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Issued in Washington, DC, on November 17, 2005.

Susan J. M. Cabler,

Assistant Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2005-22844]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Request for Comments; Renewal of Two Information Collections

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval to renew two information collections, which are summarized below under

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by January 27, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT DMS Docket Number FHWA-2005-22844 by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400

Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. **Title:** A Guide to Reporting Highway Statistics.

OMB Control Number: 2125-0032 (Expiration Date: March 31, 2006).

Abstract: *A Guide to Reporting Highway Statistics* provides for the collection of information by describing policies and procedures for assembling informational data from the existing files of State agencies. The data includes motor-vehicle registration and fees, motor-fuel use and taxation, driver licensing, and highway taxation and finance. Federal, State, and local governments use the data for transportation policy discussions and decisions. Motor-fuel data are used in attributing receipts to the Highway Trust Fund and subsequently in the apportionment formulae that are used to distribute Federal-Aid Highway Funds. The data are published annually in the FHWA's *Highway Statistics*. Information from *Highway Statistics* is used in the joint FHWA and Federal Transit Administration required biennial report to Congress, *The Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance Report to Congress*, which contrasts present status to future investment needs.

Respondents: State and local governments of the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: The estimated average reporting burden per response for the annual collection and processing of the data is 825 hours for each of the States (including local governments), the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden for all respondents is 42,900 hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Howard, (202) 366-2833, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Policy, Office of Highway Policy

Information, Highway Funding and Motor Fuels Division (HPPI-10), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

2. **Title:** Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS).

OMB Control Number: 2125-0028 (Expiration Date: April 30, 2006).

Abstract: The HPMS data that is collected is used for management decisions that affect transportation, including estimates of the Nation's future highway needs and assessments of highway system performance. The information is used by the FHWA to develop and implement legislation and by State and Federal transportation officials to adequately plan, design, and administer effective, safe, and efficient transportation systems. This data is essential to the FHWA and Congress in evaluating the effectiveness of the Federal-aid highway program. The HPMS also provides miles, lane-miles and travel components of the Federal-Aid Highway Fund apportionment formulae. The data that is required by the HPMS is continually reassessed and streamlined by the FHWA.

Respondents: State governments of the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: The estimated average burden per response for the annual collection and processing of the HPMS data is 1,440 hours for each State, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden for all respondents is 74,880 hours.

For Further Information Contact: Mr. Robert Rozycki, (202) 366-5059, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Systems Performance (HPPI-20), Office of Highway Policy Information, Office of Policy & Governmental Affairs, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Public Comments Invited

You are asked to comment on any aspect of these information collections, including: (1) Whether the proposed collections are necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burdens could be minimized, including use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected

information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of these information collections.

Privacy Act

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) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: November 21, 2005.

James R. Kabel,

Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Request for Comments

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 describe 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 September 16, 2005 (70 FR 54798).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 28, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292), or Mr. Victor Angelo, Office of Support Systems, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6470).

(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 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 September 16, 2005, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on ICRs that the agency was seeking OMB approval. 70 FR 54798. FRA received no comments after issuing this 60-day notice. Accordingly, DOT announces that these information collection activities have been re-evaluated 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: Inspection and Maintenance Standards For Steam Locomotives.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0505.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Railroads.

Abstract: The Locomotive Boiler Inspection Act (LBIA) of 1911 requires each railroad subject to the Act to file copies of its rules and instructions for the inspection of locomotives. The original LBIA was expanded to cover the entire steam locomotive and tender and all its parts and appurtenances.

This Act then requires carriers to make inspections and to repair defects to ensure the safe operation of steam locomotives. The collection of information is used by tourist or historic railroads and by locomotive owners/operators to provide a record for each day a steam locomotive is placed in service, as well as a record that the required steam locomotive inspections are completed. Additionally, the collection of information is used by FRA Federal inspectors to verify that necessary safety inspections and tests have been completed, and to ensure that steam locomotives are indeed "safe and suitable" for service and are properly operated and maintained.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 314 hours.

Title: Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0548.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: State and local governments, government sponsored authorities and corporations, railroads (including Amtrak), and joint ventures that include at least one railroad.

Abstract: Prior to the enactment of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century ("TEA 21"), Title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (the "Act"), 45 U.S.C. 821 *et seq.*, authorized FRA to provide railroad financial assistance through the purchase of preference shares (45 U.S.C. 825), and the issuance of loan guarantees (45 U.S.C. 831). The FRA regulations implementing the preference share program were eliminated on February 9, 1996, due to the fact that the authorization for the program expired (28 FR 4937). The FRA regulations implementing the loan guarantee provisions of Title V of the Act are contained in 49 CFR part 260. Section 7203 of TEA 21, Public Law 105-178 (June 9, 1998), replaces the existing Title V financing programs. The collection of information is used by FRA staff to determine the financial eligibility of applicants for a loan regarding eligible projects for the improvement/rehabilitation of rail equipment or facilities, the refinancing of outstanding debt for these purposes, or the development of new intermodal or railroad facilities. The aggregate unpaid principal amounts of obligations can not exceed \$3.5 billion at any one time and not less than \$1 billion is to be available solely for projects benefitting freight railroads other than Class I carriers.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 2,213 hours.