• Submitting a Preapplication Statement of Intent (PASI) Form (FAA Form 8400–6) (14 CFR parts 121, 135 and 141);
• Submitting an Application for Repair Station (FAA Form 8310–3) (14 CFR part 145);
• Submitting an Application for Aviation Maintenance School Certificate and Ratings Application (FAA Form 8310–6) (14 CFR part 147);
• Submitting a Letter of Intent (14 CFR part 142);
• Submitting Element Design (ED) data collection tools (DCTs); and,
• Sharing of other documentation as needed.

Benefits to the certificate holder or applicant to use the external portal include:
• Ease of submission and expedited processing and tracking of documents/requests;
• Documents/requests are sent directly to the FS employees, which eliminates wait time for the entry of information by the PI/CPM; and,
• Access to DCTs.

Respondents:
• Applicant respondents—922;
• Certificate Holder respondents—7892.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Applicant respondents—135 hours,
Certificate Holder respondents—90 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: Applicants $7,627,935,

Issued in Minneapolis, MN, on June 10, 2021.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Electronic Access and Filing

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Background

The ARDOT and TDOT closed the I–40 Bridge over the Mississippi River between Arkansas and Tennessee on May 11, 2021, for safety considerations. During a routine inspection of the I–40 Bridge by ARDOT, a mechanical fracture was discovered within the elements of a steel box beam. Local law enforcement agencies were immediately notified to shut down the bridge to all traffic. FHWA is providing notice that ARDOT and TDOT are continuing the temporary closure of the I–40 Bridge for an indefinite period of time.

FHWA is responsible for enforcing the Federal regulations applicable to the National Network of highways that can safely and efficiently accommodate the large vehicles authorized by provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97–424 as amended, designated in accordance with 23 CFR part 658 (Truck Size and Weight, Route Designations—Length, Width and Weight Limitations) and listed in Appendix A to Part 658. Under 23 CFR 658.11 (Additions, deletions, exceptions, and restrictions), FHWA may approve deletions of, or use restrictions on, the Interstate system or other National Network route based upon specified justification criteria in 23 CFR 658.11(d)(2). FHWA is authorized to delete any route from the National Network on an emergency basis based on safety considerations pursuant to section 658.11(e), which also requires publishing this notice in the Federal Register for comment.

The closure of the I–40 Bridge has affected traffic throughout western Tennessee, the Memphis metropolitan area, and eastern Arkansas. The I–40 Bridge and the I–55 Memphis-Arkansas Bridge (I–55 Bridge) are the only two Mississippi River crossings in the Memphis area. The additional traffic on I–55 due to the I–40 Bridge closure has increased delays in crossing the river.
Based on traffic volume data provided by ARDOT and TDOT, the closed I–40 Bridge carried an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) count of over 40,000 vehicles, and trucks comprised 30 percent of that volume. The I–55 Bridge had an AADT count of over 40,000 vehicles, with 35 percent of the volume comprised of trucks. The TDOT’s 2018 Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan identified the I–55 river crossing as one of the top freight bottlenecks, based on the route meeting the condition that the segment had a level of service of F with a truck volume of greater than 5,000 trucks per day, and truck travel speeds averaging less than 45 mph.

Arkansas and Tennessee State transportation officials have implemented official detours via the Interstate network. Traffic on I–40 eastbound from West Memphis, Arkansas, into Memphis, Tennessee, is being rerouted to I–55 south to cross the I–55 Bridge. Motorists may then use I–240 to connect to I–40 eastbound in Tennessee. Traffic on I–40 westbound from Memphis, Tennessee, into West Memphis, Arkansas, is detoured to I–240, where traffic may connect to I–55 northbound to cross the Memphis–Arkansas Bridge and merge back into I–40 westbound.

Some ramps in the area are also closed. The TDOT closed the ramps accessing I–40 westbound from State Route 3 (SR 3)/Danny Thomas Boulevard southbound and northbound, Riverside Drive, Front Street, Madison Avenue, and I–240 northbound. In addition, I–40 westbound is closed to traffic at the split with I–240 southbound and the ramps to SR 3/ Danny Thomas Boulevard southbound, Mound City Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The ARDOT closed the ramps accessing I–40 eastbound from Mound City Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. In addition, I–40 eastbound is closed at the split with I–55 southbound and there is a lane closure in the area. The City of Memphis retimed the traffic signals to improve operations for both northbound and southbound traffic near the I–55 bridge. These improvements include ramp closures, enhanced striping to address friction points, and signage restricting movements that impact operations.

The TDOT and ARDOT have coordinated plans with local governments on both sides of the Mississippi River. The TDOT and ARDOT met with local transportation officials and police agencies immediately after the closure to prepare for the anticipated overflow of traffic from the official detour route on the Interstate to the local network. Such coordination is continuing with the City of Memphis counterparts in traffic, operations, and emergency management to address any issues on diverted traffic, incidents, detours, and delay notices as changes are being made to improve travel in the area. Police agencies in the region are also assisting.

The TDOT SmartWay Traffic Management System provides access to closed circuit television and dynamic message signs (DMS) on both sides of the Mississippi River to allow real-time monitoring of traffic and incidents. Daily updates are being posted on TDOT’s website for the I–40 closure. Traffic conditions on the I–55 Memphis–Arkansas Bridge can also be heard on TDOT’s 511 system. The TDOT placed portable message signs on I–40 west of the Tennessee River and east of Jackson, Tennessee, advising of the bridge closure. Estimated travel time to E. H. Crump Boulevard is displayed on the I–40 DMS west of the I–40/I–55 Interchange in West Memphis, Arkansas. Navigation service providers were advised of the bridge closure so that digital maps correctly reflect the current situation.

The ARDOT is also providing closed circuit television, portable changeable message signs (CMS), and static DMS on the Arkansas side of the river. Portable CMS were placed along I–55, as far as the Missouri State line and along I–40. DMS were posted as far away as Fort Smith, Texarkana, and Little Rock to advise intrastate traffic of the bridge closure. The ARDOT public facing website, iDriveArkansas, has incident and advisory information concerning the closure. Live streaming video is available to the public and the ARDOT Traffic Management Center, which it actively monitors and provides assistance to first responders. Portable camera trailers and temporary cameras were deployed nearby, on the structure, to assist with bridge monitoring. Traffic signal timing was reviewed for Marion and West Memphis.

To assist in facilitating Interstate commerce, ARDOT and TDOT are coordinating with local trucking associations to minimize freight traffic disruptions. The TDOT is working with State departments of transportation in Mississippi and Missouri along with the trucking industry to identify possible detour routes for long haul commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers to allow them to divert to other Mississippi River crossings and avoid the I–55 Bridge. By partnering with a smart mobility CMV fleet service, TDOT has arranged for detour information to be shared directly with CMV drivers through in-cab devices.

Overweight permitted loads in excess of 180,000 lbs. are being routed around the I–55 Bridge on alternate routes. Eastbound loads in excess of 12’6” in width are being rerouted as well. CMVs of the dimensions and configurations described in 23 CFR 658.13 and 658.15 which serve the affected area must use the following alternate routes:

For vehicles with a height of 17’7” to 19’9”.


For vehicles with a height of 15’10” and up:


Note: Any load over 15’6” will have a survey that must be reviewed for accuracy. Vehicles servicing the businesses bordering the impacted area are still able to do so by also using the alternate routes described above and local signage to circulate around the restricted area.


Issued in Washington, DC, on July 12, 2021.

Stephanie Pollack,
Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.
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