

FTA and Sound Transit welcome comments from interested individuals, organizations, tribes and agencies. Comments are invited regarding the preliminary statement of purpose and need; the alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS; and any significant environmental issues related to the alternatives. Suggested reasonable alternatives that meet the project purpose and need will be seriously considered. To assist the public during scoping, Sound Transit has prepared an Environmental Scoping Information Report describing the project, potential site alternatives, potential impact areas to be evaluated, and the preliminary EIS schedule. You may request a copy of it from Luke Lamon, Sound Transit, 401 S. Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98104–2826, telephone: (206) 903–7469 or email: luke.lamon@soundtransit.org. It is also available at <http://www.soundtransit.org/OMSF>. After the comment period, Sound Transit will publish a summary of the public and agency comments it received. After scoping concludes later this year, the Sound Transit Board is expected to consider a motion addressing the purpose and need for the project, the scope of environmental review, and alternatives to be considered in the draft EIS.

FTA and Sound Transit will comply with all applicable Federal environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders during the environmental review process. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality implementing NEPA, and FTA's own NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508, and 23 CFR part 771); the air quality conformity regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR part 93); the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of EPA (40 CFR part 230); the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR part 800); the regulations implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR part 402); Section 4(f) of the Dept. of Transportation Act (23 CFR part 774); Executive Orders 12898 on Environmental Justice, 11988 on floodplain management, and 11990 on wetlands; and DOT Order 5610.2(a) on Environmental Justice.

Paperwork Reduction. The Paperwork Reduction Act seeks, in part, to minimize the cost to the taxpayer of the creation, collection, maintenance, use, dissemination, and disposition of

information. Consistent with this goal and with principles of economy and efficiency in government, FTA limits as much as possible the distribution of complete sets of printed environmental documents. Accordingly, absent a specific request for a complete printed set of environmental documents (preferably in advance of printing), Sound Transit will distribute only the executive summary of the environmental document together with a compact disc of the complete environmental document. A complete printed set of the environmental document will be available for review at the grantee's offices and elsewhere; an electronic copy of the complete environmental document will also be available on Sound Transit's Web page.

Issued on: September 6, 2012.

Kenneth A. Feldman,

Deputy Regional Administrator, FTA Region 10.

[FR Doc. 2012–22823 Filed 9–14–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2010–0152]

Technical Report on Fatality Risk, Mass, and Footprint of Model Year 2000–2007 Passenger Cars and LTVs

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Request for comments on technical report.

SUMMARY: This notice announces NHTSA's publication of a technical report describing relationships between a vehicle's mass, footprint (size), and body type and its rate of involvement in fatal crashes. The report's title is: *Relationships Between Fatality Risk, Mass, and Footprint in Model Year 2000–2007 Passenger Cars and LTVs—Final Report.*

DATES: Comments must be received no later than January 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES:

Report: The technical report is available on the Internet for viewing in PDF format at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811665.pdf>. You may obtain a copy of the report free of charge by sending a self-addressed mailing label to Charles J. Kahane (NVS–431), National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration, Room W53–312, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Comments: You may submit comments [identified by Docket Number NHTSA–2010–0152] by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility, M–30, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building, Ground Floor, Rm. W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

You may call Docket Management at 202–366–9826.

Instructions: For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the Procedural Matters section of this document. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation Division, NVS–431, National Center for Statistics and Analysis, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W53–312, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202–366–2560. Email: chuck.kahane@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Mass reduction while holding a vehicle's footprint (size) constant is a potential strategy for meeting footprint-based CAFE and GHG standards. An important corollary issue is the possible effect of mass reduction that maintains footprint on fatal crashes. One way to estimate these effects is statistical analyses of societal fatality rates per VMT, by vehicles' mass and footprint, for the current on-road vehicle fleet. Societal fatality rates include occupants of all vehicles in the crash as well as pedestrians. The analyses comprised MY 2000–2007 cars and LTVs in CY 2002–2008 crashes. Fatality rates were derived from FARS data, 13 State crash files, and registration and mileage data from R.L. Polk. The table presents the estimated percent increase in societal fatality rates per 100-pound mass reduction while holding footprint constant for five classes of vehicles:

MY 2000–2007 CY 2002–2008	Fatality increase (%) per 100- pound mass re- duction while hold- ing footprint con- stant	95% confidence bounds
	Point estimate	
Cars < 3,106 pounds	1.56	+ .39 to +2.73
Cars ≥ 3,106 pounds51	– .59 to +1.60
CUVs and minivans	– .37	– 1.55 to + .81
Truck-based LTVs < 4,594 pounds52	– .45 to +1.48
Truck-based LTVs ≥ 4,594 pounds	– .34	– .97 to + .30

Only the 1.56 percent risk increase in the lighter cars is statistically significant. There are non-significant increases in the heavier cars and the lighter truck-based LTVs and non-significant societal benefits for mass reduction in CUVs, minivans, and the heavier truck-based LTVs. Based on these results, potential combinations of mass reductions that maintain footprint and are proportionately somewhat higher for the heavier vehicles may be safety-neutral or better as point estimates and, in any case, unlikely to significantly increase fatalities. The primarily non-significant results are not due to a paucity of data, but because the societal effect of mass reduction while maintaining footprint, if any, is small.

This report is also available in two NHTSA dockets—NHTSA–2010–0152–0040 and NHTSA–2010–0131–0336—as well as at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811665.pdf>. This final report updates and supersedes a preliminary report issued in November 2011 (76 FR 73008, report available at NHTSA–2010–0152–0023), in response to public comments and to three researchers' peer-reviews of the preliminary report. Information about the public comments and the peer review is available in Docket No. NHTSA–2010–0152, including the peer-review charge at NHTSA–2010–0152–0024, the names of the reviewers at NHTSA–2010–0152–0025, and the three reviews at NHTSA–2010–0152–0035, NHTSA–2010–0152–0036, and NHTSA–2010–0152–0037.

This report also supersedes earlier NHTSA reports on vehicle mass, size and fatality risk issued in 2010 (75 FR 25324, Docket No. NHTSA–2010–0152, report available at http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/rulemaking/pdf/cafe/CAFE_2012-2016_FRIA_04012010.pdf, pp. 464–542); 2003 (68 FR 66153, Docket No. NHTSA–2003–16318, report available at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/809662.PDF>); and 1997 (62 FR 34491, Docket No. NHTSA–1997–3725, report available at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/808570.PDF>).

Procedural Matters

How can I influence NHTSA's thinking on this subject?

NHTSA welcomes public review of the technical report. NHTSA will submit to the Docket a response to the comments and, if appropriate, will supplement or revise the report.

How do I prepare and submit comments?

Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket number of this document (NHTSA–2010–0152) in your comments.

Your primary comments must not be more than 15 pages long (49 CFR 553.21). However, you may attach additional documents to your primary comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477) or you may visit <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Please send two paper copies of your comments to Docket Management, fax them, or use the Federal eRulemaking Portal. The mailing address is U. S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management Facility, M–30, West Building, Ground Floor, Rm. W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. The fax number is 1–202–493–2251. To use the Federal eRulemaking Portal, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

We also request, but do not require you to send a copy to Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation Division, NVS–431, National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, Room W53–312, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590 (or email them to chuck.kahane@dot.gov). He can check if your comments have been received at the Docket and he can expedite their review by NHTSA.

How can I be sure that my comments were received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How do I submit confidential business information?

If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, send three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter supplying the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR Part 512).

In addition, send two copies from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information to U. S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management Facility, M–30, West Building, Ground Floor, Rm. W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, or submit them via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

Will the agency consider late comments?

In our response, we will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under DATES. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date.

Please note that even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

How can I read the comments submitted by other people?

You may read the materials placed in the docket for this document (e.g., the comments submitted in response to this document by other interested persons) at any time by going to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets. You may also read the materials at the Docket Management Facility by going to the street address given above under **ADDRESSES**. The Docket Management Facility is open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30111, 30168; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

James F. Simons,

Director, Office of Regulatory Analysis and Evaluation.

[FR Doc. 2012-22779 Filed 9-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35668]

Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC and Permian Basin Railways—Continuance in Control Exemption—Rusk, Palestine & Pacific Railroad, LLC

Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC (IPH) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Permian Basin Railways (PBR), have filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Rusk, Palestine & Pacific Railroad, LLC (RP&P),¹ formerly American Heritage Railways of Texas, LLC (American), upon RP&P's becoming a Class III rail carrier. IPH and PBR filed a corrected copy of that notice on September 7, 2012.

In a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption, RP&P seeks Board approval to operate as a common carrier approximately 27 miles of railroad (the Line) between Rusk and Palestine, Tex.²

¹ RP&P is a wholly owned subsidiary of IPH.

² RP&P also seeks incidental trackage rights for the purpose of interchange over approximately 1.3 miles of track owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) that connects to UP's rail yard in Palestine, Tex.

The Line has no mileposts. It is currently owned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Authority and it is leased to the Texas State Railroad Authority, which has entered into an operating agreement with American/RP&P. American had been operating a noncommon carrier intrastate excursion passenger railroad over the Line using the name Texas State Railroad. RP&P plans to continue that service using the name Texas State Railroad and plans to restore common carrier freight service over the Line using the name "Rusk, Palestine & Pacific Railroad". *Rusk, Palestine & Pacific R.R.—Operation Exemption—Tex. State R.R. Auth.*, Docket No. FD 35669.

The transaction may be consummated on or after September 29, 2012 (the effective date of the exemption).

IPH and PBR subsidiary railroads include: (1) Chicago Terminal Railroad, located in and around Chicago, Ill.; (2) Mount Hood Railroad, located in Oregon; (3) San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad, located in Colorado; (4) Saratoga & North Creek Railway, located in New York; (5) Texas-New Mexico Railroad, located in New Mexico and Texas; and (6) West Texas & Lubbock Railway, located in Texas. IPH and PBR recently have obtained Board authority to continue in control of a new noncarrier subsidiary in California, the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway Company, upon its becoming a Class III rail carrier. *Iowa Pac. Holdings, LLC and Permian Basin Rys.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Ry.*, FD 35632 (STB served Aug. 17, 2012).

IPH and PBR represent that: (1) The Line does not connect with any other railroads in the corporate family; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the Line with any other railroads in the corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here, because all of the carriers involved are Class III carriers.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the

exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Stay petitions must be filed no later than September 21, 2012 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35668, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on John D. Heffner, Strasburger & Price, LLP, 1700 K Street NW., Suite 640, Washington, DC 20006.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: September 12, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Clearance Clerk,

Derrick A. Gardner.

[FR Doc. 2012-22841 Filed 9-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35669]

Rusk, Palestine & Pacific Railroad, LLC—Operation Exemption—Texas State Railroad Authority

Rusk, Palestine & Pacific Railroad, LLC (RP&P), formerly American Heritage Railways of Texas, LLC (American), a noncarrier subsidiary of Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC (IPH), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to operate approximately 27 miles of railroad¹ (the Line) between Rusk and Palestine, Tex., currently owned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Authority. The Line is leased to the Texas State Railroad Authority, which has entered into an operating agreement with American/RP&P. American had been operating a noncommon carrier intrastate excursion passenger railroad over the Line using the name Texas State Railroad. RP&P plans to continue that service using the name Texas State Railroad and plans to restore common carrier freight service over the Line using the name RP&P.² RP&P also seeks incidental trackage rights for the purpose of interchange over approximately 1.3 miles of track owned and operated by the Union

¹ RP&P states there are no mileposts on the line.

² RP&P states that there are no agreements applicable to the line imposing any interchange commitments.