

homepage at the following link: <https://www.ssa.gov/sci/>.

Chad Poist,

Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance, and Management, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024–15739 Filed 7–16–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Delegation of Authority No. 479–2]

Delegation of the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs To Invoke the Deliberative-Process Privilege

ACTION: Delegation of authority.

SUMMARY: The State Department is publishing a Delegation of Authority signed by Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs on July 10, 2024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, signed the following “Delegation of Authority to the Deputy Assistant Secretaries, for Western Hemisphere Affairs” on July 10, 2024. The State Department maintains the original document.

(Begin text.)

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Secretary of State in Delegation of Authority No. 479, dated December 17, 2019, and to the extent authorized by law, I hereby re-delegate to the Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs the authority to assert the deliberative-process privilege in judicial and administrative proceedings.

Nothing in this delegation of authority shall be deemed to supersede or otherwise affect any other delegation of authority. This delegation shall expire upon the entry upon duty of a subsequently appointed or designated Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, unless sooner revoked.

This document will be published in the **Federal Register**.

(End text.)

Kevin E. Bryant,

Deputy Director, Office of Directives Management, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2024–15646 Filed 7–16–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA–2024–0053]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA has forwarded the information collection request described in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by August 16, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number 0053 by any of the following methods:

Website: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Fax: 1–202–493–2251.

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

Hand Delivery or Courier: U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Johnston, (202) 591–5858, Office of Preconstruction, Construction and Pavements, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We published a **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day public comment period on this information collection on May 9, 2024, at [89 FR 39679]. The comments and FHWA’s responses are below:

The document was published for a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register**. The document citation is 89 FR 39679. There were seventeen (17) comments during this comment period, many of which were identical. In summary, each

comment stated how important the Value Engineering Program is and the data collection is an important part of demonstrating good stewardship of public funds. Each comment encouraged the continuation of the data collection, and that the data shows that the Value Engineering program is effective.

FHWA acknowledges these comments.

Several commenters encouraged FHWA to collect more data, and to ask OMB to reinstate all federal agencies reporting associated with OMB Circular A–131. One commenter stated that they would like to have access to data reported by other states.

In an effort to reduce the burden on state DOT’s, FHWA streamlined the data collection process to highlight the cost expended, cost savings and return on investment that comes from Value Engineering. All state’s data is available on FHWA’s Value Engineering website for public review <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ve/verereport.cfm>. Commenters are encouraged to reach out to OMB about reinstating OMB Circular A–131.

Two commenters suggested that FHWA develop an electronic database that allows for the entry of the requested information and allow this database to be viewable by the public so that they can compare data.

In 2023, FHWA created an electronic form for state DOT’s to input their annual data. This form populates the summary information that is available to the public on FHWA’s Value Engineering website. This information is sortable by state, fiscal year, costs, and a number of other factors. Users can also download this information in to a PDF for their use.

Title: Annual Value Engineering Call for Data.

Background: Value Engineering (VE) is defined as a systematic process of review and analysis of a project, during the concept and design phases, by a multidiscipline team of persons not involved in the project, that is conducted to provide recommendations for providing the needed functions safely, reliably, efficiently, and at the lowest overall cost; improving the value and quality of the project; and reducing the time to complete the project. Applicable projects requiring a VE analysis include Projects on the National Highway System (NHS) receiving Federal assistance with an estimated total cost of \$50,000,000 or more; Bridge projects on the NHS receiving Federal assistance with an estimated total cost of \$40,000,000 or more; any major project, as defined in