

an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2000-7367) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 30 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78). The statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 13, 2004.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.

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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.

Canadian National Railway [Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2004-19512]

The Canadian National Railway (CN) 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, CN wants relief from the requirements of § 232.215, Transfer Train Brake Tests, for train movements to and from their yard at Flat Rock, Michigan, to the Ford Motor Company's Woodhaven Stamping Plant (Fordhaven) in Woodhaven, Michigan.

The transfer of cars from the Flat Rock Yard to Fordhaven is a maximum distance of 3.32 miles. The return movement is a maximum distance of 1.27 miles. Each day, there are typically two transfer moves from the Flat Rock Yard to Fordhaven and two return moves. The average train consist of 35 to 40 hi-cube boxcars. Cars going to Fordhaven contain empty parts racks, approx. 56 tons per car. Cars leaving Fordhaven contain loads of automotive body parts, approx. 73 to 96 tons per car. This transfer movement travels over one public grade crossing at Van Horn Road. CN states that rail traffic movements across this roadway is moderate and often includes switching movements without trainline air.

CN contends that they have been making these transfer movements at this location without any air brake tests for the past 37 years, based on their belief that there was already an existing waiver in place granting them the authority to make such a move. However, CN has not been able to secure any documentation to support such a waiver exists. CN is only aware of only two occasions where FRA issued citations for failure to perform an air brake test for these transfer moves, one in 1982 and again in 2004.

CN states that this waiver is necessary to ensure the ability to provide timely service to the Ford Motor Company, so that production at the plant is not shut down.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the

appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2004-19512) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

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Issued in Washington, DC on December 13, 2004.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.

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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 favour of relief.

Union Railroad Company [Docket Number FRA-2004-19260]

The Union Railroad (URR), a Class III switching railroad, seeks a waiver of compliance from the requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 223.13 *Requirements for existing cabooses* for nine cabooses to be used in revenue freight service. The URR is

engaged in general railroad transportation, and provides railroad switching service primarily to the steel industry. In addition to steel mills, the railroad serves the coal industry through Duquesne Wharf, a coke production facility at Clairton, Pennsylvania, and more than 30 other customers in the automotive, chemical, and aggregate business.

The URR currently consists of 65 miles of main track and approximately 200 miles of yard tracks and sidings, all located within a 10-mile radius in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The northernmost point is located at North Bessemer, Pennsylvania, where the railroad proceeds southward through Turtle Creek, East Pittsburgh, Monongahela Junction, Clairton Junction and Clairton.

Laminated safety glass is proposed to be used in lieu of glazing materials that meet the requirements of FRA Type I and Type II. Caboose on the URR, which have been recently retired from service and scrapped, were operating with laminated safety glazing under a similar waiver granted in 1980 [FRA Docket Number RSGM-80-1]. There have been no reported acts of vandalism or breakage of caboose glazing caused by striking objects. Caboose C-100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, and 109 will be operating over the same routes and schedules as the equipment covered by the previous waiver.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2004-19260) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington. All documents

in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19377-78). The statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

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Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement for the Tucson Urban Corridor in Tucson, AZ

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the City of Tucson, Department of Transportation (TDOT), intend to prepare an Alternatives Analysis (AA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on a proposal by the City of Tucson to provide additional transit service to the urban core of the City of Tucson. The AA/EIS will consider the following alternatives: (1) A No-Build Alternative, consisting of improvements contained in the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); (2) Transportation System Management Alternative (TSM), consisting of all reasonable cost-effective transit service improvements within the urban core short of a major investment in a New Starts project; (3) Modern Streetcar in mixed traffic; and (4) Heritage Trolley in mixed traffic. The type, location, and need for ancillary facilities, such as maintenance facilities, will also be considered for each alternative. In addition, alternatives that are identified from the scoping process will be evaluated in the AA. Scoping will be accomplished through

correspondence and discussions with interested persons; organizations; and federal, state, and local agencies; and through public and agency meetings. Depending on the outcome of the scoping process and the analysis of a wide range of transit alternatives in the Draft EIS (DEIS), a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) will be selected and evaluated in the Final EIS (FEIS). The FEIS will evaluate the potential impacts of the selected investment strategy (the Build Alternative) and a No-Build Alternative.

DATES: Comment Due Date: Written comments on the scope of alternatives and impacts to be considered in the AA/EIS must be received no later than March 28, 2005, and must be sent to the City of Tucson at the address indicated below.

Scoping Meeting Date: A public scoping meeting will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2005 at the Historic Depot, 400 N. Toole Ave. Oral and written comments may be given at the scoping meeting; a stenographer will record oral comments. Persons with disabilities should contact Joan Beckim (see **ADDRESSES** section below) 72 hours prior to the scoping meeting for special arrangements.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Ms. Shellie Ginn, Tucson Urban Corridor Study Project Manager, City of Tucson, Department of Transportation, 201 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701. Email: shellie.ginn@tucsonaz.gov. Phone: (520) 791-4372.

To be added to the mailing list, contact Ms. Shellie Ginn at the address listed above. Please specify the mailing list of the Tucson Urban Corridor Study Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS). Persons with special needs such as sign language interpretation should contact Joan Beckim, Public Involvement Coordinator, City of Tucson, 201 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701. Email: joan@kaneenpr.com. Phone (520) 885-9009. The dates and addresses of the scoping meetings are given in the **DATES** section above. All locations are accessible to people with disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a scoping information packet, contact Ms. Shellie Ginn, Tucson Urban Corridor Study Project Manager, City of Tucson, Department of Transportation, 201 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701. E-mail shellie.ginn@tucsonaz.gov. Phone: (520) 791-4372. The Federal agency contact is Mr. Hymie Luden, Office of Planning