High-Speed Rail: Connecting People, Building Sustainable Prosperity

More than 1,000 attendees expected from across the globe to exchange views on the development and achievements of high-speed rail worldwide

(Washington D.C./Paris, FR--May 30, 2012). UIC HIGHSPEED 2012 will be hosted in Philadelphia, PA (USA) on July 10 – 13, 2012. The international event is the world’s largest global gathering focused around successful strategies, latest developments, best practices and innovative technologies in high-speed rail. This year, the 8th World Congress & Trade Exhibition on High-Speed Rail will address strategic issues linked to the national and international development of high-speed rail systems.

The event is organized by International Union of Railways (UIC) and American Public Transportation Association (APTA), with the cooperation of UIC North American members: American rail operator Amtrak, Association of American Railroads (AAR), U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and VIA Rail Canada.

Opening Session (Wednesday, July 11, 2012)
The 8th World Congress will be led by Yoshio Ishida, UIC Chairman and, Mr. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC General Director, who will be joined by Gary Thomas Chairman of APTA, and Michael Melaniphy, President and Chief Executive Officer of APTA. The co-hosts will lead the discussions with high level representatives from the United States and world rail leaders that will take you on a high-speed rail tour throughout the world:

- **Ray LaHood**, Secretary of Transportation of the United States
- **Ana María Pastor Julián**, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Spain
- **Denis Lebel**, Minister of Transport of Canada
- **Takeshi Maeda**, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan
- **Sławomir Nowak**, Minister of Transport of Poland
- **Binali Yıldırım**, Minister of Transport of Turkey
- **Huawu HE**, the Chief engineer, Ministry of Railways, P.R. China
- **Marcel Verslype**, Executive Director of (European Railway Agency
- **Mauro Moretti**, CEO of FS, Vice President UIC & President of Community of Europe Railway and Infrastructure
- **Vladimir Yakunin**, President of JSC Russian Railways RZD
- **Guillaume Pepy**, President of French Railways SNCF

Issue Roundtables
Two Roundtable discussions will be led on financing of high-speed lines and competition between modes in which the following guest participants will take part in the debates:
**Roundtable 1 (12 July 2012) “How to Deliver a High-Speed Rail Project in Today’s Economic Context”**

Enrique Verdeguer, Chairman of the Spanish infrastructure manager ADIF  
Satoshi Seino, Chairman of JR East  
Kent Rowey, Americas Energy & Infrastructure, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Joseph Boardman, President & CEO of Amtrak  
Jianping ZHANG, Chinese Ministry of Railways  
Michele Elia, CEO of the Italian infrastructure manager RFI/FS  
Andrew McNaughton, Chief Engineer for HS2 UK  
Andy Kunz, President & CEO of USHSR  
Marc Juhel, Sector Manager, Transport, World Bank

**Round table 2 (13 July 2012) “What part can HSR play in the future transport market?”**

Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator of Federal Railroad Administration  
Barbara Dalibard, CEO of SNCF Voyages (FRANCE)  
Adrian Corry, Senior Consultant Public Transportation BMW Group Designworks, USA  
Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Dean, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania  
Chung Chang-Young, CEO & President of KORAIL  
Julio Gomez-Pomar, President of the Spanish rail operator RENFE  
Neil Peterson, Executive Adviser, CH2M Hill  
Vincenzo Soprano, CEO of Trenitalia/FS

**Expert Panel Sessions**

More than 130 experts from 18 countries were selected from an overwhelming number of abstracts received and are covering 25 sessions to discuss all issues linked to high-speed rail development: political and strategic planning, innovative financing solutions, technological innovations, energy and carbon balance, standards and interoperability, safety and security management, research, trends in commercial concepts and services, and partnerships. A special emphasize will be put on high speed corridors in the world such as the North American, Scandinavian, Eastern Europe, North African and Middle-East corridors.

**UIC HIGHSPEED 2012 International Trade Exhibition**

The trade exhibition will be held simultaneously with the World Congress and will provide a meeting platform where latest technologies and developments in high-speed rail will be showcased. Railway manufacturers, railway undertakings, infrastructure companies, consultants, supplying industry, and service companies will demonstrate their innovative products and services to visitors to the exhibition as well as the high-level congress participants.

**Students Competition**

Twelve students coming from China, Germany, Finland, Portugal, and the USA have been selected to attend the World Congress and will give, during the Closing Session on Friday, July 13, their impression of the conference and make a presentation of their submitted papers on the proposed issues:

- What are the primary obstacles to having new dedicated HSR infrastructure built in the United States?
- Can the U.S. afford not to invest in HSR?
- What does an ideal high-speed rail station look like?
- What are the major reasons for limiting the commercial speed of HSR and how can those be overcome?

The UIC HIGHSPEED 2012 program will also include technical tours facilitated by AMTRAK.

More information is available on the UIC HIGHSPEED 2012 website:

www.uic-highspeed2012.com
Note to the editor(s)
The World Congress and Trade Exhibition UIC HIGHSPEED 2012 will be held on 10-13 July 2012 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Media participation at our events is subject to accreditation. Accreditation is strictly reserved for members of the press who fully meet our media accreditation requirements. This applies to print and online media, photographers, radio, TV, film, news agencies and freelance journalists. Accreditation will be granted upon registration. You are kindly requested to fill in the form on the UIC HIGHSPEED 2012 website and submit your registration. We will confirm your registration as soon as possible.