

service levels in the time horizon year adopted in the application. Address the operating feasibility of the proposed service, and summarize any identified risks associated with the operating plan. Describe any contractual arrangements that will be in place for the operation of the service. Include a description of the methodology employed in developing the operating plan. Operating plans developed in accordance with FRA's publication, entitled "Railroad Corridor Transportation Plans: A Guidance Manual," available at http://www.fra.dot.gov/Downloads/RRdev/corridor_planning.pdf, will be considered to fulfill these requirements. Address proposed means for ensuring and/or enforcing that the anticipated operating plan will be implemented with a high degree of reliability following the completion of the proposed project.

7. Describe any additional planning activities or capital improvements, beyond those project elements included in the grant proposal, that would be required in order to realize the operating benefits intended to be generated by the proposed project. Indicate the extent to which funding from other sources has been committed to and/or work has commenced on these additional requirements.

8. Describe proposed project implementation and project management provisions. Include descriptions of expected arrangements for project contracting, contract oversight, change-order management, risk management, and conformance to Federal requirements for project progress reporting.

9. Present a financial plan reflecting the anticipated financial performance of the benefiting service following completion of the grant-funded project. Include a detailed projected profit and loss statement, along with forecasts for revenues, ridership, passenger-miles, and expenses generated by the proposed service. Demonstrate the extent to which the benefiting service will not require Federal financial assistance to support its operation following the completion of the grant-funded project.

10. Describe the benefits forecasted to result from the proposed project, specifically as they relate to improvements in safety (particularly at railroad-highway grade crossings) and increases in intercity passenger rail reliability (particularly to the extent the proposed project would result in a commitment by host freight railroads to an enforceable on-time performance standard of 80 percent or greater).

11. Describe the extent to which the proposed project will result in reduced

line-haul and/or total travel times for intercity rail passengers, increased intercity passenger service frequencies, and/or enhanced service quality for intercity train passengers.

12. Describe the source(s) and amount(s) of matching funding to be committed to the project by the applicant.

13. Describe the anticipated ownership arrangement for the project following completion.

14. Describe any written agreements (or progress in negotiations) between the applicant and other entities regarding proposed grant-funded projects involving improvements or alterations to, or use of, assets owned or used by other entities.

15. Describe progress toward completing any environmental documentation or clearance required for the proposed project under the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, section 4(f) of the DOT Act, the Clean Water Act, or other applicable Federal or State laws.

16. Describe the degree to which intercity passenger rail is included as an integral part of the applicant State's statewide transportation planning, as required under section 135 of title 23, United States Code, and present evidence that the specific proposed project is included or mentioned in the applicant State's Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

Format: Excluding spreadsheets, drawings, and tables, the narrative statement for grant applications may not exceed fifty pages in length. With the exclusion of oversized engineering drawings (which may be submitted in hard copy to the FRA at the address above), all application materials should be submitted as attachments through Grants.Gov.

Spreadsheets consisting of budget or financial information should be submitted via Grants.Gov as Microsoft Excel (or compatible) documents.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 12, 2008.

Mark E. Yachmetz,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Development.

[FR Doc. E8-3018 Filed 2-15-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 670 (Sub-No. 1)]

Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C., App. 2).

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 6, 2008, beginning at 9 a.m., E.S.T.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the 1st floor hearing room at the Surface Transportation Board's headquarters at Patriot's Plaza, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott M. Zimmerman (202) 245-0202. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: 1-800-877-8339].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RETAC arose from a proceeding instituted by the Board, in *Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee*, STB Ex Parte No. 670. RETAC was formed to provide advice and guidance to the Board, and to serve as a forum for discussion of emerging issues regarding the transportation by rail of energy resources, particularly, but not necessarily limited to, coal, ethanol, and other biofuels. The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussions regarding issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, carriers, and users of energy resources.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be conducted pursuant to RETAC's charter and Board procedures. Further communications about this meeting may be announced through the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

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

Decided: February 12, 2008.

By the Board, Anne K. Quinlan, Acting
Secretary.

Anne K. Quinlan,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-3009 Filed 2-15-08; 8:45 am]

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