appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. Public notices will also be published in local newspapers. ADOT&PF will hold public informational meetings in Juneau, Haines, and Skagway in early April. A resource agency scoping meeting will be held in Juneau during the same time period. Project staff will present the proposed project schedule, alternative update information, and anticipated studies.

Public hearings will be held following publication of the SDEIS. Notice of the hearings and availability of the document will be published in the ''**Federal Register,**'' ''Juneau Empire,'' ''Chilkat Valley News,'' ''Skagway News'' and the ''Anchorage Daily News.'' Comments or questions concerning the project and the SDEIS should be directed to the FHWA or ADOT&PF addresses provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: February 28, 2003.

David C. Miller,

Division Administrator, Juneau, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 03–5765 Filed 3–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Secretarial Extension of Authority; Marine War Risk Insurance Under Title XII of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936

On December 12, 2001, President George W. Bush approved the provision of vessel war risk insurance by memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Transportation. The approval was for the provision by the Secretary of Transportation of insurance or reinsurance of vessels (including cargoes and crew) entering the Middle East region against loss or damage by war risks in the manner and to the extent approved in Title XII of the Act, 46 U.S.C App.1281, *et seq.*

The President delegated to the Secretary of Transportation the authority vested in him by section 1202 of the Act, to approve the provision of insurance or reinsurance after the expiration of 6 months and to bring this approval to the attention of all operators and to arrange for its publication in the **Federal Register**. On August 23, 2002 the Secretary of Transportation approved the extension of the authority to provide such insurance for another 6-month period, to December 12, 2002.

On February 9, 2003 the Secretary of Transportation approved an extension of the authority to provide such insurance for an additional one-year period, through December 12, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Strassburg, Chief, Division of Marine Insurance, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590, Phone Number (202) 366–4156

By Order of the Maritime Administrator

Dated: March 5, 2003.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–5655 Filed 3–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Synopsis of January 27–28, 2003 meeting with VISA participants.

The VISA program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each JPAG meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. The full text of the VISA program, including these requirements, is published in 68 FR 8800–8808, dated February 25, 2003.

On January 27–28, 2003, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) co-hosted a classified JPAG meeting at USTRANSCOM, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, regarding OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

Because of the nature of some of the briefings, only attendees with security clearances were admitted to the classified portions of the meeting. Briefings and updates were provided to participants by various components of the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation. The briefings and updates included: situational awareness on expectations for strategic lift; port security for CONUS and OCONUS and discussion on the Maritime Safety and Security Teams; Naval Coordination and Protection of Shipping; chemical, biological, radiological-defense status updates; and, force protection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Taylor E. Jones II, Director, Office of Sealift Support,(202)366–2323.

Dated: March 6, 2003.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–5770 Filed 3–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Release of Waybill Data

The Surface Transportation Board has received a request from Reebie Associates (WB654–8–2/12/03), for permission to use certain data from the Board's Carload Waybill Samples. A copy of the request may be obtained from the Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration.

The waybill sample contains confidential railroad and shipper data; therefore, if any parties object to these requests, they should file their objections with the Director of the Board's Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration within 14 calendar days of the date of this notice. The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 CFR 1244.9.

Contact: James A. Nash, (202) 565–1542.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–5760 Filed 3–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34313]

Eastern Shore Railroad, Inc.—Operation Exemption-Greater Shenandoah Valley Development Company d/b/a Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company

Eastern Shore Railroad, Inc. (ESHR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to operate a 20.2-mile line of railroad owned by Greater Shenandoah Valley Development Company d/b/a Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company (SVRR),[1] between Pleasant Valley, VA (milepost 5.0) and Staunton, VA (milepost 25.2), in Rockingham and Augusta Counties, VA.[2] ESHR certifies

[1] ESHR and SVRR have reached a 3-year agreement for ESHR's services, with an effective date of March 1, 2003.

[2] The current operator of the line is Buckingham Branch Railroad (BBR). Upon consummation of the