

with MAP-21 RD&T critical issues: *Promoting safety; reducing congestion and improving mobility; preserving the environment; preserving existing transportation systems; improving the durability and extending the life of transportation infrastructure; and improving goods movement.* The Research and Innovative Technology Administration's (RITA's) Office of Research, Development and Technology (RD&T), has coordinated this effort in collaboration with partner modal administrations and offices across the U.S. DOT. As recommended by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the National Research Council (NRC), RITA and its partners are seeking public stakeholder comment to ensure RD&T resources are invested wisely to achieve measurable improvements in our Nation's transportation system.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by April 26, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number RITA 2013-0002 by any of the following methods:

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

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: Identify docket number, RITA 2013-0002, at the beginning of your comments, and send two copies. To receive confirmation that DOT received your comments, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may access all comments received by DOT at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments are posted electronically without charge or edits, including any personal information provided.

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

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or

comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or the street address listed above. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kevin Womack, Associate Administrator, Office of Research Development and Technology, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Street SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001, telephone (202) 366-5447 or email Kevin.Womack@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

RITA was established as a separate administration within the United States Department of Transportation pursuant to the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act (Pub. L. 108-426), November 30, 2004, with the mandate to generate greater efficiency and increase the effectiveness of the U.S. DOT's coordination, analysis, and review of research programs, progress and products and in advancing innovative technology.

The new draft strategic plan, *U.S. Department of Transportation, Research, Development and Technology Strategic Plan FY 2013-2018*, is the Department's second since RITA's inception. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) enacted in 2005 called for the U.S. DOT to develop a strategic plan to guide its RD&T activities. The previous Plan was published in 2006 and served as a compendium of modal research pursuits at that time. Section 52013 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) enacted in 2012 called for the Department to develop a new five-year RD&T strategic plan. The new draft Plan pursues a more cross-modal, collaborative and strategic process to cover the years 2013-2018, and responds to feedback from the National Research Council's review (http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/reports/letterreport_usdotrd&tplan.pdf), of the earlier plan published in 2006, "Transportation Research, Development and Technology Strategic Plan 2006-2010", (http://www.rita.dot.gov/sites/default/files/rita_archives/rita_publications/transportation_rd_t_strategic_plan/index.html), and the recommendations of the GAO report published in 2006, "Transportation Research: Opportunities for Improving the Oversight of DOT's Research Programs and User Satisfaction with Transportation Statistics" (<http://www.gao.gov/assets/260/251162.html>). The U.S. DOT, with leadership from

RITA engaged in a collaborative process involving all of the U.S. DOT operating administrations. Two cross-modal bodies participated in the process: the RD&T Planning Team Council (composed of the heads of the operating administrations, the Under Secretary for Policy, and other senior U.S. DOT leaders) and the RD&T Planning Team which includes the Associate Administrators for RD&T in each operating administration. Through this Notice, the U.S. DOT is seeking input from stakeholders including individual citizens, members of the private sector, the academic community, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties.

Stakeholder's comments should be aligned, if possible, with the U.S. DOT Strategic Goals, the RD&T critical issues as outlined in MAP-21 and combined in the draft Plan as well as listed in the Summary section of this notice. All comments will be considered that are received by the deadline that appears in the **DATES** section.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 15, 2013.

Gregory D. Winfree,

Deputy Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

[FR Doc. 2013-07024 Filed 3-26-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-HY-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, Transportation.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board or STB), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3519 (PRA), is submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval of the information collections required under 49 U.S.C. 11301 and 49 CFR 1177 (rail or water carrier equipment liens (recordations)); under 49 U.S.C. 10747 and 49 CFR 1313 (rail agricultural contract summaries); and under 49 U.S.C. 13702(b) and 49 CFR 1312 (water carrier tariffs). The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the **Federal Register** on October 19, 2012, at 77 Fed. Reg. 64376. That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received. The relevant information

collections are described in more detail below.

For each collection, comments are requested concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by April 26, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Patrick Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, by fax at (202) 395-5167; by mail at OMB, Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20500; or by email at OIRA_SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV and refer to the title of the collection(s) commented upon.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn Levitt at levittm@stb.dot.gov or (202) 245-0269. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Relevant STB regulations may be viewed on the STB's Web site under E-Library > Reference: STB Rules, http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/elibrary/ref_stbrules.html.

Subjects: In this notice the Board is requesting comments on the following information collections:

Collection Number 1

Title: Recordations (Rail and Water Carrier Liens).

OMB Control Number: 2140-00XX.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.

Respondents: Parties holding liens on rail equipment or water carrier vessels, carriers filing proof that a lien has been removed.

Number of Respondents: An annual average of 2125 recordations was filed during the last three years by 50 respondents.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 1,240 hours

(estimated 35 minutes per response × 2125 responses).

Total "Non-hour Burden" Cost (such as start-up and mailing costs): There are no non-hourly burden costs for this collection. The collection may be filed electronically.

Needs and Uses: Under the Interstate Commerce Act, 49 U.S.C. 11301 and related regulations at 49 CFR 1177, liens on rail equipment must be filed with the STB in order to perfect a security interest in the equipment. Subsequent assignments of rights or release of obligations under such instruments must also be filed with the agency. This information is maintained by the Board for public inspection. Recordation at the STB obviates the need for recording such a lien in individual States.

Retention Period: Recordations of liens are destroyed 60 years after the last filing.

Collection Number 2

Title: Water Carrier Tariffs

OMB Control Number: 2140-00XX.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.

Respondents: Water carriers that provide freight transportation in noncontiguous domestic trade.

Number of Respondents: Approximately 25.

Frequency: On occasion, for an annual total of 1917 tariffs filed.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 1,254 hours (1672 filings × .75 hour (estimated time per filing)).

Total "Non-hour Burden" Cost (such as start-up costs and mailing costs): There are no non-hourly burden costs for this collection. The collection may be filed electronically.

Needs and Uses: While rail carriers are no longer required to file rate tariffs at the STB, a statutory requirement exists for water carriers that provide freight transportation in noncontiguous domestic trade (i.e., domestic (as opposed to international) shipments moving to or from Alaska, Hawaii, or the U.S. territories or possessions (Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands)). A tariff provides a list of prices and fees that the carrier charges to the shipping public.

Retention Period: After cancellation, tariffs are placed in a "Cancelled Tariffs" file. They are destroyed five years after the end of the year in which they were cancelled.

Collection Number 3

Title: Agricultural Contract Summaries.

OMB Control Number: 2140-00XX.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.

Number of Respondents:

Approximately 10.

Frequency: On occasion, for a total from all respondents of approximately 141 submissions per year (which must be submitted as soon as possible, but not longer than seven days after effective date of contract or amendment).

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 106 hours (141 submissions × .75 hours (45 minutes) estimated per submission).

Total Annual "Non-hour Burden" Cost (such as start-up and mailing costs): There are no non-hourly burden costs for this collection. The collection is filed electronically.

Needs and Uses: While the terms of a rail transportation contract are treated as confidential, railroads are required by statute to file a summary of the nonconfidential terms of any contract for the transportation of agricultural products.

Retention Period: Paper copies of this collection are destroyed six months after the expiration of the referenced contract.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a Federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: March 22, 2013.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2013-07056 Filed 3-26-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Information Collection Activities; Rail Depreciation Studies

ACTION: 30-day notice and request for comments.