ROUTE Industry Reference File
MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The Interline Settlement System (ISS) and the Rate EDI Network (REN) projects have led the way to requiring an Industry Standard Route File for the railroad industry. The REN Implementation Committee formed the IRF Routing Committee in April of 1992 to determine the business usage of Routes and to develop an Industry Reference File (IRF) for Routes.

On evaluating requirements and available options for the route file, it was determined that the Industry Reference File for Routes will be based on the route file currently maintained and distributed by Transportation Data Xchange, Inc.

Transportation Data Xchange (TDX) is providing the Requirements Definition document to implement a Routes Maintenance System based on the IRF Routing Committee developed requirements and TDX's existing route system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to provide a Industry Standard Routes File to be used by the railroads which meets all defined requirements for the Interline Settlement System and the Rate EDI Network. The system will include a routes maintenance and data distribution system based on requirements and procedures defined by the IRF Routing Committee.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Routes Maintenance Responsibilities

The Industry Reference File (IRF) for Routes will be Carrier a maintained file. Carriers may update the routes file using an on-line system, EDI transactions or letter or FAX.

TDX will act as the file maintainer by updating the routes file based on letter or FAXed maintenance requests and providing Help Desk services for users of the IRF Routes File.

Major Systems Components

The four systems major components of the Routes System are:

> The *On-line Routes Maintenance System* which will be used to update the IRF Routes File on an on-line interactive basis.

The *EOI Routes Maintenance System* which will provide a method of updating the IRF Routes File using EDI transaction sets.

The *Routes Mass Maintenance System* which will be used to update the IRF Routes File based on Carrier or Junction adoptions and abandonments.

The *Routes Distribution System* which will be used to communicate updates to Industry Routes File.

On-line Routes Maintenance System

The on-line Routes Maintenance System will consist of an on-line system to be used for inquiring and updating the IRF for Routes. The system will be similar to TDX's current on-line routes system and will operate independently from TDX's existing system.

EDI Routes Maintenance System

The EDI Routes Maintenance System will provide a process to accept and update the IRF Routes File based on EDI transaction requests.

Mass Route Maintenance System

Processes will be provided to apply updates to the IRF Routes File based on carrier changes which will include adoptions and abandonments. Junction name changes and abandonments will also be addressed.

Routes Distribution System

Route updates will be distributed in EDI format to all subscribers to the file. A process will be provided to format and transmit any changes the IRF Routes File.

The complete IRF Routes File will also be available in magnetic tape and PC Diskette format on a monthly basis as an additional subscription option.

Subscribers may also retrieve updates to the IRF Routes File from a mailbox to process data on an 'as needed' basis.

Implementation

The Industry Reference File for Routes will be implemented on July 1, 1993.