

**STB RAIL CUSTOMER & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STAFF TO HOLD MEETINGS
ON MAY 14 IN BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA**

The Surface Transportation Board announced today that staff representatives of the Board's Rail Customer and Public Assistance Program (RCPA), within the agency's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, will conduct informal and confidential meetings with interested persons on May 14, 2014, in Bloomington, MN concerning continuing railroad service issues.

The meetings are an outgrowth of the Board's April 10, 2014 public hearing in *United States Rail Service Issues*, Docket No. EP 724. RCPA will hold meetings in order to fully understand the continuing rail service problems affecting shippers, and to facilitate informal solutions wherever possible. Similar to RCPA meetings held in Fargo, ND in March and to be held in Sioux Falls, SD on May 6, 2014, RCPA staff will be available to meet with interested persons in Bloomington, MN, in half-hour appointments, at the following time and location:

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

7 a.m. – 5 p.m. local time

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites Minneapolis Airport

Three Appletree Square

Bloomington, MN 55425

Hotel: 952-854-9000 | Direct: 952-876-8652

Persons wishing to meet with RCPA staff members in Bloomington, MN are encouraged to email their requests—which RCPA will treat as confidential—by the close of business on Monday, May 12, 2014, to the following address: higginsm@stb.dot.gov. Please include a preferred half-hour time slot, which will be subject to RCPA confirmation. Requests for meetings may also be made by calling 202-245-0284.

RCPA plans to hold an additional meeting soon in Montana. RCPA representatives also will be available at the North American Rail Shippers Association's "NARS Annual Meeting," on May 28-30, 2014, in San Francisco, California, for confidential, informal consultations with stakeholders.

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