

and there are no costs to respondents beyond the time spent completing the questionnaires.

**Public Comments Invited:** You are asked to comment on any aspects of this information collection, including (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department of Transportation, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; 49 CFR 1.49; and DOT Order 1351.29.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Nanda Narayanan Srinivasan,**

*Associate Administrator, Research and Program Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2016-0204]

#### Exploring Industry Practices on Distribution and Display of Airline Fare, Schedule, and Availability Information

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of withdrawal of request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Transportation ("Department" or "DOT") is withdrawing a Request for Information ("RFI") that solicited information on whether airline restrictions on the distribution or display of airline flight information harm consumers and constitute an unfair and deceptive business practice and/or an unfair method of competition.

**DATES:** December 31, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberly Graber and Blane A. Workie, Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC

20590, 202-366-9342, 202-366-7152 (fax), [kimberly.graber@dot.gov](mailto:kimberly.graber@dot.gov) or [blane.workie@dot.gov](mailto:blane.workie@dot.gov).

**Electronic Access:** You can view and download related documents and public comments by going to the website <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter the docket number DOT-OST-2016-0204 in the search field.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department issued the RFI on October 31, 2016 in response to concerns raised by certain online travel agencies (OTAs), metasearch entities that operate flight search tools, and other stakeholders involved in the distribution of flight information and sale of air transportation, as well as consumer advocates and some members of Congress regarding certain practices related to the distribution and display of airline fare, schedule, and availability information.<sup>1</sup> The Department has also heard from airlines and other members of Congress opposing Departmental action in this area. On December 22, 2016, DOT extended the response date of the RFI to March 31, 2017.<sup>2</sup> On March 10, 2017, the Department suspended the response period while it evaluated next steps.<sup>3</sup>

The issue of airline restrictions on the distribution or display of airline flight information on third-party travel websites is a complex issue with far-reaching implications for consumers, airlines, ticket agents, and the various participants in the distribution chain. The Department recognizes that transparency is not only good for consumers but also good for competition in the airline industry. However, the Department also believes that airlines should be able to choose how and where they sell their products so long as they do not engage in unfair or deceptive practices. These two goals are not mutually exclusive. The Department does not consider its involvement at this time to be necessary to prevent unfair, deceptive, or anticompetitive practices. As such, the Department has decided to withdraw the RFI.

Issued in Washington, DC, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.27(n).

**Christina G. Aizcorbe,**

*Deputy General Counsel.*

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<sup>1</sup> 81 FR 75481.

<sup>2</sup> 81 FR 94021.

<sup>3</sup> 82 FR 13375.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

#### Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Demonstration Program

**AGENCY:** Build America Bureau, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of funding opportunity (NOFO).

**SUMMARY:** The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, enacted in December 2015, authorized the establishment of a Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Demonstration Program (the Program) to assist entities in developing improved infrastructure priorities and financing strategies for the accelerated development of a project that is eligible for funding under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program under Chapter 6 of Title 23, United States Code. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, enacted on December 20, 2019, appropriated \$5 million for this Program.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Build America Bureau (Bureau) is issuing this NOFO to implement the Program and solicit applications for designating and funding Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) that will: (1) Serve a defined geographic area; (2) act as a resource to qualified entities in the geographic area in accordance with Section 1441 of the FAST Act; and (3) demonstrate the effectiveness of an RIA to expedite the delivery of eligible projects through the TIFIA credit program and, to the extent applicable, the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) credit program, Private Activity Bonds (PABs) and other innovative financing methods.

Each section of this notice contains information and instructions relevant to the application process for the RIA grants. All applicants should read this notice in its entirety so that they have the information they need to submit eligible and competitive applications.

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#### A. Program Description

1. Background: The Bureau is responsible for driving transportation