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Eric Gabler,

Manager, Passenger Facility Charge Branch.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-99-5219]

Notice of Request for Clearance of a New Information Collection: National Ferry Study

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the FHWA to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for a new information collection related to the Nation's ferry operations. The information to be collected will be used to: (1) Inventory existing ferry operations; (2) determine the potential for new ferry routes; (3) determine the potential for alternative fuel ferries; and (4) determine the potential for high speed ferries.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 21, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All signed, written comments should refer to the docket number that appears in the heading of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Gorman, (202) 366-5001, Office of Intermodal and Statewide Planning, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Ferry Study.

Background: The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), section 1207(c), directs the

Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study of ferry transportation in the United States and its possessions. The FHWA's Office of Intermodal and Statewide Planning will conduct a survey of approximately 250 operators of existing ferry services to identify: (1) The existing ferry operations including the location and routes served; (2) the source and amount, if any, of funds derived from Federal, State, or local governments supporting ferry construction or operations; (3) the potential domestic ferry routes in the United States and its possessions and to develop information on those routes; and (4) the potential for use of high speed ferry services and alternative-fueled ferry services. The information will be collected by telephone from approximately 250 operators of ferry services. Before the telephone surveys begin, the Passenger Vessel Association and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials will mail letters to their respective members advising them of the purpose of the survey and encouraging their participation. The survey will request the respondents to provide information such as: (1) The points served; (2) the amount and source of Federal, State, and/or local funds used in the past three years; (3) the type of ownership; (4) the number of passengers and vehicles carried in the past year; (5) any new routes expected to be added within the next five years; and (6) the highways that are connected by the ferries.

Respondents: The respondents to the survey will be 250 operators of existing ferry services in the United States.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: The estimated average burden per response is 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden is 83 hours.

Frequency: This is a one-time survey.

Public Comments Invited: Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including, but not limited to: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FHWA; (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's clearance of this information collection.

Electronic Access: Internet users can access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by

using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help. An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office Electronic Bulletin Board Service at telephone number 202-512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Authority: The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, (Pub. L. 105-178), section 1207(c); and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: March 15, 1999.

Michael J. Vecchiotti,

Director, Office of Information and Management Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 99-5287; Notice 1]

Dailey Body Company; Application for Temporary Exemption From Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121

We are asking comments from the public on the application by Dailey Body Company of Oakland, California, that five trailers be exempted from Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121 *Air Brake Systems*. The statutory basis for this request is that "compliance would cause substantial economic hardship to a manufacturer that has tried in good faith to comply with the standard." 49 U.S.C. 30113.

We are publishing this notice of receipt of the application in accordance with our regulations on temporary exemptions. This does not represent any judgment by us about the merits of the application.

The discussion below is based upon the information that Dailey provided in its application.

Why Dailey Needs an Exemption

Dailey is requesting an exemption for five "special reel hauling" trailers that it was unable to complete before March 1, 1998, because of changes requested by its customer, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., (PG&E) during construction of the trailers. On March 1, 1998, an amendment to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121 *Air Brake*