

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**Overview:** The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is charged with promoting substantive and procedural regulatory reform in the economic regulation of surface transportation, and with providing an efficient and effective forum for the resolution of disputes and the facilitation of appropriate business transactions. In the performance of its functions, the STB seeks to resolve matters brought before it fairly and expeditiously through the use of its regulatory exemption authority, the streamlining of the decisional process, and the consistent application of legal and equitable principles. The STB continues to strive to develop, through rulemakings and case disposition, new and better ways to analyze unique and complex problems, to reach fully justified decisions more quickly, and to reduce the costs associated with regulatory oversight.

| <b>SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD BUDGET</b> |               |                |                |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| (Dollars In Millions)                      |               |                |                |
|  | <b>2004</b>   | <b>2005</b>    | <b>2006</b>    |
|  | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Enacted</u> | <u>Request</u> |
| Salaries & Expenses                        | 18            | 20             | 23             |
| Fees                                       | 1             | 1              | 1              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>19</b>     | <b>21</b>      | <b>24</b>      |

### FY 2006 Budget

**Salaries, Expenses and Fees:** The FY 2006 budget request of \$24.4 million will be financed by appropriation and the offsetting collection of user fees. Included in the budget request is \$4.5 million for one-time expenses to relocate the agency from its current physical site due to the expiration of its building lease. The STB, established in 1996 pursuant to the ICC Termination Act of 1995, is responsible for the economic regulation of the rail industry and the transportation of commodities by pipeline other than oil and gas. The STB is also responsible for certain non-licensing regulation of motor and water carriers.

**Intercity Passenger Rail:** Funding of \$360 million is to be made available to support existing commuter service along the Northeast Corridor and elsewhere should Amtrak cease commuter rail operations.