

average time for participants in the FOT portion of the study.

NHTSA estimates the total burden for the remaining data collection to be 6,498 hours. The research team expects the data collection to take place over 24 months, for an average of 3,249 hours

per year. This is longer than initially estimated due to observed difficulty in recruitment.

NHTSA estimates the opportunity cost associated with this information collection using the median hourly wage for the Southwest Virginia

nonmetropolitan area of \$15.34 per hour for all occupations,¹ resulting in a total opportunity cost of \$99,679.32 and an annual opportunity cost of \$49,839.66.

Table 1 provides a summary of the remaining burden hours for this information collection.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED BURDEN HOURS AND ASSOCIATED OPPORTUNITY COSTS

| Instrument | Number of responses | Number of respondents | Duration | Estimated burden hours | Cost per hour | Estimated opportunity cost |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Eligibility/Demographic Interview | 2,787 | 2,787 | 30 min (0.5 hrs) ... | 1,393.5 | \$15.34 | \$21,376.29 |
| Full Orientation | 418 | 418 | 1 hour | 418 | 15.34 | 6,412.12 |
| Health Screening Only | 468 | 234 | 30 min (0.5 hrs) ... | 234 | 15.34 | 3,589.66 |
| Field Operational Test | 890 | 418 | 5 hours | 4,452 | 15.34 | 68,293.68 |
| Total (covering a 24-month period) | | | | 6,497.5 (6,498) | | 99,679.32 |
| Estimated Annual Burden | | | | 3,249 | | 49,839.66 |

The 30-day **Federal Register** notice contained errors in the estimated opportunity cost for the Full Orientation, Health Screening Only, and Field Operational Test. Those errors were typographical, did not affect the calculations for total, and have been corrected in this notice.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Cost: \$0.

NHTSA estimates that there are no additional costs to respondents beyond those associated with opportunity cost. To offset these costs, NHTSA is paying respondents who participate in the FOT \$19.50 per hour.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspects of this information collection, including (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, 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.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as

amended; 49 CFR 1.49; and DOT Order 1351.29.

Cem Hatipoglu,

Associate Administrator, Vehicle Safety Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Notice of Extension To Solicit Transit Advisory Committee for Safety Member Applications

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of extension to solicit Transit Advisory Committee for Safety Member Applications.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is extending the solicitation seeking applications for individuals to serve as members, for two-year terms, on the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS), which was published on February 7, 2022, with the original solicitation closing date of March 9, 2022. The TRACS provides information, advice, and recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) and FTA Administrator (Administrator) in response to tasks assigned to TRACS. The TRACS does not exercise program management responsibilities and makes no decisions directly affecting the programs on which it provides advice. The Secretary may accept or reject a recommendation made by TRACS and is

not bound to pursue any recommendation from TRACS.

DATES: Interested persons must submit their applications to FTA by April 8, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph DeLorenzo, TRACS Designated Federal Officer, Associate Administrator, FTA Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, (202) 366–1783, *Joseph.DeLorenzo@dot.gov*; or Bridget Zamperini, TRACS Program Manager, FTA Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, *TRACS@dot.gov*. Please address all mail to the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, Federal Transit Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Nominations

FTA invites qualified individuals interested in serving on TRACS to apply to FTA for appointment. The Administrator will recommend nominees for appointment by the Secretary. Appointments are for two-year terms; however, a member may reapply to serve additional terms, in the event that the TRACS Charter is renewed. Applicants should be knowledgeable of trends and issues related to rail transit and/or bus transit safety. Along with their experience in the rail transit and/or bus transit industry, applicants will also be evaluated and selected based on factors including leadership and organizational skills, region of the country represented,

¹ Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. May 2020 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates-

Southwest Virginia nonmetropolitan area. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/oes/>

2020/may/oes_5100001.htm. Last Accessed 12/27/21.

diversity characteristics, and the overall balance of industry representation.

Each application should include the applicant's name and organizational affiliation; a cover letter describing the applicant's qualifications and interest in serving on TRACS; a curriculum vitae or resume of the applicant's qualifications; and contact information including the applicant's address, phone number, fax number, and email address. Self-application and application through nomination of others are acceptable. FTA prefers electronic submissions for all applications, via email to TRACS@dot.gov. Applications will also be accepted via mail at the address identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

FTA expects to nominate up to 25 representatives from the public transportation safety community for immediate TRACS membership. The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, will make the final selection decision.

This notice is provided in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. App. 2). Please see the TRACS website for additional information at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/transit-advisory-committee-safety-tracs>.

Nuria I. Fernandez,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2022-0014]

Air Travel by Persons Who Use Wheelchairs; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OST), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the U.S. Department of Transportation (Department or DOT), to be held virtually, on the difficulties encountered during air travel by persons who use wheelchairs.

DATES: The virtual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, from 10:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time. The meeting is open to the public, subject to any technical and/or capacity limitations. Requests to attend the meeting must be submitted to https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_cWNvnWKRQ26J4X0sbJClrw. We

encourage interested parties to register by Monday, March 21, 2022.

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and sign language interpretation will be provided during the meeting. Requests for additional accommodations because of a disability must be received at

FlyingWithWheelchairs@dot.gov by March 21, 2022. If you wish to speak during the meeting or have written materials you submit discussed during the meeting, you should submit a request at FlyingWithWheelchairs@dot.gov no later than March 21, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The virtual meeting will be open to the public and held via the Zoom Webinar Platform. Virtual attendance information will be provided upon registration. A detailed agenda will be available on the Department's Office of Aviation Consumer Protection website at <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/latest-news> and placed in the docket in advance of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register and attend this virtual meeting, please contact the Department at: https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_cWNvnWKRQ26J4X0sbJClrw. Attendance is open to the public subject to any technical and/or capacity limitations. For further information, please contact Chris Miller, Attorney-Advisor, by phone at 202-366-4781, or by email at Christopher.miller1@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Air travelers with disabilities who use wheelchairs often face serious problems when traveling that could impact their safety, including mishandled wheelchairs and scooters and improper transfers to and from aircraft seats. Since December 2018, the largest U.S. airlines have collectively mishandled more than one in every one-hundred wheelchairs they transported.¹

¹ Pursuant to 14 CFR part 234, U.S. airlines classified as "reporting carriers" are required to report to the Department monthly data on the number of wheelchairs and scooters they transport in the aircraft cargo compartment and the number of wheelchairs and scooters that are mishandled (i.e., damaged, delayed, lost, or pilfered). This reporting requirement has applied to reporting carriers for their operations on and after December 4, 2018. In addition, reporting carriers have been required to report for the operations of their branded codeshare partners on and after January 1, 2019. Mishandled wheelchair and scooter data are published monthly in the Department's Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) along with information on the number of disability-related complaints that aviation consumers file with the Department against airlines. The ATCRs are available on the

Damaged, delayed and lost wheelchairs affect the mobility, independence, quality of life and, at times, health of people with disabilities. The Department is committed to improving the accessibility of air transportation for people with disabilities and is actively seeking information from the public to determine what appropriate steps can be taken to improve accessibility for wheelchair users.

Disability rights advocates have raised concerns with the Department about unsafe transfers to and from aircraft seats. These transfers are the most physically intensive type of assistance provided by airline personnel and contractors. The Department does not have data on the number of transfers or the number of passengers with disabilities injured during the transfer process. While complaints to the Department alleging assistance that jeopardizes the safety of passengers with disabilities are not as common as other types of wheelchair assistance-related complaints, these types of incidents can cause serious harm to passengers. Successful assistance is often dependent on sufficiently trained personnel with adequate strength, skill, knowledge, and available equipment.

Disability rights advocates have also expressed increased dissatisfaction with the level of accessibility during air travel for wheelchair users. On December 16, 2021, during a joint DOT and U.S. Access Board meeting about access to lavatories for on-board wheelchairs on single aisle aircraft, we announced that the Department would host a public meeting on the difficulties facing people who use wheelchairs during air travel. This public meeting will be an important step to tackle these challenges.

During this meeting, there will be an opportunity to listen to and learn from people who use wheelchairs on the difficulties that they encounter during air travel. There will also be an opportunity for airlines to discuss both the actions they are taking to provide accessible air transportation and the challenges they face in making these improvements. The Department will also request and gather relevant information from the public attendees on four different topics (listed below). The information gathered during the meeting will enable the Department to move more expeditiously on actions to advance safe accommodations for air travelers with disabilities using

Department's aviation consumer protection website at <https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/aviation-consumer-protection/air-travel-consumer-reports>.