

CALL FOR PAPERS

Second Conference on Railroad Industry Structure, Competition, and Investment

October 8-9, 2004

At the Transportation Center, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Please Note Deadlines:

For Abstract: May 1, 2004 – For Draft Paper: June 30, 2004

We invite interested scholars and others to participate in the *Second Annual Conference on Railroad Industry Structure, Competition, and Investment* at Northwestern University on October 8-9, 2004. This annual conference, jointly organized by the **Institut D'Economie Industrielle (IDEI) at Toulouse, France and the Transportation Center at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois**, is an international forum for professional economists, policymakers, and others to present and discuss research on an established industry that is worldwide undergoing dramatic changes in the 21st century. The conference will be partially underwritten by funding from the Federal Railroad Administration.

A First Conference held in Toulouse in 2003 focused mainly on the restructuring of the European passenger rail network. **The Second Conference this year at Northwestern will emphasize the restructuring of freight railroad services.**

The Conference will provide an opportunity to assess the performance of U.S. freight railroads nearly a quarter century after being deregulated by the Staggers Rail Act in 1980 and it will consider issues that may not have been resolved by Staggers pertaining to the economics, public policy, and future prospects of the industry. The Conference will also consider how the U.S. experience may be relevant to rail freight development and restructuring elsewhere in the world.

The Second Railroad Industry Conference will address most or all of the following topics:

- (i) Pricing, costs, and investment analyses of passenger and freight rail markets; effects of deregulation, mergers and other structural changes on market performance; studies of economies of scale, density, and scope; the role of contract rates and service commitments.
- (ii) Capacity, cost, and technology alternatives analyses of line haul operations, equipment (locomotives and freight cars), and total network capacity; studies of the operating issues and investment trade-offs among different forms of providing or rationing capacity; investigation of optimal maintenance practice.

- (iii) Studies of service reliability in the context of capacity constraints and/or network outages and service disruptions; economic analyses of the use of information systems to enhance capacity, reliability, and security of infrastructure or lading.
- (iv) Theoretical and empirical studies of the relationship between structural changes in rail markets and labor.
- (v) Transportation externalities and the potential role of passenger and freight rail systems in reducing externalities; intermodal policy issues.
- (vi) Optimal regulation and/or subsidization of passenger and freight rail systems; investment incentives and access prices; political economy of railroads.
- (vii) Historical perspectives on the economic role of railroads; impact of railroads on legal and financial systems; relationships among railroad growth, maturity, and decline and the development of economic and regulatory theory.

Papers will be selected by a scientific committee that includes Ronald Braeutigam (Northwestern), Robert Gallamore (Northwestern), Marc Ivaldi (IDEI), Gerard McCullough (Minnesota), David Newbery (Cambridge), John Panzar (Northwestern), Paul Seabright (IDEI) and Jean Tirole (IDEI).

Submission of Papers:

If you would like to submit a paper, simply complete the enclosed form and return it to Ms. Suzette Denose at the Transportation Center by email at s-denose@northwestern.edu, or by fax at 847-491-3090.

All proposals to present papers must include an abstract of the paper, and these must reach the Transportation Center by May 1, 2004. Completed drafts of all papers are due by June 30, 2004. The program and list of presenters will be confirmed and notification will be made to presenters by August 1, 2004. The Transportation Center will cover registration, accommodations and travel expenses for speakers.

Pre-Registration for Non-presenters:

Individuals wishing to participate in the Conference but not intending to submit a paper are asked to express their interest in attending by completing and returning the attached ***“Pre-Registration Form.”*** On-line registration for conference attendance will be available from July 1, 2004 to September 15, 2004. Pre-registrants will be asked to confirm their registration at that time. The registration fee for non-speaker participants will be \$250.

We hope you will be able to join us for an intellectually stimulating conference, with potentially significant academic, strategic, and policy outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

The organizers: Ronald Braeutigam, John Panzar, Gerard McCullough, Robert Gallamore