

WEEKLY RAIL RECAP

For the week ending SAT, December 28, 2002

By Dave Mears

(NOTE: The expression "ffd" at the end of a news item means "for further details" and usually represents what I believe to be the most helpful news resource if a reader wants more information on a particular item.)

THE WEEK'S TOP NEWS (in chronological order):

(NOTE: As expected a light week news-wise, here at the very end of 2002.)

(MON) General Electric's Transportation subsidiary debuted what it called a "new generation" of diesel-electric locomotives. A GE Transportation spokesman said that the new locomotives will emit 50 percent less smoke and 30 percent less nitrogen oxide in preparation for new and tougher locomotive emission standards scheduled to take effect in 2 years. (ffd: wire services)

(WED) India's capital of New Delhi opened the first 5 mile segment of its new subway system. Nearly a million persons rode the line on its first day of service. The new system will eventually total 37 miles of line by 2005. (ffd: wire services)

(WED) Russian officials announced that the Trans-Siberian rail line was now completely electrified. The officials said that the final 109 miles of electrification were completed last month, making the 5,578 mile-long route the world's longest electrified rail line. Electrification of the Trans-Siberian was started in 1928 and then completed in segments over the next 74 years. (ffd: wire services)

(FRI) Washington, DC. transit operator WMATA reported its intended Metrorail subway system improvement projects for 2003. The projects include opening a new \$132 million maintenance and storage yard near the system's Branch Ave. station, expansion of the current New Carrollton maintenance and storage yard and continued construction of the Red Line's new station at New York Avenue and the extension of the Blue Line to Largo, MD. The latter 2 projects are expected to be complete by 2004. (ffd: Progressive Railroading)

STATS:

(THU) For the week ending December 21, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 2.1 percent from the comparable week last year, down 0.2 percent in the East, but up 4.0 percent in the West. Also for the week ending December 21, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 8.6 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 0.8 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 27.2 percent, Mexico's Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana's carload rail traffic down 5.5 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 27.1 percent, all when ranked with the comparable period last year.

For the period January 1 through December 21 and comparing with the like period last year, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 0.8 percent and U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 4.5 percent. U.S. intermodal rail traffic also set a new U.S. record of 9,228,856 units handled this year, beating the old record of 9,176,890 units handled in 2000. Also for the period January 1 through December 21, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 2.7 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 11.8 percent, TFM's carload rail traffic was up 3.3 percent and TFM's intermodal rail traffic was up 10.7 percent, all when ranked with the comparable period last year. (ffd: AAR)

ACQUISITIONS, ABANDONMENTS AND ALIKE:

(THU) Pursuant to agreements made to allow future construction of a public transportation system on its right-of-way out of San Jose, CA., Union Pacific sold approximately 15 miles of the former Western Pacific's Milpitas Line to California's Santa Clara Transportation Authority. (ffd: STB)

(FRI) The Airlake Terminal Railway filed to acquire, from Empire Builder, Inc., approximately 3 miles of line serving the Airlake Industrial Park in Lakeville, MN. (ffd: STB)

CHANGING PEOPLE AND PLACES:

None of note this week.

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Weekly Rail Recap is edited from public news sources and published weekly, usually on Sunday or Monday, to the rail and transit industries and those interested in them. Send an e-mail to djmservices@aol.com to receive it, with my compliments.

HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS WEEK,
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