

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6328-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request, EPA's Transportation Partners

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

EPA's Transportation Partners Program, EPA ICR No. 1818.01, OMB Control No. 2010-0028, expiration date 8/31/99. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

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

ADDRESSES: Transportation Partners, US Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Mailcode 2126, Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by calling 202-260-5447 or via the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/tp/tpicr.pdf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Preston. Telephone: 202-260-5447. Fax: 202-260-0512. Email: preston.catherine@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action may include local and suburban transit providers, business associations, civic organizations, air and water resource and solid waste management agencies, local and regional government agencies and other transportation-related organizations. Additionally, EPA expects to enroll private businesses from a wide range of industries in the Transportation Partners program.

Title: EPA's Transportation Partners Program (OMB Control No. 2010-0028, EPA ICR No. 1818.01) expiring 8/31/99.

Abstract: The Transportation Partners program is a new, cooperative, voluntary program that seeks to reduce the growth of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through the adoption of measures that provide or promote the use of non-single occupancy vehicle transportation choices for citizens. As

part of the Climate Change Action Plan, Transportation Partners will play an important role in the nation's commitment to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

The Transportation Partners program is designed to work around two types of members: Principal Partners and Project Partners. Principal Partners have substantive areas of expertise and will provide direct assistance to VMT-reducing projects across the country. Project Partners, on the other hand, administer the individual programs and actions designed to reduce VMT. Local governments, regional governments, local non-governmental organizations, and private businesses may become Project Partners.

As voluntary participants in the Transportation Partners program, Project Partners may be asked to complete an annual Partner Profile that requests general project information. Project-related information requested may include background data about the sponsoring entity, a description (and, to the extent possible, quantification) of project effects on travel, other project effects, and comments regarding program participation and technical assistance. As EPA may request additional information from the Project Partners about their projects, organizations may be requested to periodically submit supplementary information to the Agency.

In addition, EPA sponsors the Way to Go! Awards, which honor local innovators who are enhancing their communities and the environment through transportation improvements. Project Partners will receive an application for the Way to Go! awards. Some Project Partners may choose to complete and submit the application to EPA. The application asks for the following information: the name and focus of the project; a description of project management; a description of the end user(s) of the project; and a project summary and narrative.

Principal Partners have a number of responsibilities, which include: First, they will provide EPA with contact lists of prospective Project Partners. Second, they will disseminate information to partners. Third, Principal Partners will review, sign, and forward Project Partner agreements to EPA. Fourth, Principal Partners will assist EPA in reviewing and compiling Partner Profiles and supplemental information from Project Partners.

Participation in the Transportation Partners program is voluntary. If requested, EPA will treat information as confidential business information and

will not make the partner-specific information collected under the program available to the general public, unless the partner's approval is obtained.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

- (i) Evaluate 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;
- (ii) Evaluate 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;
- (iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through 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.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 11.7 hours per response. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Michael Shelby,

Director, Energy and Transportation Sectors Division.

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