

The EIS Process and the Role of Participating Agencies and the Public

The purpose of the NEPA process is to explore, in a public setting, the effects of the proposed project and its alternatives on the physical, human, and natural environment. The FTA and METRO will evaluate all significant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed project. Impact areas to be addressed include: Land use; development potential; secondary development; land acquisition, displacements, and relocations; cultural resources (including impacts on historical and archaeological resources); parklands and recreation areas; visual and aesthetic qualities; air quality; noise and vibration; ecosystems (including threatened and endangered species); energy use; business and neighborhood disruptions; environmental justice; changes in traffic and pedestrian circulation and congestion; and changes in transit service and patronage. Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any significant adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated.

The methodology for evaluation of impacts will focus on the areas of investigation mentioned above. As the public involvement and agency consultation process proceeds, additional evaluation criteria and impact assessment measures will be included in the analysis. Potential alternatives will be developed to a conceptual level, and will be screened and ranked against these evaluation criteria and local community considerations. Travel time savings, potential for congestion reduction and improved mobility options for residents of the City of Phoenix and adjacent metropolitan areas will be assessed for the transportation alternatives considered. The public involvement program and agency coordination plan discussed below will provide the vehicle through which these evaluation analyses will be conducted.

The regulations implementing NEPA, as well as provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), call for public involvement in the EIS process. Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU requires that FTA and METRO do the following: (1) Extend an invitation to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project to become "participating agencies"; (2) provide an opportunity for involvement by participating agencies and the public in

helping to define the purpose and need for a proposed project, as well as the range of alternatives for consideration in the EIS; and (3) establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in and comment on the environmental review process.

A list of interested agencies has been developed, and an invitation to become a participating agency, with the scoping information packet appended, will be extended to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project. It is possible that we may not be able to identify all Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have such an interest. Any Federal or non-Federal agency or Indian tribe interested in the proposed project that does not receive an invitation to become a participating agency should notify, at the earliest opportunity, the person identified above under **ADDRESSES**.

A comprehensive Public Involvement Program will be developed, and a public and agency involvement Coordination Plan will be created. The Public Involvement Program will include a full range of involvement activities. Activities will include outreach to local and county officials and community and civic groups; a public scoping process to define the issues of concern among all parties interested in the project; organizing periodic meetings with various local agencies, organizations and committees; a public hearing upon release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); development and distribution of project newsletters and the establishment of a project Web site. Opportunities to participate in the scoping process, in addition to the public meetings announced in this notice, will be made available. Specific mechanisms for involvement will be detailed in the Public Involvement Program.

METRO may seek New Starts funding for the proposed project under 49 U.S.C. 5309 and will therefore be subject to New Starts regulations (49 CFR part 611). The New Starts regulations require a planning Alternatives Analysis that leads to the selection of a locally preferred alternative and the inclusion of the locally preferred alternative as part of the long-range transportation plan adopted by the MAG. The New Starts regulations also require the submission of certain project-justification information in support of a request to initiate preliminary engineering, and this information is normally developed in conjunction with the NEPA process. Pertinent New Starts evaluation criteria will be included in the Final EIS.

The AA/EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and with the FTA/Federal Highway Administration regulations "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" (23 CFR part 771). In accordance with 23 CFR 771.105(a) and 771.133, FTA will comply with all Federal environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders applicable to the proposed project during the environmental review process to the maximum extent practicable. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the environmental and public hearing provisions of Federal transit laws (49 U.S.C. 5301(e), 5323(b), and 5324), the project-level air quality conformity regulation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR part 93), the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of EPA (40 CFR part 230), the regulation implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR part 800), the regulation implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR part 402), and Executive Orders 12898 on environmental justice, 11988 on floodplain management and 11990 on wetlands. The Section 4(f) Evaluation will comply with the United States Department of Transportation Act (23 CFR 771.135).

Issued on: September 27, 2007.

Leslie T. Rogers,

Regional Administrator, FTA Region IX.

[FR Doc. E7–19417 Filed 10–1–07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA–2007–28638]

Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Request for public comment on an extension of a currently approved collection.

SUMMARY: Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public

comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections.

This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 3, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by DOT Docket ID Number NHTSA 2007-28638] by any of the following methods:

If filing comments by September 27, 2007, please use:

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

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the Department of Transportation Docket Management System electronic docket site. No electronic submissions will be accepted between September 28, 2007, and October 1, 2007.

If filing comments on or after October 1, 2007, use:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Alternatively, you can file comments using the following methods:

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

Instructions: For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the Public Participation heading of the Supplementary Information section of this document. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.dms.dot.gov> or <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

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 (65 FR 19477-78).

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to [http://](http://dms.dot.gov)

dms.dot.gov until September 27, 2007, or the street address listed above. The DOT docket may be offline at times between September 28 through September 30 to migrate to the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS). On October 1, 2007, the internet access to the docket will be at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Complete copies of each request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Carlita Ballard, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey, SE., Room W43-439, NVS-131, Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Ballard's telephone number is (202) 366-0846. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information.

The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected and;

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collections of information:

Title: Petitions for Exemption from the Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard (49 CFR part 543).

OMB Control Number: 2127-0542.

Form Number: None.

Affected Public: Motor vehicle manufacturers.

Requested Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from approval date.

Abstract: Manufacturers of passenger vehicle lines may petition the agency for an exemption from Part 541 requirements, if the line is equipped with an anti-theft device as standard equipment and meets agency criteria. Device must be as effective as partsmarking.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,164.

Number of Respondents: 14.

49 U.S.C. Chapter 331 requires the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate a theft prevention standard to provide for the identification of certain motor vehicles and their major replacement parts to impede motor vehicle theft. 49 U.S.C. 33106 provides for an exemption to this identification process by petitions from manufacturers who equip covered vehicles with standard original equipment antitheft devices, which the Secretary determines are likely to be as effective in reducing or deterring theft as partsmarking. NHTSA may exempt a vehicle line from the partsmarking requirements, if the manufacturer installs an antitheft device as standard equipment on the entire vehicle line for which it seeks an exemption and NHTSA determines that the antitheft device is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the partsmarking requirements. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 33106, after model year (MY) 2000, the number of new exemptions is contingent on a finding by the Attorney General as part of its long-range review of effectiveness. After consulting with DOJ, the agency decided it could continue granting one exemption per model year pending the results of the long-term review.

In a final rule published on April 6, 2004, the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard was extended to include all passenger cars and multipurpose passenger vehicles with a gross vehicle rating of 6,000 pounds or less, and to light duty trucks with major parts that are interchangeable with a majority of the covered major parts of multipurpose passenger vehicles. Consistent with this DOJ consultation, the April 6, 2004 final rule amended the general requirements of Section 543.5 of Chapter 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, allowing a manufacturer to petition NHTSA to grant an exemption for one additional line of its passenger motor vehicles from the requirements of the theft prevention standard for each model year after MY 1996. The final rule became effective September 1, 2006.

Prior to September 1, 2006, manufacturers were only allowed to petition NHTSA for high-theft vehicle lines. In its April 6, 2004 final rule, the agency amended part 543 to allow vehicle manufacturers to file petitions to exempt all vehicle lines that would become subject to parts-marking requirements beginning with the effective date of the final rule. As a result of this amendment, vehicle manufacturers are allowed to file petitions to exempt all vehicle lines that would become subject to the parts-marking requirements regardless of their theft status (high or low). While there are approximately 27 vehicle manufacturers, since the effective date of the rule, a maximum of 14 petitions for exemption from the parts-marking requirements have been received by the agency for any single model year. We anticipate this to remain the average number of yearly responses received by the agency.

NHTSA estimates that the average hours per submittal will be 226, for a total annual burden of 3,164. This was an increase from the previous OMB inventory of 1,130 burden hours. NHTSA estimates that the cost associated with these burden hours is \$36.62 per hour, for a total cost of approximately \$115,866.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued on: September 24, 2007.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 07-4796 Filed 10-1-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 26, 2007.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the

submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 1, 2007 to be assured of consideration.

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)

OMB Number: 1591—New.

Type of Review: Emergency.

Title: Refund Anticipation Loans—Individual Taxpayers.

Description: The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), as part of its FY 2008 audit plan, will interview, via survey, a valid sample of individual taxpayers who received Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) after submitting electronically filed (e-file) tax returns. RALs target low-income taxpayers, especially those who receive an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or who do not have banking accounts. Because the duration of a RAL is approximately 7–14 days (the difference between the time a RALs are obtained and when they are repaid by with taxpayers' refunds), fees for these loans translate into triple digit annualized interest rates. While the IRS has eliminated the marketing of RALs from its Free File Program, educating taxpayers about the cost and burden of RALs and the ability to receive refunds quickly without RALs would further help reduce the financial burden RALs place on taxpayers. In addition, this data will help in learning how RALs affect tax administration, what changes are possible and could be taken to better monitor e-file providers, and what actions could be taken to mitigate burden through taxpayer education and/or changes to the administration of the tax system.

Respondents: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 51 hours.

Clearance Officer: Joseph Ananka, (202) 622-5964, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, 1125 15th Street, NW., Suite 700A, Washington, DC 20005.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7316, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New

Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Robert Dahl,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-19366 Filed 10-1-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Senior Executive Service; Departmental Offices Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Treasury Department.

ACTION: Notice of members of the Departmental Offices Performances Review Board.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), this notice announces the appointment of members of the Departmental Offices Performance Review Board (PRB). The purpose of this Board is to review and make recommendations concerning proposed performance appraisals, ratings, bonuses and other appropriate personnel actions for incumbents of SES positions in the Departmental Offices, excluding the Legal Division. The Board will perform PRB functions for other bureau positions if requested.

Composition of Departmental Offices PRB: The Board shall consist of at least three members. In the case of an appraisal of a career appointee, more than half the members shall consist of career appointees. The names and titles of the Board members are as follows:

Abbott, Matthew, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Federal Finance);
Carfine, Kenneth E., Fiscal Assistant Secretary;
Carroll, Robert J., Deputy Assistant Secretary (Tax Analysis);
Duffy, Michael D., Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Information Officer;
Eddy, Lynn M., Associate Chief Information Officer (HR Connect);
Foster, Wesley T., Deputy Assistant Secretary (Management and Budget);
Fuller, Reese H., Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Program Director.
Gerardi, Geraldine A., Director for Business and International Taxation;
Glaser, Daniel L., Deputy Assistant Secretary (Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes);
Granat, Rochelle F., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Chief Human Capital Officer;
Daly, Nova James, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Investment Security);
Dick, Denise, White House Liaison;
Foster, Robert U., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs (Banking & Finance);
Foster, Wesley T., Deputy Assistant Secretary (Management and Budget);