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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Federal Transit Administration**

[FTA/FHWA Docket No. FTA-2000-7171]

Notice of Request for the Extension of Currently Approved Information Collections

AGENCIES: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the FTA and FHWA to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the following currently approved information collection: Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Planning.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before June 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the United States Department of Transportation, Central Dockets Office, PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard/envelope.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Stout, FTA, (202) 366-1628 or Mr. Sheldon Edner, FHWA, (202) 366-4066.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FTA and the FHWA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB reinstatement of this information collection.

Title: Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Planning (OMB Number: 2132-0529).

Background: The FTA and FHWA jointly carry out the Federal mandate to improve urban and rural transportation. 49 U.S.C. 5303-5306 and 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135 require metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and States to develop transportation plans and programs. The information collection activities involved in developing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Statewide Transportation Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are necessary to identify and evaluate the transportation issues and needs in each urbanized area and throughout every State. These products of the transportation planning process are essential elements in the reasonable planning and programming of federally-funded transportation investments.

In addition to serving as a management tool for MPOs and State DOTs, the UPWP is used by both FTA and FHWA to oversee the expenditure of federal transportation planning funds and to monitor the transportation planning activities of those agencies. It is also needed to develop policy on using funds, monitor State and local compliance with national technical emphasis areas, respond to congressional inquiries, prepare congressional testimony, and ensure efficiency in the use and expenditure of federal funds by determining that planning proposals are both reasonable and cost-effective. 49 U.S.C. Section 5304 and 23 U.S.C. 134(h) require the development of TIPs for urbanized areas; STIPs are mandated by 23 U.S.C. 135(f). After approval by the Governor and MPO, metropolitan TIPs in air quality attainment areas are to be incorporated directly into the STIP. For nonattainment areas, FTA/FHWA must make a conformity finding on the TIPs before including them into the STIP. The complete STIP is then jointly reviewed and approved or disapproved by FTA and FHWA. These conformity findings and approval actions constitute the determination that States are complying with the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 135 and 49 U.S.C. Section 5303 as a condition of eligibility for federal-aid funding. Without these documents, approvals and findings, capital and/or operating assistance, cannot be provided.

Respondents: State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents: 646 hours for each of the 392 respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 253,250 hours.

Frequency: Annually and biennially.

Issued: April 3, 2000.

Dorrie Y. Aldrich,
FTA Associate Administrator for Administration.

Dated: April 3, 2000.

Michael J. Vecchiatti,
FHWA Acting Director of Administration.
[FR Doc. 00-8506 Filed 4-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration****Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Requirements (ICRs) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICRs describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burdens. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collections of information was published on January 26, 2000 (65 FR 4297).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 8, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292), or Dian Deal, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6133). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Pub. L. 104-13, § 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 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. 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.5, 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.12. On January 26, 2000, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on ICRs that the agency was seeking OMB approval. 65 FR 4297. FRA received no comments after issuing this notice. Accordingly, DOT announces that these information collection activities have been reevaluated and certified under 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and forwarded to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12(c).

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b); 5 CFR 1320.12(d). 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 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes that 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. 5 CFR 1320.12(c); see also 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995.

The summaries below describe the nature of the information collection requirements (ICRs) and the expected burden. The revised requirements are being submitted for clearance by OMB as required by the PRA.

Title: Identification of Cars Moved in Accordance with Order 13528.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0506.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Railroads.

Form(s): None.

Abstract: This collection of information identifies a freight car being moved within the scope of Order 13528 (Order). See CFR part 232, appendix B. Otherwise, an exception will be taken, and the car will be set out of the train and not delivered. The information that must be recorded is specified at 49 CFR part 232, appendix B, requiring that a car be properly identified by a card attached to each side of the car and signed stating that such movement is being made under the authority of the order. The Order does not require retaining cards or tags. When a car bearing a tag for movement under the Order arrives at its destination, the tags are simply removed.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 67 hours.

Title: Railroad Police Officers.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0537.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Railroads and States.

Form(s): None.

Abstract: Under 49 CFR part 207, railroads are required to notify states of all designated police officers who are discharging their duties outside of their respective jurisdictions. This requirement is necessary to verify proper police authority.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 155 hours.

Addressee: Send comments regarding these information collections to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20503, *Attention:* FRA Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on the following: Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimates of the burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 4, 2000.

Margaret B. Reid,

Acting Director, Office of Information Technology and Support Systems, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-8706 Filed 4-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-00-7126 (PDA-24 (R))]

Application by the Institute of Makers of Explosives for a Preemption Determination as to New Jersey Restrictions on Transportation of Blasting Caps With Other Commercial Explosives

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Public notice and invitation to comment.

SUMMARY: Interested parties are invited to submit comments on an application by the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) for an administrative determination whether Federal hazardous materials transportation law preempts New Jersey law and regulations prohibiting the transportation of blasting caps on the same motor vehicle with more than 5,000 pounds of other commercial explosives.

DATES: Comments received on or before May 22, 2000, and rebuttal comments received on or before July 6, 2000 will be considered before issuance of an administrative ruling on IME's application. Rebuttal comments may discuss only those issues raised by comments received during the initial comment period and may not discuss new issues.

ADDRESSES: The application and all comments received may be reviewed in the Dockets Office, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. The application and all comments are also available on-line through the home page of DOT's Docket Management System, at "<http://dms.dot.gov>."

Comments must refer to Docket No. RSPA-00-7126 and may be submitted to the docket either in writing or electronically. Send three copies of each written comment to the Dockets Office at the above address. If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your written comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. To submit comments electronically, log onto the Docket Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov>, and click on "Help & Information" to obtain instructions.

A copy of each comment must also be sent to:

- (1) Ms. Cynthia Hilton, Vice President, Institute of Makers of Explosives, 1120 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036-3605, and
- (2) Mr. Fred Cohen, Legal Liaison, New Jersey Department of Labor, P.O. Box 110, Trenton, NJ 08625-0110.

A certification that a copy has been sent to these persons must also be included with the comment. (The following format is suggested: "I certify that copies of this comment have been sent to Ms. Hilton and Mr. Cohen at the addresses specified in the **Federal Register**.")

A list and subject matter index of hazardous materials preemption cases,