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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Request for Grant Proposals for an Operational Test for the Implementation of Advanced Technologies in Rural Transit Service

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Request for grant proposals.

SUMMARY: FTA is issuing a request for grant proposals (RFP) for an operational test, which is funded at one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to demonstrate and evaluate innovative approaches to integrating Advanced Public Transportation System (APTS) technologies (also referred to as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies for transit or Transit ITS) and available Information Technology (IT) systems. The purpose of the test is to better coordinate subsidized transportation services in rural areas among multiple transit operators. The cooperative project will require coordination among various funding agencies, such as the FTA, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Labor. The integration and use of APTS technologies and IT systems will enable rural transit providers to coordinate their services better and operate their transit and/or paratransit system(s) more efficiently, thus improving subsidized rural transportation services. FTA may award multiple grants for this project.

DATES: FTA will accept proposals immediately, as of September 17, 2002. Request for grant proposals may be viewed at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/research/fleet/its/otrfp.html>. A rolling application process will be used for this solicitation; therefore, there is no specific closing date for receipt of proposals. The solicitation will remain open until all funds for this project are obligated.

ADDRESSES: Proposals shall be addressed to Mr. Ronald Boenau, Advanced Public Transportation Systems (APTS) Division, Room 9402, TRI-11, Federal Transit Administration,

U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, and shall reference

"Implementation of Advanced Technologies in Rural Transit Service."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Request for grant proposals may be viewed at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/research/fleet/its/otrfp.html>. Technical questions or concerns may be directed to Mr. Ronald Boenau or Mr. William Wiggins via phone at 202-366-4995 or via e-mail at Rural.RFP@fta.dot.gov. Legal questions or concerns may be directed to Mr. James LaRusch via phone at 202-366-1936 or via e-mail at James.LaRusch@fta.dot.gov. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST, Monday, through Friday, except federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FTA is seeking proposals from community groups and public and private transportation providers currently establishing, operating, coordinating, or brokering a rural transit service. Public transit agencies, state DOTs, health and human service agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and metropolitan planning organizations are encouraged to apply. FTA also welcomes proposals from Community Access Program (CAP) grantees. All agencies submitting proposals in response to this notice consent to be publicly identified as respondents.

Issued on: September 12, 2002.

Jennifer L. Dorn,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. MC-F-20992]

Laidlaw Inc.—Intra-Corporate Family Transaction Exemption

Laidlaw Inc. (Laidlaw), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedure at 49 CFR 1182.9.¹ The exempt transaction involves the transfer of issued and outstanding shares of stock in five motor passenger carriers from Laidlaw's subsidiary Laidlaw

¹ The Board exempted intra-corporate family transactions of motor carriers of passengers that do not result in significant operational changes, adverse changes in service levels, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family in *Class Exemption for Motor Passenger Intra-Corporate Family Transactions*, STB Finance Docket No. 33685 (STB served Feb. 18, 2000).

Transit Ltd. (Laidlaw Transit)² to Laidlaw's subsidiary Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp. (Greyhound Canada). Additionally, after control of the five carriers has been transferred, Laidlaw seeks to merge Chatham into Penetang-Midland with Penetang-Midland as the surviving entity.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on August 31, 2002.

The transaction is intended to restructure Laidlaw's organization by separating its special and charter operations from its school bus operations. Specifically, control of the five special and charter operations bus lines will be transferred from Laidlaw Transit, which will retain school bus operations, to Greyhound Canada, where intercity, charter and tour bus operations will be concentrated. In addition, the proposed merger of Chatham into Penetang-Midland is intended to simplify Laidlaw's corporate structure by eliminating overlapping management functions and reducing duplicate overhead and fixed costs.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1182.9. Laidlaw states that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family. Laidlaw also states that, because it directly or indirectly holds all of the stock of the affected companies, no contract or agreement will be entered into, except for the corporate documentation and filings required to effect the merger. Laidlaw further states that there will be no effect upon employees because all of them will be retained.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the Board shall summarily revoke the exemption and require divestiture. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 13541(d) may be filed at any time. See 49 CFR 1182.9(c).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-20992, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each

² Laidlaw, through Laidlaw Transit, indirectly or directly controls Gray Line of Vancouver Holdings, Ltd. (MC-357855), The Gray Line of Victoria Ltd. (MC-380234) and its subsidiary Victoria Tours Limited (MC-404543), Penetang-Midland Coach Lines Limited (Penetang-Midland) (MC-139953), and J.I. DeNure (Chatham) Limited (Chatham) (MC-111143) all of which are Canadian motor passenger carriers rendering special and charter operations in the United States.