

Harkins, Attorney Advisor, FHWA Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-4928, Federal Highway Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours for the FHWA are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On September 20, 2007, the FHWA published its NPRM in the **Federal Register** at 72 FR 53736. As required under section 1604(b)(6) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the proposed rule specifies the interoperability requirements for automated toll collection systems for the facilities that are tolled under any of the tolling programs contained in section 1604 of SAFETEA-LU. Specifically, this NPRM proposes to require facilities operating with authority under section 1604 of SAFETEA-LU to use electronic toll collection systems and for these systems to address their interoperability with other toll facilities. Although a nationwide interoperability standard has not yet been established, the proposed rule seeks to accelerate progress toward achieving nationwide interoperability by requiring these facilities to upgrade their electronic toll collection systems to the national standards whenever adopted.

The September 20, 2007, notice announced a public meeting on October 11, 2007, to discuss the NPRM. In response to comments received, the FHWA has decided to hold an additional public meeting on October 18, 2007.

##### Public Meetings

The public meetings will be held at the address listed above. The FHWA invites participation in these meetings by all those interested in the above noted NPRM. Written submissions are welcome, although not required for participation. The FHWA expects each meeting to last approximately three hours. No pre-registration is required for participation.

Issued on: September 26, 2007.

**Anthony Furst,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Operations.*

[FR Doc. E7-19409 Filed 10-1-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Draft Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of draft environmental impact statement comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On July 2, 2007, FRA approved for release and agency and public review the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Bay Area to Central Valley portion of the California High Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) proposed High Speed Train Program for the State of California. FRA is the lead federal agency on the environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Authority is the project sponsor and lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act review. In releasing the Draft Program EIR/EIS, FRA and the Authority established a 70-day public comment period that was scheduled to end on September 28, 2007. The public was notified of the 70-day comment period through a variety of avenues, including newspaper publications, information included on both agencies' Web sites, at public hearings held throughout the affected area, and through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's weekly **Federal Register** publication (72 FR 39808, July 20, 2007), which noted the availability of the Draft Program EIR/EIS, identified as EIS No. 20070303.

At its September 26, 2007 board meeting, the Authority considered a number of public requests to extend the comment period and decided to accept comments until noon on October 26, 2007. FRA agrees with the Authority that this extension will facilitate public participation and is extending the comment period for NEPA purposes to October 26, 2007 as well.

**DATES:** The comment period on the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley HST Program EIR/EIS is extended until October 26, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, EIR/EIS Comments, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding the

programmatic environmental review, please contact: Mr. Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, CA 95814 (telephone 916-324-1541); or Mr. David Valenstein, Environmental Program Manager, Office of Passenger Programs, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Avenue (Mail Stop 20), Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202-493-6368).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** More information about the proposed HST system, the first-tier Program EIR/EIS addressing the HST system and the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley HST EIS are available at <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 26, 2007.

**Mark E. Yachmetz,**

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Development.*

[FR Doc. 07-4854 Filed 9-27-07; 1:10 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Transit Administration

[FTA Docket No. FTA-2007-29355]

#### Notice of Request for a New Collection

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new collection: 49 U.S.C. Section 5317, New Freedom Program.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted before December 3, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** To ensure that your comments are not entered more than once into the docket, submit comments identified by the docket number by only one of the following methods:

1. *Web site:* [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the U.S. Government electronic docket site. (**Note:** The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) electronic docket is no longer accepting electronic comments.) All electronic submissions must be made to the U.S. Government electronic docket site at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Commenters should follow the directions below for mailed and hand-delivered comments.

2. *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

3. *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey

Avenue, SE., Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

4. *Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Instructions:* You must include the agency name and docket number for this notice at the beginning of your comments. Submit two copies of your comments if you submit them by mail. For confirmation that FTA has received your comments, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Note that all comments received, including any personal information, will be posted and will be available to Internet users, without change, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published April 11, 2000, (65 FR 19477), or you may visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents and comments received, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) at any time. Background documents and comments received may also be viewed at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Schneider, FTA Office of Program Management 202-493-0175, fax: 202-366-3475, or e-mail: [david.schneider@dot.gov](mailto:david.schneider@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FTA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.

*Title:* 49 U.S.C. 5317, New Freedom Program.

*(OMB Number: 2132-NEW)*

*Background:* 49 U.S.C. 5317, the New Freedom Program, authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to states and designated

recipients in urbanized areas of 200,000 persons or greater to reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Grant recipients are required to make information available to the public and to publish a program of projects which identifies the subrecipients and projects for which the State or designated recipient is applying for financial assistance. FTA uses the information to determine eligibility for funding and to monitor the grantees' progress in implementing and completing project activities. FTA collects performance information from designated recipients in rural areas, small urbanized areas and other direct recipients for small urbanized areas annually and collects performance information from designated recipients in large urbanized areas on a quarterly basis. The information submitted ensures FTA's compliance with applicable federal laws and OMB Circular A-102.

*Respondents:* State & local government, private non-profit organizations and public transportation authorities.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* 251 hours for each of the 206 respondents.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 122,374 hours.

*Frequency:* Annual and quarterly.

Issued: September 26, 2007.

**Ann Linnertz,**  
Associate Administrator for Administration.  
[FR Doc. E7-19420 Filed 10-1-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-57-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Transit Administration

#### Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Restoration of Rail Service in the Northern Branch Corridor, Bergen and Hudson Counties, NJ

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

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

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to study the restoration of rail passenger service on the Northern Branch rail corridor between North Bergen, Hudson

County, and Tenafly, Bergen County. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA: 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) of 1969 and the regulations implementing NEPA set forth in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and 23 CFR Part 771, as well as provisions of the recently enacted Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The purpose of this Notice is to alert interested parties regarding the plan to prepare the EIS, to provide information on the nature of the proposed transit project, to invite participation in the EIS process, including comments on the scope of the EIS proposed in this notice, and to announce that public scoping meetings will be conducted. This notice supersedes the FTA notice of June 18, 2001 entitled "Major Investment Study/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Branch Corridor, Bergen County, New Jersey."

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be sent to Linda A. Mosch, P.E., NJ TRANSIT Project Manager, by November 7, 2007. Public scoping meetings will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 3 to 5 p.m. and at 7 to 9 p.m. at locations indicated under **ADDRESSES** below. An interagency scoping meeting will be scheduled after agencies with an interest in the proposed project have been identified.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be sent to Linda A. Mosch, P.E., Project Director—Northern Branch EIS, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105-2246. Comments may also be offered at the public scoping meetings. The address for the public scoping meeting is as follows: Crowne Plaza Englewood Hotel, 401 S. Van Brunt St., Englewood, NJ 07631.

This location is accessible by persons with disabilities. If special translation or signing services or other special accommodations are needed, please contact the Project Director, Linda A. Mosch, P.E., at (973) 491-8481 least 48 hours before the meeting. A scoping information packet is available on the NJ TRANSIT Web site at <http://NorthernBranchCorridor.com> or by calling the Project Director, Linda A. Mosch, P.E., at (973) 491-8481. Copies will also be available at the scoping meetings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Rebecca Reyes-Alicea, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, One Bowling Green, Room 429, New York, New York, 10004-1415, telephone (212) 668-2203.