Throughout the brake manufacturing industry, it is well documented that there are no brakes made in the United States that satisfy both the project requirements and the Buy America requirements. FDOT engaged in extensive efforts to identify and locate qualified domestically manufactured brake products, including contacting numerous known bridge brake manufacturers. FDOT's recent experience on similar projects has shown that contractors have been unable to locate qualified bridge brakes of either the shoe or disc type that have all components made in the United States. FDOT also has made an extensive effort to locate qualified domestically made brake products, including contacting known bridge brake manufacturers including the following manufactures: Johnson Industries, Mondel (made by Magnetek), Gemco (made by Ametek), Link Controls, Bubenzer, and Hiden. The manufacturers confirmed that they do not produce a product that meets both the Buy America provisions in accordance 49 CFR 661.7(c) and 49 U.S.C. 5323(j), and the requirements of AASHTO MHBDS Articles 5.5, 5.6 and 6. 7 .13. FDOT also conducted an internet search, which revealed several other brake manufacturers, but none make a qualified brake in the United States. Additionally, FDOT's program management consultant contacted several contractors that supply machinery and brakes for movable bridges but had no success in locating a qualified brake made entirely in the United States. FDOT's Program Management Consultant also has discussed this issue with other design engineers experienced in movable bridge machinery design and confirmed that they too have not been able to locate qualified brake products which are made in the United States.

Finally, under 49 U.S.C. 5323(j)(6), FTA cannot deny an application for a waiver based on non-availability unless FTA can certify that (i) the steel, iron, or manufactured good (the ''item'') is produced in the United States in a sufficient and reasonably available amount; and (ii) the item produced in the United States is of a satisfactory quality. Additionally, FTA must provide a list of known manufacturers in the United States from which the item can be obtained. FTA is not aware of any United States manufacturers who produce the motor brakes and machinery brakes required for the SE 3rd Avenue Bascule Bridge Modification project.

FDOT's efforts to identify domestic manufacturers for the motor brakes and machinery brakes required for the SE 3rd Avenue Bascule Bridge Modification project were unsuccessful. FTA proposes to grant FDOT a non-availability waiver of the Buy America requirements for the motor brakes and machinery brakes required for the SE 3rd Avenue Bascule Bridge Modification project.

FTA is publishing this Notice to seek public and industry comment from all interested parties in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5323(j)(3)(A). Such information and comments will help FTA understand completely the facts surrounding the request, including the merits of the request. After consideration of the comments, FTA will publish a second notice in the **Federal Register** with a response to comments and noting any changes made to the proposed waiver because of the comments received. A full copy of the request has been placed in docket number FTA–2017–0014.

K. Jane Williams,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2017–23381 Filed 10–26–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Bureau of the Fiscal Service

Notice of Rate To Be Used for Federal Debt Collection, and Discount and Rebate Evaluation

AGENCY: Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of rate to be used for Federal debt collection, and discount and rebate evaluation.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Treasury is responsible for computing and publishing the percentage rate that is used in assessing interest charges for outstanding debts owed to the Government. This rate is also used by agencies as a comparison point in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a cash discount. In addition, this rate is used in determining when agencies should pay purchase card invoices when the card issuer offers a rebate. Notice is hereby given that the applicable rate for calendar year 2018 is 1.00 percent.

DATES: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denice M. Wilson, E-Commerce Division, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, 401 14th Street SW., Washington, DC 20227 (Telephone: 202–874–9428).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rate is used in assessing interest charges for outstanding debts owed to the Government (The Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended (codified at 31 U.S.C. Section 3717)). This rate is also used by agencies as a comparison point in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a cash discount. In addition, this rate is used in determining when agencies should pay purchase card invoices when the card issuer offers a rebate (5 CFR 1315.8).

The rate reflects the current value of funds to the Treasury for use in connection with Federal Cash Management systems and is based on investment rates set for purposes of Public Law 95–147, 91 Stat. 1227 (October 28, 1977). Computed each year by averaging Treasury Tax and Loan (TT&L) investment rates for the 12-month period ending every September 30, rounded to the nearest whole percentage, for applicability effective each January 1. Quarterly revisions are made if the annual average, on a moving basis, changes by 2 percentage points. The rate for calendar year 2018 reflects the average investment rates for the 12-month period that ended September 30, 2017.

Authority: 31 U.S.C. Section 3717.

Dated: October 16, 2017.

Ronda L. Kent,

Assistant Commissioner, Payment Management, and Chief Disbursing Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–23419 Filed 10–26–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Meeting; National Research Advisory Council

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) that the National Research Advisory Council will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Conference Room 5a110 at 1670 Clairmont Rd., Decatur, Georgia 30033. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

The agenda will include scientific presentations on animal research, mental health, rehabilitation and a facility tour. Additional presentations will include: Balancing research challenges, an overview of the animal research program from the Chief