

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration****[Docket Number FRA–2010–0036]****Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's Request To Amend Its Positive Train Control Safety Plan**

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public with notice that, on November 1, 2023, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) submitted a request for amendment (RFA) to its FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plan (PTCSP) in order to update its positive train control (PTC) Onboard Computer (OBC) to Rev. 14.00 to correct two defects. As this RFA may involve a request for FRA's approval of proposed material modifications to an FRA-certified PTC system, FRA is publishing this notice and inviting public comment on SEPTA's RFA to its PTCSP.

DATES: FRA will consider comments received by December 4, 2023. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system.

ADDRESSES:

Comments: Comments may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and the applicable docket number. The relevant PTC docket number for this host railroad is Docket No. FRA–2010–0036. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/research-development/program-areas/train-control/ptc/railroads-ptc-dockets>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gabe Neal, 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 title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (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 49 CFR 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA's regulations provide that the 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, on November 1, 2023, SEPTA submitted an RFA to its PTCSP for its Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System II (ACSES II), which seeks FRA's approval for an update to software version Rev. 14.00 for its OBC to correct two defects. That RFA is available in Docket No. FRA–2010–0036.

Interested parties are invited to comment on SEPTA's RFA to its PTCSP by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of SEPTA's RFA, 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 a PTC system. 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 a railroad's RFA to its PTCSP 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 www.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–2010–0028, –0029, –0039, –0042, –0043, –0045, –0048, –0049, –0051, –0054, –0056, –0057, –0058, –0059, –0060, –0061, –0062, –0064, –0065, and –0070]

Railroads' Joint Request To Amend Their Positive Train Control Safety Plans

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public with notice that on November 3, 2023, twenty host railroads submitted a joint request for amendment (RFA) to their FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plans (PTCSP) to implement on-board software changes to the human-machine interface (HMI) which requires amendments to positive train control (PTC) training for train crews. As this joint RFA may involve requests for FRA's approval of proposed material modifications to FRA-certified PTC systems, FRA is publishing this notice and inviting public comment on the railroads' joint RFA to their PTCSPs.

DATES: FRA will consider comments received by December 4, 2023. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to PTC systems.

ADDRESSES:

Comments: Comments may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and the applicable docket number. The relevant PTC docket numbers for the host railroads that filed a joint RFA to their PTCSPs are cited above and in the Supplementary Information section of this notice. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/research-development/program-areas/train-control/ptc/railroads-ptc-dockets>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gabe Neal, 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 title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (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 49 CFR 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 or train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that the twenty host railroads' recent, joint RFA to their PTCSPs is available in their respective public PTC dockets. This notice provides an opportunity for public comment.

On November 3, 2023, the following twenty host railroads jointly submitted an RFA to their respective PTCSPs for their Interoperable Electronic Train Management Systems (I-ETMS): Alaska Railroad; The Belt Railway Company of Chicago; BNSF Railway; Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain); Canadian National Railway; Canadian Pacific Railway; Consolidated Rail Corporation; CSX Transportation, Inc.; Kansas City Southern Railway; Kansas City Terminal Railway; National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak); New Mexico Rail Runner Express; Norfolk Southern Railway; North County Transit District; Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (Metra); Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District;

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority; Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink); Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis; and Union Pacific Railroad. This RFA includes on-board software changes to the HMI which require amendments to PTC training for train crews. Their joint RFA is available in Docket Numbers FRA-2010-0028, -0029, -0039, -0042, -0043, -0045, -0048, -0049, -0051, -0054, -0056, -0057, -0058, -0059, -0060, -0061, -0062, -0064, -0065, and -0070.

Interested parties are invited to comment on this RFA by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of these railroads' joint RFA, 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 these railroads' joint RFA 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 www.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

Maritime Administration

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration announces a meeting of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Board of Visitors (Board).

DATES: December 11, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EST.

Requests to submit written materials to be reviewed during the meeting must be received no later than December 4, 2023. Requests for accommodations for a disability must be received by November 30, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held through a virtual forum. Virtual meeting access information will be available on the USMMA Board of Visitors web page and social media channels no later than December 4, 2023. General information about the Board is available on the USMMA web page at <https://www.usmma.edu/about/leadership/board-visitors>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Board's Designated Federal Officer and Point of Contact, Mary Grice, 202-366-4264 or mary.grice@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Board is a Federal Advisory Committee originally established as a Congressional Board by section 51312 of title 46, United States Code "to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the United States Merchant Marine Academy." The Board was originally chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) on October 24, 2017.

II. Agenda

The meeting agenda will cover, but is not limited to, the following proposed topics:

1. Welcome remarks and Board maintenance items (elections, Charter, etc.);
2. Update on the six priorities from the USMMA Strategic Plan (including educational and athletic programs, Institutional Culture, Sea Year, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program status, and Academy infrastructure progress);
3. Update on the state of the Regiment of Midshipmen; and
4. Public comment period (not to exceed 10 minutes).

III. Public Participation

This meeting is open to the public and will be held through a virtual forum. The U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to