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Dated: June 21, 2002.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-16204 Filed 6-27-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2002-12540]

#### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of deadline for submitting waiver applications under existing waiver authority.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Public Law 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. However, MARAD's authority to grant waivers expires September 30, 2002. To allow adequate time for application processing and public comment, all new applications should be received by MARAD as soon as possible but no later than August 1, 2002. Any certificate or endorsement already issued shall continue in effect until otherwise invalidated or revoked under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Dunn, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-2307.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title V of Public Law 105-383 provides authority to the Secretary of Transportation to administratively waive the U.S.-build requirements of the Jones Act, Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, as amended, 46 App. U.S.C. 883, and other statutes, for small commercial passenger vessels (no more than 12 passengers). This authority has been delegated to the Maritime Administration per 49 CFR § 1.66, Delegations to the Maritime Administrator, as amended.

In order to implement the law, a set of procedures has been established to expedite waiver processing. As part of the application procedure MARAD requires a period of public notice, which includes the publication of applications for a waiver for 30 days for public review in the **Federal Register**.

After the public notice period MARAD uses all sources available to determine if there will be an "undue adverse affect" on existing operators and boat builders. The waiver will not be issued if it is determined by MARAD that the action will unduly adversely affect operators of U.S.-built vessels or U.S. shipyards. Lastly, there is a review procedure and a waiver revocation process if the vessel's use changes substantially after the waiver is issued and the change causes adverse impact.

It is MARAD's goal to make all waiver decisions by September 16, 2002 to include the Maritime Administrator's 10-day rescission period before waiver authority expires September 30, 2002.

#### Basic Eligibility Requirements

(a) The vessel must have been built outside the United States and be at least three years old.

(b) The vessel will not be allowed to carry more than 12 passengers.

(c) The vessel must be of at least 5 net tons and not registered under the laws of a foreign country.

(d) The vessel's ownership must meet U.S. citizenship requirements.

(e) The vessel must meet all other U.S. Coast Guard requirements for a Coastwise Trade Endorsement before it can engage in commercial service. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure a proposed vessel meets these standards. For information, please contact the Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center on 1-800-799-8362.

#### How to Make Application

Applications should reach us no later than August 1, 2002 since our waiver authority expires September 30, 2002. Also, because US Postal Service mail has been delayed in reaching our office since October 2001 you may wish to use an alternate carrier to submit your request. Please apply in writing to the Maritime Administration at the following address. Secretary, Maritime Administration, MAR-120 Room 7210, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

The application will be for an administrative waiver of the coastwise laws of the United States for an eligible vessel to carry no more than twelve (12) passengers for hire. The application need not be in any particular format, but

must be signed and contain the following information:

(a) Name of vessel including official or state registration number, and owner for which waiver is requested.

(b) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel (state whether tonnage is measured pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 14502, or otherwise, and if otherwise, how measured).

(c) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade. [A good definition of the geographic region is important because it will assist MARAD in determining if the issuance of a waiver will have an adverse impact on current operators. The waiver, if granted, will limit the operation of the vessel to the geographic area specified by the applicant.]

(d) Date and place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. (If applicant is unable to determine the origin of the vessel, foreign construction will be assumed).

(e) Name, address, and telephone number of vessel owner.

(f) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators, including a statement describing the operations of existing operators.

(g) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards.

You must enclose a non-refundable application fee for each waiver requested, in the form of a check or money order for \$300, made out to the order of "Maritime Administration—Transportation."

MARAD may ask additional questions of the applicant and, as part of the application review process, consider public comment, internal investigation and analysis, or any other sources or information deemed appropriate.

#### Process

Your waiver request will be published in the **Federal Register** as soon as practicable for a period of 30 days for public comment. After the 30-day public comment period, MARAD will review all information available and issue a decision. It is our goal to make a decision on every application by September 16, 2002.

A complete copy of the formal rule regarding this program can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Once into the Document Management System, "search" under docket number 5915, the final rule appears as the last document entered, document 6.

Dated: June 24, 2002.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-16267 Filed 6-26-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of Transportation Statistics

#### Grant Program for Research and Development in the Field of Transportation Statistics

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of new grant cycle.

**SUMMARY:** The BTS supports its goal of advancing the field of transportation statistics through the Transportation Statistics Research Grants program. This notice solicits applications for projects that support the development of the field of transportation statistics; and/or involve research or development in transportation statistics. It outlines the purpose, goals, and general procedures for application and award. For this cycle, BTS will make available up to approximately \$256,000 in grant funds to eligible organizations.

**DATES:** For BTS to consider your application, we must receive it by August 7, 2002, at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Applications received after August 7, 2002, will be held for the next cycle, which is anticipated to be every six to twelve months, unless you request in writing that your application be returned.

**ADDRESSES:** You must send six copies of the application package to the BTS Grants Program, Room 3117, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Promod Chandhok, Office of Statistical Programs, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Room 3117, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; phone (202) 366-2158; fax: (202) 493-0568; e-mail: [promod.chandhok@bts.gov](mailto:promod.chandhok@bts.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background—Advancing the Discipline of Transportation Statistics

The purpose of this grant program is to provide financial assistance to eligible organizations to help advance the discipline of transportation statistics. These grants are authorized by section 5109 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-

21) (Public Law 105-178 (1998), codified at 49 U.S.C. 111(g)). BTS anticipates awarding up to \$500,000 per year in grants for projects that (1) support development of the field of transportation statistics; and/or (2) advance research or development in transportation statistics.

BTS is a separate operating administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Its mission is to lead in developing transportation data and information of high quality, and to advance their effective use in public and private transportation decision-making. In accomplishing this mission, BTS works to improve six key attributes of transportation data and analysis—quality, comparability, completeness, timeliness, relevance, and utility.

Our ultimate goal is to make transportation better—to enhance safety, mobility, economic growth, the human and natural environment, and national security (the five strategic goals of the Department of Transportation). BTS's role in this goal is to provide data and information that others need to make decisions concerning transportation. We collect data and compile, analyze, and publish statistics. BTS is seeking assistance in building and developing this knowledge base.

While there are many excellent transportation data programs and many excellent statistics programs, few are devoted to the intersection of these two disciplines. Bringing a better understanding of statistics to transportation data will improve data quality, increase utility (e.g., by improving measures of travel), and reduce costs (e.g., by using techniques to make data collection, analysis, and dissemination more efficient). BTS wants to foster the transportation statistics discipline and increase its quality and usefulness to the transportation community. This grants program is one way BTS is working toward this goal.

##### II. Eligibility Requirements

###### *What Organizations May Apply?*

BTS invites applications from public and private non-profit entities. We strongly encourage Minority Serving Institutions, which have been traditionally under-represented in transportation statistics, to submit applications. If organizations partner on a project, the participants should submit a single application. You may submit more than one application as long as the applications are for separate and distinct projects.

###### *What Projects Are Eligible for Funding?*

Proposals should serve the broad transportation interests of the country, and we are particularly interested in high-quality proposals that treat one or more of the following areas:

(1) Measuring the vulnerability of the transportation system and its users to crime and terrorism;

(2) Visualizing and mining of transportation databases;

(3) Aggregating and analyzing databases maintained by DOT agencies, especially where the research involves multiple modes of transportation;

(4) Improving the quality and usability of federal transportation statistics;

(5) Designing and analyzing transportation surveys;

(6) Developing exposure measures (e.g., vehicle miles traveled) for use in risk analyses;

(7) Improving the statistical use of geographic information systems to better understand and quantify travel behavior;

(8) Developing performance measures for the transportation system;

(9) Applying small area estimation techniques to transportation;

(10) Improving data quality and data collection; and

(11) Enhancing or extending the National Transportation Library to better express or incorporate statistical analyses.

This list is not exhaustive, and we are eager to consider any innovative proposal that supports the development of the field of transportation statistics or involves research and development in transportation statistics. In this cycle, we will give priority consideration to proposals for innovative research on the security of our transportation system.

###### *What Are the Cost Sharing Requirements?*

For awards of \$100,000 or more, the recipient shall fund at least 50 percent of the project's costs. The nonfederal match must come from sources other than the project sponsor, and must be cash contributions rather than in-kind contributions. In reviewing all applications, even those requesting less than \$100,000, the degree of cost-sharing will be considered, with more weight given to cash contributions than in-kind services.

##### III. Application Contents

For more information about submitting your application, please refer to the **ADDRESSES** and **DATES** sections listed above. In order to be considered for funding under this program, your