck injury research,
- Lower extremity injury research, and
- Thorax injury research.

Specific Crash Avoidance R&D topics are:

- National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS),
  - Intelligent vehicle initiative (the rear-end collision avoidance system operational test),
  - Drowsy driver monitoring,
  - Driver workload assessment, and
  - Lane change/merge collision avoidance system guidelines.
- Specific National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) topics are:
- Special crash investigation studies and
  - Crash avoidance data collection.

Separately, questions regarding research projects that have been submitted in writing not later than 5 p.m. on December 4, 2000, will be answered. The summary minutes of the meeting, copies of materials handed out at the meeting, and answers to the questions submitted for response at the meeting will be available for public inspection in the DOT Docket in Washington, DC, within 3 weeks after the meeting. Copies of this material will then be available at ten cents a page upon request to DOT Docket, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The DOT Docket is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The summary minutes, handouts, and answers to the questions will also be available on NHTSA's Web site at [Announcements/Public Meetings](http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/) at URL <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>.

Additionally, the agency is in the process of reviewing NHTSA's quarterly meetings on its safety performance standards and research and development programs. A survey has been posted on NHTSA's Web site at URL <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/> for those interested in commenting on the quarterly meeting process.

NHTSA will provide technical aids to participants as necessary, during the Research and Development Programs Meeting. Thus, any person desiring the assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-

language interpreter, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TTDs), readers, taped texts, braille materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Rita Gibbons by telephone on (202) 366-4862, by telefax on (202) 366-5930, or by E-mail at [rgibbons@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:rgibbons@nhtsa.dot.gov) by 5 p.m. December 4, 2000.

Should it be necessary to cancel the meeting due to inclement weather or to any other emergencies, a decision to cancel will be made as soon as possible and posted immediately on NHTSA's Web site at [Announcements/Public Meetings](http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/) at URL <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>. If you do not have access to the Web site, you may call for information at the contact listed below and leave your telephone or telefax number. You will be called only if the meeting is postponed or canceled.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rita Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-4862. Fax number: (202) 366-5930. E-mail: [rgibbons@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:rgibbons@nhtsa.dot.gov).

Issued: November 16, 2000.

**Raymond P. Owings,**

*Associate Administrator for Research and Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. MC-F-20976]

#### **Tedesco Family ESB Trust—Acquisition and Merger—American Limousine Service, Inc., and Academy Express, Inc.**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice tentatively approving finance transaction.

**SUMMARY:** Tedesco Family ESB Trust, Francis Tedesco and Mark Tedesco, settlers, of Hoboken, NJ (Tedesco Family Trust or applicant),<sup>1</sup> a noncarrier, has

<sup>1</sup> Tedesco Family Trust directly controls two motor carriers of passengers, Academy Bus Tours, Inc. (MC-165004), and Academy Lines, Inc. (MC-106207). It indirectly controls, through its noncarrier subsidiary, Franmar Logistics, Inc., of Hoboken, NJ, four motor carriers of passengers, Academy Bus Tours, Inc. (PA) (MC-215354), Academy Express, Inc. (MC-228481), Commuter Bus Line, Inc. (MC-162133), and No. 22 Hillside Corp. (MC-182453), and through its noncarrier subsidiaries, Franmar Equities, Inc., of Hoboken, NJ, and Consolidated Bus Service, Inc., one motor

carrier of passengers, Funaway Tours of New Jersey, Inc. (MC-174942).

filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 14303 for the acquisition of American Limousine Service, Inc. (MC-186879), and Academy Express, Inc. (formerly, Inner Circle Qonexions, Inc.) (MC-145482),<sup>2</sup> motor carriers of passengers, and their subsequent merger, and the merger of Academy Bus Tours, Inc. (PA), and Commuter Bus Line, Inc., into Academy Express, Inc., which will be the surviving entity. Persons wishing to oppose the application must follow the rules at 49 CFR 1182.5 and 1182.8. The Board has tentatively approved the transaction, and, if no opposing comments are timely filed, this notice will be the final Board action.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed by January 8, 2001. Applicant may file a reply by January 22, 2001. If no comments are filed by January 8, 2001, the approval is effective on that date.

**ADDRESSES:** Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-20976 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to applicant's representative: Fritz R. Kahn, 1920 N Street, NW., (8th Floor), Washington, DC 20036-1601.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beryl Gordon, (202) 565-1600. (TDD for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The carriers being acquired and those being merged all hold federally issued operating authority and provide either local commuter bus service and other regular-route operations, or special and charter operations, or a combination of both. Collectively, these carriers operate between New York, NY, and various points in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), we must approve and authorize a transaction we find consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least: (1) The effect of the transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public; (2) the total fixed charges that result; and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees.

Applicant has submitted the information required by 49 CFR 1182.2, including information to demonstrate that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b). Specifically, applicant has shown that the proposed

<sup>2</sup> Inner Circle Qonexions, Inc., filed for a name change in June 1995. It now has the same name as one of Tedesco Family Trust's existing carrier subsidiaries and will be merged into that subsidiary upon consummation of this transaction.

transaction will have a positive effect on the adequacy of transportation to the public and will result in no increase in fixed charges and no changes in employment. See 49 CFR 1182.2(a)(7). Additional information may be obtained from applicant's representative.

On the basis of the application, we find that the proposed acquisition and merger are consistent with the public interest and should be authorized. If any opposing comments are timely filed, this finding will be deemed vacated and, unless a final decision can be made on the record as developed, a procedural schedule will be adopted to reconsider the application. See 49 CFR 1182.6(c). If no opposing comments are filed by the expiration of the comment period, this decision will take effect automatically and will be the final Board action.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at <http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV>.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

#### *It Is Ordered*

1. The proposed acquisition and merger is approved and authorized, subject to the filing of opposing comments.

2. If timely opposing comments are filed, the findings made in this decision will be deemed vacated.

3. This decision will be effective on January 8, 2001, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

4. A copy of this notice will be served on: (1) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—HMCE—20, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024; (2) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20530; and (3) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Decided: November 15, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-29728 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4515-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33948  
(Sub-No. 1)]

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

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempts the trackage rights described in STB Finance Docket No. 33948<sup>1</sup> to permit the trackage rights to expire on February 15, 2001, in accordance with the agreement of the parties.

**DATES:** This exemption will be effective on December 22, 2000. Petitions to reopen must be filed by December 12, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33948 (Sub-No. 1) must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioner's representative, Robert T. Opal, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph H. Dettmar (202) 565-1600. (TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-877-8339.)

**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: Da-To-Da Office Solutions, Suite 210, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services 1-800-877-8339.)

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at <http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV>.

<sup>1</sup> On October 13, 2000, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (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 miles of BNSF's rail line between BNSF milepost 885.2 near Bakersfield, CA, and BNSF milepost 1120.54 near Stockton, CA. See *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33948 (STB served Oct. 26, 2000). The trackage rights agreement is scheduled to expire February 15, 2001. The trackage rights operations under the exemption were scheduled to be consummated on October 20, 2000.

Decided: November 14, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-29726 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33961]

#### City of Yelm, WA—Acquisition Exemption—Line of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

The City of Yelm, Washington (the City), a municipality of the State of Washington, a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire approximately 4.57 miles of rail line known as the Prairie Line<sup>1</sup> from The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) between milepost 20.99 near Roy, WA, and milepost 25.56 near Yelm, WA, in Pierce and Thurston Counties, WA. The City certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or shortly after November 16, 2000.<sup>2</sup>

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33961, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Stephen L. Day, 1215—4th Avenue, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98161-1090.

<sup>1</sup> The City states that it is its intent to have the above line operated by a yet-to-be-determined third party rail operator. The City further states that the line will be temporarily embargoed pending line maintenance and selection of an operator in the near future.

<sup>2</sup> The City reported that it intended to consummate the transaction on or before November 16, 2000 (emphasis added). The earliest the transaction can be consummated is November 16, 2000, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed). The City's representative has been notified and has confirmed that consummation would not take place before November 16, 2000.