

PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/train-control/ptc/ptc-annual-and-quarterly-reports>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gabe Neal, Deputy Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 816-516-7168, email: Gabe.Neal@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In general, Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 20157(h) requires FRA to certify that a host railroad's PTC system complies with 49 CFR part 236, subpart I, before the technology may be operated in revenue service. Before making certain changes to an FRA-certified PTC system or the associated FRA-approved PTCSP, a host railroad must submit, and obtain FRA's approval of, an RFA to its PTCSP under Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA's regulations provide that FRA will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** and invite public comment in accordance with 49 CFR part 211, if an RFA includes a request for approval of a material modification of a signal and train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that host railroads' recent RFAs to their PTCSPs are available in their respective public PTC dockets, and this notice provides an opportunity for public comment on these RFAs.

On July 16, 2021, the following 19 host railroads jointly submitted an RFA to their respective PTCSPs for their Interoperable Electronic Train Management Systems (I-ETMS): Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARR), The Belt Railway Company of Chicago (BRC), BNSF Railway (BNSF), Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCMZ), Canadian National Railway (CN), Canadian Pacific Railway (CP), Consolidated Rail Corporation (CRSH), CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX), Kansas City Terminal Railway (KCT), Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS), National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak), New Mexico Rail Runner Express (NMRX), Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (Metra), Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICD), Norfolk Southern Railway (NS), South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRV), Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, and Union Pacific Railroad (UP). Their joint RFA is available in Docket Numbers FRA-2010-0028, -0029,

-0039, -0042, -0043, -0045, -0048, -0051, -0054, -0056, -0057, -0058, -0059, -0060, -0061, -0062, -0064, -0065, and -0070.

Interested parties are invited to comment on any RFAs to railroads' PTCSPs by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of railroads' RFAs, FRA will consider any comments or data submitted within the timeline specified in this notice and to the extent practicable, without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to PTC systems. See 49 CFR 236.1021; *see also* 49 CFR 236.1011(e). Under 49 CFR 236.1021, FRA maintains the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny railroads' RFAs to their PTCSPs at FRA's sole discretion.

Privacy Act Notice

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.3, FRA solicits comments from the public to better inform its decisions. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://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 <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov. To facilitate comment tracking, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact FRA for alternate submission instructions.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,

Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2020-0056]

**Petition for Approval Extension:
Canadian Pacific Railway Company**

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

ACTION: Notice of petition for extension of approval of track inspection test program.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that on July 7, 2021, Canadian Pacific Railway (CP)

petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to extend an existing temporary suspension of some visual track inspections to allow for continuation of a previously-approved Test Program designed to test track inspection technologies (*i.e.*, an autonomous track geometry measurement system) and new operational approaches to track inspections (*i.e.*, combinations of autonomous inspection and traditional visual inspections).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yu-Jiang Zhang, Staff Director, Track and Structures Division, Office of Railroad Safety, FRA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, telephone (202) 493-6460 or email yujang.zhang@dot.gov; Aaron Moore, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, telephone (202) 493-7009 or email aaron.moore@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 22, 2020, FRA conditionally approved the Test Program and CP's petition under 49 CFR 211.51 to suspend §§ 213.233(b)(3) and 213.233(c) as applied to operations under the Test Program. A copy of the Test Program, FRA's conditional approval of the Test Program, and a previously published **Federal Register** notice explaining FRA's rationale for approving the Test Program and related suspension are available for review in the docket.¹

As approved, the Test Program includes three separate phases over the course of 12 months as outlined in Exhibit C of the Program.² CP began the Test Program on August 7, 2020. Accordingly, the Test Program is currently set to expire on August 7, 2021.

CP is requesting to extend the Test Program until April 6, 2022 to complete the Program. CP cites the impact of COVID-19 as the primary reason for requesting the extension, noting that the railroad's efforts to safeguard the health of its employees and variety of restrictions associated with COVID-19 have "impacted logistics, training, and change management activities associated with the Test Program." In support of its request, CP states that it will continue to comply with all other conditions and requirements of FRA's July 22, 2020, approval letter. CP further notes that for phase 3 of the Test

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0056-0001> (Test Program); <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0056-0002> (FRA's approval decision); <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0056-0004> (FRA's published notice of approval).

² See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0056-0001>.

Program, it intends to take a more conservative approach than that provided for in FRA's approval letter by continuing manual visual inspections at the frequency specified in phase 2 of the Test Program.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, if any, are available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments.

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.

Communications received by August 26, 2021 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, 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/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of 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

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2018-0206]

Air Ambulance and Patient Billing Advisory Committee Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OST),
Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of
Transportation (Department or DOT) is

giving notice that a virtual public meeting of the Air Ambulance and Patient Billing (AAPB) Advisory Committee will take place on August 11, 2021. The AAPB Advisory Committee will discuss the impact of the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA) on States' ability to regulate air ambulance operations and whether to recommend that the ADA be amended as a means of improving the regulation of air ambulance providers.

DATES: The AAPB Advisory Committee will hold a virtual meeting on August 11, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time. Requests to attend the meeting must be received by August 10, 2021. Requests for accommodations because of a disability must be received by August 3, 2021. If you wish to speak during the meeting, you must submit a written copy of your remarks to DOT by August 3, 2021. Requests to submit written materials to be reviewed during the meeting must be received no later than August 3, 2021.

ADDRESSES: The virtual meeting will be open to the public and held via the Zoom Webinar Platform. Virtual attendance information will be provided upon registration. An agenda will be available on the AAPB Advisory Committee website at <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/AAPB> at least one week before the meeting, along with copies of the meeting minutes after the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register and attend this virtual meeting, please contact the Department by email at AAPB@dot.gov. Attendance is open to the public subject to any technical and/or capacity limitations. For further information, contact Robert Gorman, Senior Attorney, at (202) 366-9342 or by email at robert.gorman@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (2018 FAA Act) requires the DOT Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), to establish an advisory committee to review options to improve the disclosure of charges and fees for air medical services, better inform consumers of insurance options for such services, and protect consumers from balance billing. On September 12, 2019, the Department announced the creation of the AAPB Advisory Committee.

The AAPB Advisory Committee held a public meeting on January 15-16, 2020. At that meeting, the AAPB Advisory Committee gathered information about the air ambulance industry, air ambulance costs and

billing, and insurance and air ambulance payment systems. The AAPB Advisory Committee also discussed disclosure and separation of charges, cost shifting, and balance billing.

On February 4, 2020, the Department established three Subcommittees: (1) The Subcommittee on Disclosure and Distinction of Charges and Coverage for Air Ambulance Services; (2) the Subcommittee on Prevention of Balance Billing, and (3) the Subcommittee on State and DOT Consumer Protection Authorities. On January 11, 2021, the Subcommittees filed reports and draft recommendations for the full Committee's review.

The AAPB Advisory Committee held a second public meeting on May 27-28, 2021. The Committee discussed the draft recommendations of the Subcommittees and developed its own recommendations.¹ At the conclusion of the May 28 meeting, Committee members expressed an interest in discussing the ADA's impact on States' ability to regulate the activities of air ambulance services and in making recommendations related to the ADA, Public Law 95-504, as a means of improving the regulation of air ambulance providers. The Committee's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) indicated that a supplemental Committee meeting would be held to discuss and consider this matter, if the Department determined that the Committee had authority to do so after a careful review of the Committee's charter and the 2018 FAA Act. The Department has now determined that the Committee has the authority to discuss and make recommendations related to the ADA. While representatives of DOT and HHS are voting members of the AAPB Advisory Committee, those two representatives will abstain from voting on the merits of any recommendation that the Committee may develop regarding the ADA.

II. Summary of the Agenda

During the August 11, 2021 meeting, the AAPB Advisory Committee will deliberate the issue of whether and how to recommend that Congress amend the ADA. A more detailed agenda will be made available at least one week before the meeting at <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/AAPB>.

¹ Presentations, Subcommittee reports, and other materials from the first two public meetings are available for public review on the AAPB Advisory Committee's docket, DOT-OST-2018-0206.