

April 7, 2003

**RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL
TO
RELEASE POLICY STATEMENT
ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
REAUTHORIZATION**

WASHINGTON, DC: The Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC or Council) announced today that it would hold a press briefing to release its policy statement on surface transportation reauthorization. The press briefing will be held on Thursday, April 10, at 10 am at the Brick Room at the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001.

RSTAC is an advisory board established by federal law to advise the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board and the U.S. Congress on issues related to rail freight, with particular attention to the requirements of small shippers and railroads. By statute, members of RSTAC are appointed by the Chair of the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB). Representatives of rail customers, class I railroads, small railroads and rail labor sit on the Council. STB commissioners and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation are ex officio members of the Council. A list of the members of the Council is attached.

RSTAC has addressed public policy issues in a series of "white papers" (see: stb.dot.gov). RSTAC's new Policy Statement on surface transportation reauthorization reflects a unique consensus of shippers, railroads and labor on this key policy issue.

A copy of the Policy Statement is attached. [Note to Press: Release of this document is "EMBARGOED" until April 10, at 10:00 am].

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