

NYC and CSXT have filed an environmental report which addresses the effects, if any, of the discontinuance on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by May 24, 2002. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1552. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: May 13, 2002.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-12407 Filed 5-16-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of Transportation Statistics

#### Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Activity Under OMB Review; Report of Financial and Reporting Statistics for Large Certificated Air Carriers

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on January 16, 2002 (67 FR 2282).

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by June 17, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone Number (202) 366-4387, Fax Number (202) 366-3383 or e-mail [bernard.stankus@bts.gov](mailto:bernard.stankus@bts.gov).

**Comments:** Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, in including the use of automated collection techniques of other forms of information technology.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: BTS Desk Officer.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

**Title:** Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Large Certificated Air Carriers

**Type of Request:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**OMB Control Number:** 2138-0013.

**Forms:** BTS Form 41.

**Affected Public:** Large certificated air carriers.

**Number of Respondents:** 74.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 4 hours per schedule, an average carrier may submit 90 schedules in one year.

**Total Annual Burden:** 24,428 hours.

**Needs and Uses:** Program uses for Form 41 data are as follows:

#### Mail Rates

The Department of Transportation sets and updates the international and mainline Alaska mail rates based on carrier aircraft operating expense, traffic and operational data. Form 41 cost data, especially fuel costs, terminal expenses, and line haul expenses are used in arriving at rate levels. DOT revises the established rates based on the percentage of unit cost changes in the carriers' operations. These updating procedures have resulted in the carriers receiving rates of compensation that more closely parallel their costs of providing mail service and contribute to the carriers' economic well-being.

#### Submission of U.S. Carrier Data to ICAO

As a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the United States is obligated to provide the International Civil Aviation Organization with financial and statistical data on operations of U.S. air carriers. Over 99 percent of the data

filed with ICAO is extracted from the carriers' Form 41 reports.

#### Standard Foreign Fare and Rate Levels

DOT uses Form 41 cost data to calculate the Standard Foreign Fare Level (SFFL) for passengers and the Standard Foreign Rate Level (SFRL) for freight. Any international fare or rate set below this fare level are automatically approved. Separate passenger fare and rate levels are established for Canadian, Atlantic, Latin America, and Pacific areas. In markets where liberal bilateral or multilateral pricing agreements provide for more competitive open market pricing, such agreements may take precedence over the SFFL and SFRL.

#### Carrier Fitness

Fitness determinations are made for both new entrants and established U.S. domestic carriers proposing a substantial change in operations. A portion of these applications consists of an operating plan for the first year (14 CFR part 204) and an associated projection of revenues and expenses. The carrier's operating costs, included in these projections, are compared against the cost data in Form 41 for a carrier or carriers with the same aircraft type and similar operating characteristics. Such a review validates the reasonableness of the carrier's operating plan.

Form 41 reports, particularly balance sheet reports and cash flow statements play a major role in the identification of vulnerable carriers. Data comparisons are made between current and past periods in order to assess the current financial position of the carrier. Financial trend lines are extended into the future to analyze the continued viability of the carrier. DOT reviews three areas of a carrier's operation: (1) The qualifications of its management team, (2) its disposition to comply with laws and regulations, and (3) its financial posture. DOT must determine whether or not a carrier has sufficient financial resources to conduct its operations without imposing undue risk on the traveling public. Moreover, once a carrier is operating, DOT is required to monitor its continuing fitness.

#### Status Reports

Senior DOT officials must be kept fully informed as to all current and developing economic issues affecting the airline industry. In preparing financial conditions reports or status reports on a particular airline, financial and traffic data are analyzed. Briefing papers may use the same information.

## War Air Service Program (Emergency Preparedness)

Under the War Air Service Program (WASP), FAA develops an official airline guide to establish air carrier boarding priorities in the event of a national emergency. The inventory of aircraft available for WASP equals the total aircraft fleet operated by certificated air carriers less the number of the largest wide-body aircraft that are allocated to the Civil Reserve Aircraft Fleet Program. Data on air carrier aircraft inventories, plus interim updates of acquisitions and retirements are used to assess the air transportation capabilities of the U.S. airline industry. This assessment is used in developing plans for emergency utilization of U.S. airline industry aircraft and resources in the event of a national emergency and/or mobilization.

## Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act

DOT is using Form 41 financial data to establish benchmarks to assess the reasonableness of air carrier claims under the Stabilization Act.

**Bernard Stankus,**  
Acting Assistant Director, Airline Information, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of Transportation Statistics

#### Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Activity Under OMB Review; Report of Financial and Reporting Statistics for Small Aircraft Operators

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on January 16, 2002 (67 FR 2281).

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by June 17, 2002.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone Number (202) 366-4387, Fax Number (202) 366-3383 or e-mail [bernard.stankus@bts.gov](mailto:bernard.stankus@bts.gov).

**Comments:** Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, in including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: BTS Desk Officer.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

**Title:** Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Small Aircraft Operators.

**Type of Request:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**OMB Control Number:** 2138-0009.

**Forms:** BTS Form 298-C.

**Affected Public:** Small certificated and commuter air carriers.

**Number of Respondents:** 94.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 9 hours per quarter for a commuter air carrier, 16 hours per quarter for a small certificated air carrier.

**Total Annual Burden:** 4,728 hours.

**Needs and Uses:** Program uses for Form 298-C data are as follows:

### Mail Rates

The Department of Transportation sets and updates the Intra-Alaska Bush mail rates based on carrier aircraft operating expense, traffic, and operational data. Form 298-C cost data, especially fuel costs, terminal expenses, and line haul expenses are used in arriving at rate levels. DOT revises the established rates based on the percentage of unit cost changes in the carriers' operations. These updating procedures have resulted in the carriers receiving rates of compensation that more closely parallel their costs of providing mail service and contribute to the carriers' economic well-being.

### Essential Air Service

DOT often has to select a carrier to provide a community's essential air service. The selection criteria include historic presence in the community, reliability of service, financial stability and cost structure of the air carrier.

### Carrier Fitness

Fitness determinations are made for both new entrants and established U.S. domestic carriers proposing a substantial change in operations. A portion of these applications consists of an operating plan for the first year (14 CFR part 204) and an associated projection of revenues and expenses. The carrier's operating costs, included in these projections, are compared against the cost data in Form 298-C for a carrier or carriers with the same aircraft type and similar operating characteristics. Such a review validates the reasonableness of the carrier's operating plan.

The quarterly financial submissions by commuter and small certificated air carriers are used in determining each carrier's continuing fitness to operate. Section 41738 of Title 49 of the United States Code requires DOT to find all commuter and small certificated air carriers fit, willing, and able to conduct passenger service as a prerequisite to providing such service to an eligible essential air service point. In making a fitness determination, DOT reviews three areas of a carrier's operation: (1) The qualifications of its management team, (2) its disposition to comply with laws and regulations, and (3) its financial posture. DOT must determine whether or not a carrier has sufficient financial resources to conduct its operations without imposing undue risk on the traveling public. Moreover, once a carrier begins conducting flight operations, DOT is required to monitor its continuing fitness.

Senior DOT officials must be kept fully informed and advised of all current and developing economic issues affecting the airline industry. In preparing financial condition reports or status reports on a particular airline, financial and traffic data are analyzed. Briefing papers prepared for senior DOT officials may use the same information.

### Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act

DOT is using financial data reported by small certificated and commuter air carriers to establish benchmarks to