

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 18, 2008.

Francisco Estrada C.,
RTCA Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. E8-28049 Filed 11-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Knox County, City of Vincennes, IN and Lawrence County, IL

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this revised notice to advise the public that FHWA will not be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed relocation of railroad lines in Knox County, Indiana and Lawrence County, Illinois. A "Notice of Intent" to prepare an EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 16, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janice Osadcuk, Planning and Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, *Telephone:* (317) 226-7486; or Frank Litherland, INDOT Project Manager, *Telephone* 812-882-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), will not prepare an EIS as previously intended on a proposal to evaluate alternative alignments for the relocation of the two CSXT railroad mainline tracks, the north-south mainline and the east-west mainline that traverses through the City of Vincennes and portions of Knox County, Indiana and Lawrence County, Illinois. Based on further review of the project and related impacts it was determined that the scope of the project would be reduced in scope from a railroad relocation project requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement to a series of spot improvements where the roadway bridges over the existing railroad. For these improvements either an environmental assessment or categorical exclusions will be prepared.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal

programs and activities apply to the program).

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 23 CFR 771.123; 49 CFR 1.48.

Robert F. Tally,
Division Administrator, Indianapolis, Indiana.

[FR Doc. E8-27914 Filed 11-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Proposed Improvements to State Route 126 (Memorial Boulevard) From East Center Street in Kingsport, to Interstate 81, Sullivan County, TN

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Sullivan County, Tennessee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Charles J. O'Neill, Planning and Program Management Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration—Tennessee Division Office, 640 Grassmere Park Road, Suite 112, Nashville, TN 37211. 615-781-5772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve State Route 126, also known as Memorial Boulevard, from East Center Street in Kingsport to Interstate 81, for a distance of approximately 8.4 miles.

Alternatives to be considered include: (1) No-build; (2) a Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative (3) one or more build alternatives that could include constructing portions of the roadway on new location, upgrading existing SR 126, or a combination of both, and (4) other alternatives that might arise from public input. Public scoping meetings have been conducted for the project corridor. As part of the scoping process, federal, state, and local agencies and officials; private organizations; citizens; and interest groups met to identify issues of concern and provide input on the purpose and need for the project, range of alternatives, methodology, and the development of the Environmental Impact Statement. A Coordination Plan will be developed to include the public

in the project development process. The plan will utilize the following outreach efforts to provide information and solicit input: newsletters, an internet Web site, e-mail and direct mail, informational meetings and briefings, public hearings, and other efforts as necessary and appropriate. A public hearing will be held upon completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are identified and taken into account, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning the proposed action should be directed to the FHWA contact person identified above at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this proposed program).

Charles J. O'Neill,
Planning and Program Mgmt. Team Leader Nashville, TN.
[FR Doc. E8-27920 Filed 11-24-08; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby announces that it is seeking an extension of the following currently approved information collection activities. These information collection activities received a six-month emergency approval from OMB. FRA seeks this extension while it works on developing a proposed rule related to the same topic of inappropriate cell phone use and other electronic/electrical devices by railroad employees while on-duty. Before submitting these information collection requirements for clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FRA is soliciting

public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified below.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than January 26, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on any or all of the following proposed activities by mail to either: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590, or Ms. Nakia Jackson, Office of Information Technology, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590. Commenters requesting FRA to acknowledge receipt of their respective comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard stating, "Comments on OMB control number 2130-0579." Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via facsimile to (202) 493-6216 or (202) 493-6170, or via e-mail to Mr. Brogan at robert.brogan@dot.gov, or to Ms. Jackson at nakia.jackson@dot.gov. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a subsequent notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292) or Ms. Nakia Jackson, Office of Information Technology, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6073). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13, section 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 provide 60-days notice to the public for comment on information collection activities before seeking approval for reinstatement or renewal by OMB. 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.10(e)(1), 1320.12(a). Specifically, FRA invites interested respondents to comment on the following summary of proposed information collection activities regarding (i) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (iii) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)(i)-(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1)(i)-(iv). FRA believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations. In summary, FRA reasons that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) Reduce reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that it organizes information collection requirements in a "user friendly" format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

Below is a brief summary of currently approved information collection

activities that FRA will submit for clearance by OMB as required under the PRA:

OMB Control Number: 2130-0579.

Title: FRA Emergency Order No. 26, Notice No. 1.

Abstract: Emergency Order No. 26—and its associated collection of information—is FRA's direct and proactive response to the September 12, 2008, Chatsworth, California, collision of a Union Pacific (UP) freight train and a Metrolink commuter train, which resulted in the deaths of 25 people and numerous injuries to train occupants, as well as to other train accidents/incidents involving cell phone use and use of electronic/electrical devices that have occurred throughout the country recently. The collection of information under Emergency Order No. 26 is aimed at ensuring that railroads revise their programs of operational tests and inspections, as necessary, to include the requirements of E.O. 26 and specifically include a minimum number of operational tests and inspections; and at ensuring railroads instruct each of their operating employees and supervisors of railroad operating employees concerning the requirements of E.O. 26 and implementing railroad rules and instructions. The collection of information under E.O. 26 also contains a provision that allows railroads to petition for relief from this Order by adopting other means of ensuring that railroad operating employees are not distracted from their duties by use of electronic or electrical devices or by implementing technology that will prevent inappropriate acts and omissions from resulting in injury to persons.

Form Number(s): N/A.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Respondent Universe: 718 railroads; 130,000 Railroad Employees.

Frequency of Submission: One-time; on occasion.

Reporting Burden:

Emergency order item No. 26	Respondent universe	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)—Revision of Railroad's Program of Operational Tests and Inspections Under 49 CFR 217 to Include Requirements of E.O. 26.	718 Railroads 20 New Railroads.	718 amended programs. 20 amended programs	1 hour 1 hour	718 20
(2) Employee Training in Requirements of E.O. 26 and Implementing Railroad Rules and Instructions.	130,000 RR Employees.	130,000 Trained Employees.	15 minutes	32,500
(3) Petitions of Relief from E.O. 26	718 Railroads	Zero (0) Petitions	Zero (0) minutes/ hours.	Zero (0)

Total Responses: 130,738.
Total Annual Estimated Burden: 33,238 hours.

Status: Regular review.
Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b), 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA

informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond

to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 19, 2008.

Kimberly Orben,

*Director, Office of Financial Management,
Federal Railroad Administration.*

[FR Doc. E8–27908 Filed 11–24–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Union Pacific Railroad Company (Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA–2007–28454)

The Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) seeks a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of 49 CFR Part 232, *Brake System Safety Standards for Freight and Other Non-Passenger Trains and Equipment*. Specifically, UP seeks relief from the requirement in § 232.305(b)(2) to perform a single car air brake test (SCABT) when a “car is on a shop or repair track, as defined in § 232.303(a), for any reason and has not received a single car air brake test within the previous 12-month period.”

UP submitted a similar request in 2007, which was assigned Docket Number FRA–2007–28454. On September 12, 2008, FRA issued a letter to UP denying the 2007 waiver request because, “[t]he petition was ambiguous regarding the scope of the relief requested” and it lacked sufficient information to support the relief sought.

Subsequently, UP petitioned for reconsideration of FRA's decision to deny its 2007 request. On October 30, 2008, UP withdrew its request that FRA reconsider its denial and at the same time, UP submitted a new waiver petition, requesting similar relief as in 2007, but including new information and data supporting its request. Because this new waiver petition involves the same subject matter as UP's previous request, FRA is utilizing the same

docket number (FRA–2007–28454), and publishing this new public notice of the request. In light of the new data provided by UP, FRA will conduct a new investigation of the facts and the merits of the request. Accordingly, comments submitted to the docket prior to UP's October 30, 2008 petition, will not be considered in FRA's evaluation of this new request.

UP seeks relief from the regulation to the extent necessary to permit the replacement of non FRA-condemnable wheelsets on railcars as part of an in-train wheelset replacement program, without the need to also perform SCABTs required by § 232.305(b)(2). UP seeks relief such that only railcars with FRA-condemnable wheels and cars due for 5-year SCABTs within 6 months would require and receive SCABTs. UP requests that this relief apply to all UP unit trains.

In its petition, UP explains that it implemented the in-train wheelset replacement program beginning in August 2006, as a means to aggressively identify and replace wheelsets with irregularities, thereby reducing the number of derailments due to broken rails, joint bars, defective wheels and bearings. In-train wheelset replacements can be done by UP mechanical forces in as little as 15 minutes with no need to remove the cars from trains. This in turn reduces the number of switching events that would otherwise be required to affect the repairs, further reducing the risk of injury and derailment. In North Platte, UP estimates that switching moves have been reduced by at least 20,000 annually (conservative estimate). Further, UP notes that this in-train wheelset replacement program permits UP to replace approximately 25 percent more wheelsets than it did using traditional wheelset placement techniques.

UP explains that cars with defective wheelsets are identified by wayside defect detectors at various locations before the trains reach the terminal. These wayside detectors identify the following conditions requiring wheelset replacements: (1) Wheels causing excessive impacts, which are measured in kips, or units of 1,000 pounds (currently, AAR allows carriers to replace wheels exerting impacts of 90 kips or more); (2) wheels with high flanges, thin flanges, or other geometrical irregularities; and (3) defective bearings. If left unchecked, any of these conditions can develop into more advanced defects posing higher risks of wheel or axle failures, along with undue forces on track structures leading to rail breaks.

UP states that since the program has been in effect, wheelset related derailments have decreased. Bearing-related derailments have also decreased. UP concludes from their data that if the in-train wheelset program were to stop, there would be four to five additional wheelset related derailments annually. Moreover, UP believes that most SCABTs do not reveal any defects.

According to UP, a sample of 2008 data indicated that only 12.08 percent of all railcars undergoing SCABTs on UP's rail network were found to have brake-related defects. UP notes that for coal cars, the defect was lower yet, at 3.05 percent. Accordingly, UP asserts that given the low number of defects revealed by SCABTs and the high safety benefits of in-train wheelset replacements, there is no justification for requiring SCABTs for the in-train wheelset replacement program.

While UP seeks relief from performing the many SCABTs associated with in-train wheelset replacements, UP understands the importance of complying with the 5-year SCABT requirement. To address this, during recent years UP has upgraded its information systems to automatically flag railcars that are due for a 5-year SCABT within 90 days. On January 1, 2009, the system will flag cars within 6 months of a 5-year SCABT. UP states that if FRA grants this waiver request, UP will perform a SCABT on any railcar undergoing an in-train wheelset replacement that is due for a 5-year SCABT in the following 6 months. However, UP states that if this relief is not granted, it would be forced to reduce the number of wheelset replacements it makes, or even eliminate the in-train wheelset replacement program in some locations. UP asserts that this would negate the derailment prevention and safety gains associated with the in-train wheelset replacement program. UP asserts that the delays and disruption of performing a SCABT on every car that has not received such a test in the previous 12 months (roughly 50 percent) would be intolerable. UP also asserts that many of the mechanical forces that currently perform in-train wheelset replacements could be displaced. Finally, UP asserts that requiring the railroad to perform time-consuming and unnecessary SCABTs on railcars that do not contain FRA-condemnable defects would improperly penalize UP for its innovative and safety-enhancing in-train wheelset replacement program, as well as discourage further investment in emerging technologies including