

States. FTA issued guidance on the implementation of the phased increase in domestic content on September 1, 2016 (81 FR 60278). Applicants should read the policy guidance carefully to determine the applicable domestic content requirement for their project. Any proposal that will require a waiver must identify in the application the items for which a waiver will be sought. Applicants should not proceed with the expectation that waivers will be granted. Consistent with Executive Order 13858 *Strengthening Buy-American Preferences for Infrastructure Projects*, signed by President Trump on January 31, 2019, applicants should maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, in Federal procurements and through the terms and conditions of Federal financial assistance awards.

d. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

FTA requires that its recipients receiving planning, capital, and/or operating assistance that will award prime contracts exceeding \$250,000 in FTA funds in a Federal fiscal year comply with Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program regulations (49 CFR part 26). Applicants should expect to include any funds awarded, excluding those to be used for vehicle procurements, in setting their overall DBE goal. Note, however, that projects including vehicle procurements remain subject to the DBE program regulations. The rule requires that, prior to bidding on any FTA-assisted vehicle procurement, entities that manufacture vehicles, or perform post-production alterations or retrofitting, must submit a DBE program plan and goal methodology to FTA. Further, to the extent that a vehicle remanufacturer is responding to a solicitation for new or remanufactured vehicles with a vehicle to which the remanufacturer has provided post-production alterations or retrofitting (e.g., replacing major components such as an engine to provide a "like new" vehicle), the vehicle remanufacturer is considered a transit vehicle manufacturer and must also comply with the DBE regulations.

FTA will then issue a transit vehicle manufacturer (TVM) concurrence/certification letter. Grant recipients must verify each entity's compliance with these requirements before accepting its bid. A list of compliant, certified TVMs is posted on FTA's web page at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/civil-rights-ada/eligible-transit-vehicle-manufacturers>. Please note that this list is nonexclusive, and recipients must

contact FTA before accepting bids from entities not listed on this web-posting. Recipients may also establish project-specific DBE goals for vehicle procurements. FTA will provide additional guidance as grants are awarded. For more information on DBE requirements, please contact Scheryl Portee, Office of the Chief Counsel, 202-366-0840, email: scheryl.portee@dot.gov.

e. Planning

FTA encourages applicants to notify the appropriate State Departments of Transportation and metropolitan planning organizations in areas likely to be served by the project funds made available under these initiatives and programs. Selected projects must be incorporated into the long-range plans and transportation improvement programs of States and metropolitan areas before they are eligible for FTA funding. As described under the evaluation criteria, FTA may consider whether a project is consistent with or already included in these plans when evaluating a project.

f. Standard Assurances

The applicant assures that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, directives, FTA circulars, and other Federal administrative requirements in carrying out any project supported by the FTA grant. The applicant acknowledges that it is under a continuing obligation to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement issued for its project with FTA. The applicant understands that Federal laws, regulations, policies, and administrative practices might be modified from time to time and may affect the implementation of the project. The applicant agrees that the most recent Federal requirements will apply to the project, unless FTA issues a written determination otherwise. The applicant must submit the Certifications and Assurances before receiving a grant if it does not have current certifications on file.

3. Reporting

Post-award reporting requirements include the electronic submission of Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports in FTA's electronic grants management system. Recipients of funds made available through this NOFO are also required to regularly submit data to the National Transit Database.

G. Technical Assistance and Other Program Information

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." FTA will consider applications for funding only from eligible recipients for eligible projects listed in Section C. Complete applications must be submitted through [GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.dot.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on March 17, 2020. For issues with [GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.dot.gov), please contact [GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.dot.gov) by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at support@grants.gov. Contact information for FTA's regional offices can be found on FTA's website at www.fta.dot.gov.

H. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

For further information concerning this notice, please contact the Low-No Program manager, Victor Waldron, by phone at 202-366-5183, or by email at victor.waldron@dot.gov. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 800-877-8339. In addition, FTA will post answers to questions and requests for clarifications on FTA's website at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/lowno>. To ensure applicants receive accurate information about eligibility or the program, applicants are encouraged to contact FTA directly, rather than through intermediaries or third parties, with questions. FTA staff may also conduct briefings on the FY 2020 competitive grants selection and award process upon request.

K. Jane Williams,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2020-01140 Filed 1-23-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement/Joint Planning Advisory Group Meeting

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each VISA Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG) meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. On January 14, 2020, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) co-hosted a classified VISA JPAG meeting at Scott Air Force

Base, Illinois. The JPAG is co-chaired by MARAD and USTRANSCOM and is convened jointly. The U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission were informed of the JPAG meeting prior to its occurrence, in accordance with VISA program requirements.

Participants in the JPAG meeting were required to possess a secret clearance due to the classified nature of the event and attendance at the meeting was by invitation only. MARAD and USTRANSCOM invited participating VISA carriers and representatives of maritime labor organizations to attend the meeting. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to include the Office of the Secretary of Defense, USTRANSCOM, the U.S. Navy, the Military Sealift Command, and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, as well as operational elements of Geographic Combatant Commands, were in attendance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. McDonald, Director, Office of Sealift Support, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590; Telephone (202) 366-0688 or electronic mail to: william.g.mcdonald@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Vice Admiral (VADM) Dee L. Mewbourne, Deputy Commander, USTRANSCOM, and Mr. Kevin Tokarski, Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift, MARAD, welcomed the participants. Mr. Tokarski thanked the industry participants for their continued support. He spoke of the unique value of the JPAG in maximizing the effective use of joint resources to meet deployment and sustainment requirements and expressed confidence that JPAG meetings would serve to prepare attendees for what could occur during a VISA activation. VADM Mewbourne discussed the current operational picture and said JPAG operations are crucial to development of concepts of operations focused on VISA participants' ability to meet DOD requirements for moving contingency cargo from CONUS Sea Ports of Embarkation to designated OCONUS Ports of Debarkation and onward to operational areas.

The purpose of the JPAG meeting was to: (1) Brief members on current strategic and operational developments; (2) affirm industry's readiness, ability,

and resilience to meet DOD contingency transport requirements, and; (3) discuss planning assumptions for potential deployment scenarios. The meeting was rated a success by industry participants, who offered informed and useful information on the provision of capacity and resources to meet DOD requirements.

VISA is a USDOT/DoD Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) administered by MARAD in partnership with USTRANSCOM. The program is designed to provide DoD with assured access to vessels and intermodal capacity to meet contingency requirements in the event of national emergency. On September 30, 2019, MARAD published a notice in the **Federal Register**/Vol. 84, No. 189, 51710, announcing extension of the VISA program until October 1, 2024.

The following ocean carriers are VISA participants:

American International Shipping, LLC
American President Lines, Ltd.
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC
APL Marine Services, Ltd.
APL Maritime, Ltd.
Argent Marine Operations, Inc.
Beyel Brothers Inc.
Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC
Crimson Shipping Co., Inc.
Crowley Marine Services, Inc.
Crowley Puerto Rico Services, Inc.
Curtin Maritime, Corporation
Dann Marine Towing, LC
Dann Ocean Towing, Inc.
Dunlap Towing Company
Farrell Lines Incorporated
Fidelio Limited Partnership
Foss International, Inc.
Foss Maritime Company
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
JM Ships, LLC
Laborde Marine, LLC
Liberty Global Logistics, LLC
Liberty Glory Corporation
Lynden Incorporated & Affiliates
Maersk Line, Limited
Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.
McCulley Marine Services, Inc.
Moran Towing Corporation
National Shipping of America, LLC
Northcliffe Ocean Shipping & Trading Company, Inc.
Pacific Maritime Freight, Inc.
Pasha Hawaii Holdings LLC
Patriot Shipping, LLC
Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.
Samson Tug & Barge Co., Inc.
Schuyler Lines Navigation Company, LLC
Seabridge, Inc.
Sealift, Inc.
SeaTac Marine Services, LLC

Smith Maritime, Inc.
Stevens Towing Company, Inc.
Stevens Transportation, LLC
Superior Maritime Services, Inc.
TOTE Maritime Alaska, Inc.
TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico, LLC
Trailer Bridge, Inc.
Waterman Steamship Corporation
Waterman Transport, Inc.
Weeks Marine, Inc.
Western Towboat Company
Young Brothers, Limited

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(l), 44 CFR part 332)

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Dated: January 21, 2020.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration .

[FR Doc. 2020-01200 Filed 1-23-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8453-R

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning Electronic Filing Declaration for Form 8963.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 24, 2020 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Dr. Philippe Thomas, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, at (202)317-5753, or at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or through the internet at Martha.R.Brinson@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Electronic Filing Declaration for Form 8963.

OMB Number: 1545-2253.

Form Number: 8453-R.