

contractual or employment basis for such representation or advice. Letters should also describe the prospective member's relevant qualifications and experience and may be accompanied by supporting documentation, such as a biographic statement or resume, and confirmation from the group or entity represented that the prospective member is authorized to represent that group or entity on the Committee. Inclusion of an email address and/or telephone number in each applicant's submission will speed communications.

Letters of interest should be no more than four pages in length and should be addressed to Mr. Joseph P. Murphy, the IPoDS Committee's designated federal officer. Prospective Committee members may submit scanned copies of their letters electronically to Mr. Murphy by email to murphyjp@state.gov and/or by U.S. Mail to IO/STA, L409 (SA1); Department of State; 2401 E Street NW.; Washington DC 20037. The deadline for receipt of applications is XX January 2016.

For further information, please contact Ms. Shereece Robinson of the Office of Specialized and Technical Agencies (IO/STA), Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State, at tel. (202) 663-2649, by email at RobinsonSA2@state.gov.

Dated: December 15, 2015.

Joseph P. Murphy,

Designated Federal Officer, Advisory Committee on International Postal and Delivery Services, Office of Specialized and Technical Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2015-32319 Filed 12-22-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-19-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 9393]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Shakespeare, Life of an Icon" Exhibition

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236-3 of August 28, 2000 (and, as appropriate, Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003), I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition

"Shakespeare, Life of an Icon," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, District of Columbia, from on about January 19, 2016, until on or about March 27, 2016, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these Determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the imported objects, contact the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202-632-6471; email: section2459@state.gov). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PA, SA-5, Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522-0505.

Dated: December 14, 2015.

Kelly Keiderling,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2015-32330 Filed 12-22-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2015-0119]

Public Hearings on Planned Upgrades to the New Car Assessment Program

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is announcing two public hearings to invite public comment on the planned upgrade to the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) recently announced in a Request for Comments (RFC) Notice.

DATES: NHTSA will hold a public hearing at the Patrick McNamara Federal Building in Detroit, Michigan on January 14, 2016, that will begin at 9:00 a.m. The second hearing will be held at U.S. DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC on January 29, 2016, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. We will make every effort to accommodate all who wish to speak. Priority will be given to those who register in advance. Each hearing will continue until 1:00

p.m. or until everyone has had an opportunity to speak. Note, however, that the Patrick McNamara Federal Building closes at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to present oral testimony related to the RFC notice at one of the public hearings, please contact the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least 10 days before the hearing.

ADDRESSES: The January 14, 2016 public hearing will be held at the Patrick McNamara Federal Building, Room 1180, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226-2523. The January 29, 2016 public hearing will be held at the U.S. DOT Headquarters Building, Oklahoma City Room, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you would like to present oral testimony at either of these public hearings, please contact Milton Cooper by the date specified under **DATES** at telephone number: (202) 366-3223; or email address: milton.cooper@dot.gov (preferred method of contact). Please provide the following information: Name, affiliation, telephone number, email address, and any reasonable accommodations you may need.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the public hearings is to provide the public with an opportunity to present oral comments regarding the planned upgrade to NHTSA's New Car Assessment Program. NCAP provides comparative information on the safety of new vehicles to assist consumers with vehicle purchasing decisions and to encourage motor vehicle manufacturers to make vehicle safety improvements. To keep pace with advancements in occupant protection and the introduction of advanced technologies, NHTSA has periodically updated the program. On December 16, 2015, NHTSA published in the **Federal Register** a notice that describes and seeks comments on NHTSA's plan to advance the capabilities and safety outcomes of NCAP.¹

The RFC notice announces the beginning of a process NHTSA believes will provide the agency with significantly enhanced tools and techniques for better evaluating the safety of vehicles, generating star ratings, and stimulating the development of even safer vehicles for American consumers. The agency believes the revised rating system will result in even lower numbers of deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. These tools and techniques include:

¹ 80 FR 78522; December 16, 2015.

- A new frontal oblique test to address a crash type that continues to result in deaths and serious injuries despite the use of seat belts, air bags, and the crashworthy structures of late-model vehicles;

- Use of the THOR 50th percentile male anthropomorphic test device (ATD) (*i.e.*, crash test dummy) in the frontal oblique and full frontal tests because of its advanced instrumentation and more human-like (*i.e.*, biofidelic) response to the forces experienced in these crashes;

- Use of the WorldSID 50th percentile male ATD in both side pole and side moveable deformable barrier tests because of its advanced instrumentation and enhanced biofidelic properties;

- Pedestrian crashworthiness testing to measure the extent to which vehicles are designed to minimize injuries and fatalities when they strike pedestrians;

- An update of the rollover static stability factor risk curve using crash data from only newer electronic stability control equipped vehicles;

- The addition of a crash avoidance rating based on whether a vehicle offers any of the multiple technologies that will be added to NCAP and whether the technologies meet NHTSA performance measures;

- These technologies would include forward collision warning, lane departure warning, blind spot detection, lower beam headlighting technologies, semi-automatic headlamp beam switching, amber rear turn signal lamps, rear automatic braking and pedestrian automatic emergency braking. (A decision concerning the addition of crash imminent braking and dynamic brake support to the technologies recommended by NCAP is the subject of a separate proceeding recently published.²)

- A new approach to determining a vehicle's overall 5-star rating that will, for the first time, incorporate advanced crash avoidance technology features, along with ratings for crashworthiness and pedestrian protection.

You can learn more about the planned upgrade by reviewing the RFC notice and the supplementary documents located at <http://www.safercar.gov/5Stars> or in the docket.

Should it be necessary for the agency to cancel either public hearing due to inclement weather or any other emergencies, a decision to cancel will be made as soon as possible and emailed to those individuals who have registered to provide oral comments. If you do not have access to email, you

may call the contacts listed in this announcement and leave your telephone number and/or email address. You will be contacted only if the public hearing is postponed or canceled.

Public Hearing Procedures. Because the hearings will be located in Federal facilities, security screening will be required. Attendees will need to show photo identification and be screened for security purposes. Please plan your arrival so as to allow sufficient time to complete the screening. Please note that the Patrick McNamara Federal Building does not open until 8:00 a.m.

NHTSA will conduct the hearings informally. Thus, technical rules of evidence will not apply. Panel members may ask clarifying questions during the oral presentations, but will not respond to the presentations at that time. You may make arrangements to obtain copies of the transcripts directly with the court reporter. Written statements and supporting information submitted during the comment period on the RFC notice will be considered with the same weight as oral comments and supporting information presented at the public hearings. The RFC notice provides that written comments should be submitted no later than February 16, 2016.

Raymond R. Posten,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 2015-32184 Filed 12-22-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. MCF 21065]

National Express LLC—Acquisition of Control—White Plains Bus Company, Inc.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice Tentatively Approving and Authorizing Finance Transaction.

SUMMARY: On November 23, 2015, National Express LLC (National Express or Applicant), a non-carrier, filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 14303 so that it can acquire common control of White Plains Bus Company, Inc. (White Plains). The Board is tentatively approving and authorizing the transaction, and, if no opposing comments are timely filed, this notice will be the final Board action. Persons wishing to oppose the application must follow the rules at 49 CFR 1182.5 and 1182.8.

DATES: Comments must be filed by February 8, 2016. Applicant may file a

reply by February 22, 2016. If no comments are filed by February 8, 2016, this notice shall be effective on February 9, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to Docket No. MCF 21065 to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to Applicant's representative: Andrew K. Light, Scopelitis, Garvin, Light, Hanson & Feary, P.C., 10 W. Market Street, Suite 1500, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nathaniel Bawcombe (202) 245-0376. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Applicant, a non-carrier, states that it is a holding company organized under the laws of the state of Delaware. According to Applicant, it is indirectly controlled by a British corporation, National Express Group, PLC (Express Group). Applicant states that Express Group indirectly controls the following passenger motor carriers (National Express Affiliated Carriers): Beck Bus Transportation Corp. (Beck), Carrier Management Corporation (CMI), Durham School Services, L.P. (Durham), MV Student Transportation, Inc. (MV), National Express Transit Corporation (NETC), National Express Transit Services Corporation (NETSC), Petermann Ltd. (LTD), Petermann Northeast LLC (Northeast), Petermann Northwest LLC (Northwest), Petermann Southwest LLC (Southwest), Petermann STSA, LLC (STSA), Trans Express, Inc. (Trans Express), and Rainbow Management Service Inc. (Rainbow).

Applicant alleges the following facts regarding a number of interstate and intrastate for-hire passenger motor carrier authorities collectively held by the National Express Affiliated Carriers:

- Beck is a passenger motor carrier primarily engaged in providing student school bus transportation services in the states of Illinois and Indiana under contracts with regional and local school jurisdictions. Beck also provides charter passenger services to the public.

- CMI is a passenger motor carrier doing business as Matthews Bus Company and is primarily engaged in providing student school bus transportation services in the state of Pennsylvania under contracts with regional and local school jurisdictions. CMI also provides intrastate charter passenger services to the public.

- Durham is a passenger motor carrier primarily engaged in providing student school bus transportation services in approximately 32 states under contracts

² See www.regulations.gov, Docket No. NHTSA-2015-0006-0024.