DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

VIA Rail Canada, Incorporated (Waiver Petition Docket Number RSGM–97–4)

VIA Rail Canada, Incorporated (VIA) seeks a temporary waiver of compliance with the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR Part 223.9(c), which requires FRA certified glazing in all windows of passenger cars, for fifteen passenger coaches rebuilt in 1997. VIA states that the contractor who rebuilt the cars failed to equip the cars with FRA certified glazing. VIA plans to use the coaches to operate a special train on September 21, 1997, between Toronto, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York, for Canadian Buffalo Bills fans. A second trip is planned for November 1997. VIA is working with the contractor to replace the windows with FRA certified glazing and requests the waiver to ensure the equipment is available. VIA states that the fifteen coaches have standard VIA safety glazing in all locations and are equipped with four emergency egress windows per coach, not FRA certified. Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number RSGM–97–4) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 10, Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 30 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. Any protest to the special train movement of September 21, 1997, must be filed prior to September 15, 1997. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) at FRA’s temporary docket room located at 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Room 7051, Washington, D.C. 20005. Issued in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1997.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,
Deputy Associate Administrator, for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[FTA Docket No. 97–2866]

Notice of Request for the Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the following currently approved information collection: Environmental Assessments.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before November 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the United States Department of Transportation, Central Dockets Office, P.O. Box 401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

All comments received will be available for examination at the above address from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., et., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard/envelope.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FTA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.

Title: Environmental Assessments (OMB Number: 2132–0011).

Background: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1960, as amended, and its implementing regulations, require that all Federal agencies consider and document the social, economic, and environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions. For FTA, approvals of grants to State