

BMW NEWS RELEASE
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes
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**BMW Grand Lodge Officers Approve Sending
Merger Agreement Out For Ratification**

Southfield, MI, August 23, 2004 --The Grand Lodge Officers of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes (BMW) voted unanimously to send the proposed merger agreement between BMW and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) to the membership of BMW for a ratification vote. The BMW Merger Committee, comprised of six General Chairmen--one from each of the five U.S. regions and one from Canada--reached agreement with the IBT after approximately one year of negotiations with the IBT Merger Committee. Approval by the Grand Lodge Officers to send the agreement to the membership is the final step of the internal review process prior to a membership ratification vote.

If the merger agreement and related documents are approved by the membership in the upcoming ballot referendum, the BMW will become an autonomous division of the IBT Rail Conference. In December 2003, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers voted to join the IBT Rail Conference as an autonomous division.

BMW Acting President Freddie Simpson stated, "This merger will unite two proud unions with long histories in the transportation industry, working to protect and increase the power of transportation labor. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers already have joined the Teamsters, and if the BMW also votes to join the Teamsters Rail Conference, over 40 percent of Rail Labor will be united in one union, speaking with one voice for the rank-and-file. That's the kind of solidarity our members expect and deserve, BMW, BLET and the Teamsters working together for the common good of all our members."

In compliance with the BMW Constitution and Bylaws, all BMW active members in good standing are eligible to vote in the referendum ballot. It is anticipated that the merger agreement and all related documents will be sent to all active BMW members in good standing during the month of September 2004.

BMW represents approximately 40,000 workers in the U.S. and Canada who build, maintain, inspect, and repair the tracks, bridges, and related railroad infrastructure throughout North America.

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