

Offers (*i.e.*, proposal concept papers) being pursued as (or which are subsequently determined by FRA as) Federal financial assistance (*e.g.*, grants or cooperative agreements), must be accompanied by the appropriate application forms. Applicants may include in their submissions for consideration an opinion on the type of award instrument they consider would be the most suitable or appropriate venue for their proposed research projects, technology advancements or demonstrations. This will normally also be reflected in the structure of the cost/price portion of the applicants' proposals. All awards will be subject to the availability of funds. Prospective offerors are cautioned that only the Grants/Contracting Officer can legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds under this BAA.

Areas of Technology Interest

Technologies that are high priority research candidates for evaluation pursuant to this announcement include (a) grade crossing hazard mitigation systems, (b) innovative, low cost technologies to improve track and structures, (c) advanced train control systems, (d) non-electric locomotives and passenger equipment systems, and (f) other scientific study, technology adaptation, or demonstration directed toward advancing the state-of-the-art or increasing the knowledge or understanding of high-speed passenger rail service in the U.S.

Proposal Concept Papers and Preparation Instructions

Proposal concept papers should be twenty (20) pages or less (except as otherwise noted), in letter print no less than 10 point type, on letter-size paper, numbered, and fully legible in all required copies. Each concept should be submitted only once. An offeror's submission of substantially the same concept (under different topical Areas of Interest) will only be evaluated once. FRA will consider each proposal concept paper in the topical Area of Interest identified in the BAA that is most relevant and provides for the greatest opportunity or chance for award. Proposal concept paper submissions should not include promotional brochures, advertisements, taped recordings, or other extraneous material. Proposal concept paper submissions must contain a *Technical Concept Section* and a separate *Cost or Pricing Section*. A separate *Past Performance Information Section* is also required from all offerors other than state or local governments, or

organizations of state or local governments, or universities or institutions of higher education where the total estimated project cost is \$100,000 or greater. A separate *Optional Phased or Follow-on Section* is required for concepts involving phased or follow-on research projects. Offers (*i.e.*, proposal concept papers) being pursued as (or which are subsequently determined by FRA as) Federal financial assistance awards (*e.g.*, grants or cooperative agreements) should be accompanied by the appropriate application forms or related submission materials. Successful offers that are to be awarded as Federal financial assistance must have the appropriate application forms in place prior to award. Submissions that are incomplete or materially lacking, pursuant to the instructions in the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package, may be returned unevaluated, or evaluated as is, without further opportunity for revision, at the discretion of the Source Selection Authority. Specific content and format requirements and additional instructions for preparing submissions, as well as further information on the areas of interest themselves and the evaluation/selection process, are provided in the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package, available at the following location: <http://www.eps.gov/EPSPData/DOT/Synopses/1042/BAA-2003-1/> (* See Note).

Evaluation Criteria

Proposal concept papers (and other submissions, if and when requested) will be evaluated using the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of relative importance: (1) The relationship of the proposed research project, technology advancement and/or demonstration to the FRA's mission and its potential to advance U.S. high-speed rail technology, and the extent to which its application to railroad operations would improve intercity passenger operations through improved railroad capital equipment or infrastructure, traffic control centers, interfaces among these, or operating methods, and/or its potential for performance improvement in one or more qualities such as, cost effectiveness, reliability, safety, availability, or maintainability. (2) The overall scientific and/or technical merit of the proposal. (3) The technical qualifications and demonstrated experience of key personnel proposed to perform the technical efforts. (4) The administrative qualifications and demonstrated experience of the proposing organization to support the project. (5) The reasonableness and realism of the proposed costs and fee (if

any). (6) The extent of any proposed cost sharing/cost participation under the proposed effort (exclusive of the offeror's prior investment). (7) The extent or level of relevant corporate past performance, or relevant past performance by key personnel or by subcontractors or parties to cooperative arrangements. (**Note:** Assessments of past performance will not be applicable to offers/applications from states or local governments or organizations of state or local governments, or universities or institutions of higher education.) This announcement constitutes the only solicitation. No other request for proposals or announcements will be issued. The complete BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package can be found at: <http://www.eps.gov/EPSPData/DOT/Synopses/1042/BAA-2003-1/> (* See Note).

* **Note:** In the event that this link fails to lead to the directory for the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package, it can be found by performing a search from FedBizOpps Home Page: <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>. From the homepage, select "Find Business Opportunities", and then perform a search for "BAA 2003-1" under Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration.

Dated: June 9, 2003

Mark Yachmetz,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Development.

[FR Doc. 03-16459 Filed 6-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[FTA Docket No. FTA-2003-15488]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of the currently approved information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments was published on March 18, 2003.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before July 30, 2003. A comment to OMB is more effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia L. Marion, Office of Administration, Office of Management Planning, (202) 36-6680.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting of Technical Activities by FTA Grant Recipients (*OMB Number: 2132-0549*).

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 5303 and 5313(a) and (b) authorize the use of Federal funds to assist metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), states, and local public bodies in developing transportation plans and programs to serve future transportation needs of urbanized areas and nonurbanized areas throughout the nation. As part of this effort, MPOs are required to consider a wide range of goals and objectives and to analyze alternative transportation system management and investment strategies. These objectives are measured by definable activities such as planning certification reviews and other related activities.

The information collected by these forms is used to report annually to Congress, the Secretary, and to the Federal Transit Administrator on how grantees are responding to national emphasis areas and congressional direction, and allows FTA to track grantees' use of Federal planning and research funds.

Estimated Annual Burden: 156 hours.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FTA Desk Officer.

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 the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued: June 13, 2003.

Rita L. Wells,

Associate Administrator for Administration.
[FR Doc. 03-16371 Filed 6-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Transit Administration**

[FTA Docket No. FTA-2003-15489]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of the currently approved information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments was published on March 18, 2003.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before July 30, 2003. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia L. Marion, Office of Administration, Office of Management Planning, (202) 366-6680.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 49 U.S.C. 5312(a) Research, Development, Demonstration and Training Projects (*OMB Number: 2132-0546*).

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 5312(a) authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants or contracts for research, development, and demonstration projects that will reduce urban transportation needs, improve mass transportation service, or help transportation service meet the total urban transportation needs at a minimum cost. In carrying out the provisions of this section, the Secretary is also authorized to request and receive appropriate information from any source.

The information collected is submitted as part of the application for grants and cooperative agreements and is used to determine eligibility of applicants. Collection of this information also provides documentation that the applicants and recipients are meeting program objectives and are complying with FTA Circular 6100.1B and other federal requirements.

Estimated Annual Burden: 11,240 hours.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the Office of Information

and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FTA Desk Officer.

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 the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued: June 24, 2003.

Rita L. Wells,

Associate Administrator for Administration.
[FR Doc. 03-16372 Filed 6-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Transit Administration**

[FTA Docket No. FTA-2003-15490]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of the currently approved information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments was published on March 31, 2003.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before July 30, 2003. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia L. Marion, Office of Administration, Office of Management Planning, (202) 366-6680.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Bus Testing Program (*OMB Number: 2132-0550*).

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. 5323(c) provides that no federal funds appropriated or made available after September 30, 1989, may be obligated or expended for the acquisition of a new bus model (including any model using alternative fuels) unless the bus has been tested at