

May I submit comments confidentially?

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit the information you claim to be confidential commercial information by email to SmallVessels@dot.gov. Include in the email subject heading “Contains Confidential Commercial Information” or “Contains CCI” and state in your submission, with specificity, the basis for any such confidential claim highlighting or denoting the CCI portions. If possible, please provide a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

In the event MARAD receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, procedures described in the Department’s FOIA regulation at 49 CFR 7.29 will be followed. Only information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under those procedures will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

Privacy Act

Anyone can 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.). For information on DOT’s compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024–07145 Filed 4–3–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD–2024–0048]

Coastwise Endorsement Eligibility Determination for a Foreign-Built Vessel: ICHTHYS (Motor); Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to issue coastwise endorsement eligibility determinations for foreign-built vessels which will carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. A request for such a determination has been received by MARAD. By this

notice, MARAD seeks comments from interested parties as to any effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. Information about the requestor’s vessel, including a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 6, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2024–0048 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD–2024–0048 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD–2024–0048, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Note: If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Hagerty, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23–461, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366–0903. Email: patricia.hagerty@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described in the application, the intended service of the vessel ICHTHYS is:

Intended Commercial Use of Vessel: Requester intends to offer sightseeing and birdwatching tours around Kodiak Island.

Geographic Region Including Base of Operations: Alaska. Base of Operations: Kodiak, Alaska.

Vessel Length and Type: 33’ motor.

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD 2024–0048 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade to carry no more than 12 passengers will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, MARAD will not issue an approval of the vessel’s coastwise endorsement eligibility. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter’s interest in the application, and address the eligibility criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

Public Participation*How do I submit comments?*

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at <https://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD–2024–0048 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

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confidential claim highlighting or denoting the CCI portions. If possible, please provide a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

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(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.
T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
 Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024-07143 Filed 4-3-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2023-0063]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Approval of Information Collection

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

ACTION: 30-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection request (ICR) renewal described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). The Department of Transportation (DOT) is soliciting public comments on this proposed collection renewal. The collection is necessary for administration of the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants (MPDG). This includes three funding opportunities: the "National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (Mega)," the "Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program (INFRA)," and the "Rural Surface

Transportation Grant program (Rural)". The MPDG provides Federal financial assistance for surface transportation infrastructure projects—including highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade and separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, and freight and multimodal projects, or groups of such projects, of national or regional significance, as well as to projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. The DOT on its own made additional changes to update time and estimated costs. Additionally, DOT removed the program evaluation stage (survey) and will submit that separately if conducted.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by May 6, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To ensure that you do not duplicate your docket submissions, please submit them by only one of the following means:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- *Hand Delivery:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W-12-140, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

Instructions: To ensure proper docketing of your comment, please include the agency name and docket number [DOT-OST-2023-0063] at the beginning of your comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding this notice, please contact the Office of the Secretary via email at MPDGgrants@dot.gov, or call Paul Baumer at (202) 366-1092. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202-366-3993.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: New Collection. OMB number will be issued after the collection is approved.

Title: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG).

Form Numbers: None.

Type of Review: New Information Collection Request (ICR).

Background: The Office of the Secretary ("OST") within the Department of Transportation (DOT)

provides financial assistance for surface transportation infrastructure projects—including to highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade and separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, and freight and multimodal projects, or groups of such projects, of national or regional significance, as well as to projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021) (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL) provided funds to the Department across three programs to invest in projects of national or regional significance—the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program, found under 49 U.S.C. 6701 ("Mega"), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program, found at 23 U.S.C. 117 (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America or "INFRA"), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program, found at 23 U.S.C. 173 ("Rural"). To help streamline the process for applicants, the Department has combined the applications for the Mega, INFRA, and Rural programs into the MPDG common application.

The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program ("INFRA") (23 U.S.C. 117) was established in the Fixing American's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 ("FAST ACT"), Public Law 114-94 § 1105, and continued in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58 (2021). OST is referring to these grants as "FASTLANE" or "INFRA" Discretionary Grants, depending on the year of award.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established two new programs along with the reauthorization of INFRA. The Mega Program, known statutorily as the National Infrastructure Project Assistance program (49 U.S.C. 6701), will support large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits. The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (23 U.S.C. 173) will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life.

The DOT combined these three programs into single Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to provide a more efficient application process for project sponsors. While they remain separate