

effectively “grandfather” BNSF’s continued use of these types of crossties across six divisions throughout the BNSF operating system.

BNSF claims: (1) The performance of 3/4 Concrete Ties have not resulted in any derailments due to gage or defective crossties defects since the issuance of the waiver in 2011; (2) FRA has taken no exception to wide gage throughout BNSF’s use of 3/4 Concrete Ties in the past; and (3) foot-by-foot analysis by automated inspection show the 3/4 Concrete Ties remained stable and are not degrading.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202–493–2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by October 2, 2020 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records

notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,  
Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2020–19398 Filed 9–1–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–06–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2020–0068]

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on August 14, 2020, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) (Petitioners), on behalf of themselves and their member railroads, petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 236, Rules, Standards, and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices, and Appliances. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2020–0068.

Specifically, Petitioners request relief from 49 CFR 236.1021, which governs the Request for Amendment (RFA) process when material modifications are made to a mixed-certification Interoperable Train Control Positive Train Control (PTC) system or its accompanying Safety Plan (PTCSP). Petitioners state that the RFA process when modifications are made to a PTCSP is a time consuming and significant undertaking for both FRA and railroad staff, involving submission of a voluminous amount of information and likely a lengthy review and approval process. Petitioners further state that frequently occurring modifications to account for regular PTC technology updates of the FRA-certified PTC system are necessary to allow for the continued successful and safe operation of the PTC system.

Petitioners assert that approval of this waiver request would eliminate undue paperwork, administrative burdens, and delays to modifications that are intended to improve the functioning of

existing PTC systems. Petitioners also contend that approval would result in significant resource and cost savings to both FRA and the railroads.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202–493–2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by October 19, 2020 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <http://www.regulations.gov/#/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,  
Chief Safety Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2020-0027-N-18]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad  
Administration (FRA), Department of  
Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection;  
request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork  
Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), this notice  
announces that FRA is forwarding the  
Information Collection Request (ICR)  
abstracted below to the Office of  
Management and Budget (OMB) for  
review and comment. The ICR describes  
the information collection and its  
expected burden. On May 29, 2020, FRA  
published a notice providing a 60-day  
period for public comment on the ICR.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to  
submit comments on or before October  
2, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and  
recommendations for the proposed ICR  
should be sent within 30 days of  
publication of this notice to  
[www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain).  
Find this particular ICR by selecting  
“Currently under 30-day Review—Open  
for Public Comments” or by using the  
search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms.  
Kim Toone, Information Collection  
Clearance Officer, Office of  
Administration, Office of Information  
Technology, Federal Railroad  
Administration, 1200 New Jersey  
Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590  
(telephone: (202) 493-6132).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PRA,  
44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, and its  
implementing regulations, 5 CFR part  
1320, require Federal agencies to issue  
two notices seeking public comment on  
information collection activities before  
OMB may approve paperwork packages.  
See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8  
through 1320.12. On May 29, 2020, FRA  
published a 60-day notice in the **Federal  
Register** soliciting comment on the ICR  
for which it is now seeking OMB  
approval. See 85 FR 32440. FRA  
received one comment from Rio Metro

Regional Transit Authority suggesting  
that the current grant application be  
improved to eliminate redundancies. It  
recommended that FRA capture from  
applicants additional information in the  
project narrative so that the Statement of  
Work (SOW) can be eliminated. After  
careful consideration, FRA determined  
that this recommendation could not be  
implemented as the documents serve  
distinct functions. The primary purpose  
of the project narrative is to address  
statutory grant evaluation and selection  
criteria and the primary purpose of the  
SOW is to determine project readiness  
for obligations. Therefore, FRA plans on  
continuing both the project narrative  
and SOW.

Before OMB decides whether to  
approve these proposed collections of  
information, it must provide 30 days for  
public comment. Federal law requires  
OMB to approve or disapprove  
paperwork packages between 30 and 60  
days after the 30-day notice is  
published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR  
1320.10(b); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983,  
Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes the 30-day  
notice informs the regulated community  
to file relevant comments and affords  
the agency adequate time to digest  
public comments before it renders a  
decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995.  
Therefore, respondents should submit  
their respective comments to OMB  
within 30 days of publication to best  
ensure having their full effect.

*Comments are invited on the  
following ICR regarding:* (1) Whether the  
information collection activities are  
necessary for FRA to properly execute  
its functions, including whether the  
information will have practical utility;  
(2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of  
the burden of the information collection  
activities, including the validity of the  
methodology and assumptions used to  
determine the estimates; (3) ways for  
FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and  
clarity of the information being  
collected; and (4) ways to minimize the  
burden of information collection  
activities on the public, including the  
use of automated collection techniques  
or other forms of information  
technology.

The summaries below describe the  
ICR that FRA will submit for OMB  
clearance as the PRA requires:

**Title:** Grants Management  
Requirements for Federal Railroad  
Administration. Grant Awards and  
Cooperative Agreements.

**OMB Control Number:** 2130-0615.

**Abstract:** FRA solicits grant  
applications for projects including, but  
not limited to, preconstruction planning  
activities, safety improvements,  
congestion relief, improvements of

grade crossings, and rail line relocation,  
as well as projects that encourage  
development, expansion, and upgrades  
to passenger and freight rail  
infrastructure and services. FRA funds  
projects that meet FRA and government-  
wide evaluation standards and align  
with the DOT Strategic Plan.

FRA administers award agreements  
for both construction and non-  
construction projects that will result in  
benefits or other tangible improvements  
in rail corridors, service, safety, and  
technology. These projects include  
completion of preliminary engineering  
environmental, research and  
development, final design, and  
construction.

FRA requires systematic and uniform  
collection and submission of  
information, as approved by OMB, to  
ensure accountability of Federal  
assistance provided by FRA. Through  
this information collection, FRA will  
measure Federal award recipients'  
performance and results, including  
expenditures in support of agreed-upon  
activities and allowable costs outlined  
in FRA Notice of Grant Award. This  
information collection includes OMB-  
required reports and documentation, as  
well as additional forms and submission  
to compile evidence relevant to  
addressing FRA's important policy  
challenges, promoting cost-effectiveness  
in FRA programs, and providing  
effective oversight of programmatic and  
financial performance. FRA issues and  
manages awards in compliance with 2  
CFR part 200; Uniform Administrative  
Requirements, Cost Principles, and  
Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

**Form(s):** All FRA forms are located at  
FRA's public website; all SF forms are  
located at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov). FRA forms 30  
(FRA Assurance and Certifications  
Regarding Lobbying; Debarment,  
Suspension and Other Responsibility  
Matters and Drug-Free Workplace  
Requirements), 31 (Grant Adjustment  
Require Form), 32 (Service Outcome  
Agreement Annual Reporting), 33 (Final  
Performance Report), 34 (Quarterly  
Progress Report), 35 (Application Form),  
217 (Categorical Exclusion Worksheet),  
229 (NIST Manufacturing Extension  
Partnership Supplier Scouting—FRA  
Item Opportunity Synopsis), 251  
(Applicant Financial Capability  
Questionnaire), and 252 (Payment  
Summary Spreadsheet). SF forms 270  
(Request for Advance or  
Reimbursement), 424 (Application for  
Federal Assistance), 424 A (Budget  
Information for Non-Construction  
Programs), 424B (Assurance for Non-  
Construction Programs), 424C (Budget  
Information for Construction Programs),  
424D (Assurances for Construction