

- Technical co-operation program;
- Interpretation and amendments of MARPOL 73/78 and related instruments;

- Future role of formal safety assessment and human element issues; and

- Work program of the Committee and subsidiary bodies.

Please note that hard copies of documents associated with MEPC 49 will not be available at this meeting. Documents will be available in Adobe Acrobat format on CD-ROM. To request documents please write to the address provided below, or request documents via the following Internet link: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/mso4/mepc.html>.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing to Ensign Mary Weston, Commandant (G-MSO-4), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Room 1600, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling (202) 267-2079.

Dated: June 9, 2003.

Frederick J. Kenney,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

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BILLING CODE 4710-D7-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby announces that it is seeking renewal of the following currently approved information collection activities. Before submitting these information collection requirements (ICRs) for clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified below.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than August 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on any or all of the following proposed activities by mail to either: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590, or Ms. Debra Steward, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590. Commenters requesting FRA to acknowledge receipt of their respective comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard stating, "Comments on OMB control number 2130-0005."

Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via facsimile to (202) 493-6230 or (202) 493-6170, or e-mail to Mr. Brogan at robert.brogan@fra.dot.gov, or to Ms. Steward at debra.steward@fra.dot.gov. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a subsequent notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292) or Debra Steward, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6139). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Pub. L. 104-13, § 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60-days notice to the public for comment on information collection activities before seeking approval for reinstatement or renewal by OMB. 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.10(e)(1), 1320.12(a). Specifically, FRA invites interested respondents to comment on the following summary of proposed information collection activities regarding (i) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute

its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (iii) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)(I)-(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1)(I)-(iv). FRA believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations. In summary, FRA reasons that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) reduce reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that it organizes information collection requirements in a "user friendly" format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

Below is a brief summary of the currently approved ICRs that FRA will submit for clearance by OMB as required under the PRA:

Title: Hours of Service Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0005.

Abstract: The collection of information is due to the railroad hours of service regulations set forth in 49 CFR part 228 which require railroads to collect the hours of duty for covered employees, and records of train movements. Railroads whose employees have exceeded maximum duty limitations must report the circumstances. Also, a railroad that has developed plans for construction or reconstruction of sleeping quarters (subpart C of 49 CFR part 228) must obtain approval of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) by filing a petition conforming to the requirements of sections 228.101, 228.103, and 228.105.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Respondent Universe: 632 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion; monthly.

Reporting Burden:

CFR Section	Respondent universe	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Total annual burden cost
228.11—Hours of duty records	632 railroads	27,375,000 records ..	2 min/10 min	2,962,500	\$103,687,500
228.17—Dispatchers of train movements.	150 dispatch offices	54,750 records	6 hours	328,500	11,497,500
228.19—Monthly reports of excess service.	300 railroads	1,800 reports	2 hours	3,600	126,000
228.103—Construction of employee sleeping quarters.	632 railroads	1 petition	16 hours	16	560
49 U.S.C. 521102—Hours of service act.	12 railroads	12 petitions	10 hours	120	\$4,200

Total Responses: 27,431,563.

Estimated Total Annual Burden:

3,294,736 hours.

Status: Regular Review.

Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b), 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 18, 2003.

Kathy A. Weiner,

Director, Office of Information Technology and Support Systems, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 03–16093 Filed 6–24–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement on Transit Improvements in the Metro South Study Area of Metropolitan St. Louis, MO

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the Bi-State Development Agency doing business as Metro, and the Missouri Department of Transportation (DOT) intend to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations for proposed transportation improvements in the Metro South Study Area of metropolitan St. Louis County, Missouri. The project co-sponsors include the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council (EWGCC) which is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning in the St. Louis

metropolitan area, Metro which is the transit agency that operates the MetroLink light rail system and the bus system in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and the Missouri DOT.

This notice is being published to notify interested agencies and the general public about the proposed action and to invite participation in the study. Scoping will be accomplished through correspondence and meetings with interested persons, organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies. A public scoping meeting and an interagency scoping meeting are currently planned.

The Metro South Study Area is bounded by the River Des Peres on the north, the Mississippi River on the east, the Meramec River on the south, and various streets including Gravois, Sappington, Watson, and Edgar on the west. Within this study area, transit improvements alternatives including light-rail transit alternatives, a transportation systems management (TSM) alternative, an enhanced bus system alternative, a no-action alternative and any additional reasonable alternatives emerging from the scoping process will be evaluated.

DATES: The public scoping meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2003 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the address given under

ADDRESSES. The interagency scoping meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2003. Written comments on the scope of the study must be received at the EWGCC by August 8, 2003. See **ADDRESSES** for mailing information.

ADDRESSES: Scoping Meetings: The public scoping meeting on July 23, 2003 will be held in the gymnasium of Cor Jesu Academy, 10230 Gravois Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63123. The meeting will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Oral and written comments on the scope of the study may be given at the meeting. The meeting site is wheelchair-accessible. Any person who requires language interpretation or special communication accommodations is asked to contact the project's public-participation coordinator, Lurna Godwin of Vector Communications at (314) 621–5566

prior to the meeting. Federal, state, and local agencies will be notified individually about the location of the interagency scoping meeting.

Written Comments: Written comments on the scope of the study may be sent to Mr. Bob Innis, Transportation Corridor Improvement Group, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, 10 Stadium Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63102; or by e-mail to bob.innis@ewgateway.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joan Roeseler, Director of Planning and Program Development, FTA Region 7, 901 Locust Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; Telephone: (816) 329–3936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping

Scoping information material will be available at the meetings and may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Bob Innis at his address in **ADDRESSES** above or by telephone at (314) 982–1400, Extension 1767. Scoping information will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.metrosothstudy.org> FTA, EWGCC, Metro, and the Missouri DOT invite all interested individuals and organizations, and Federal, State, regional, and local agencies to participate in articulating the purpose and need for the proposed transit improvements, defining the transit alternatives to be evaluated, and identifying social, economic, or environmental issues related to the alternatives. During the scoping process, comments should focus on specific social, economic, or environmental issues to be evaluated and on suggesting alternatives that may be less costly or have fewer environmental impacts while achieving similar transportation objectives.

II. Planning History and Process

A multimodal major investment study entitled the Cross-County Corridor Major Transportation Investment Analysis (MTIA) was carried out in 1995–1997. This study examined transportation problems and identified potential solutions at a conceptual level