

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to issue coastwise endorsement eligibility determinations for foreign-built vessels which will carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. A request for such a determination has been received by MARAD. By this notice, MARAD seeks comments from interested parties as to any effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. Information about the requestor's vessel, including a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before October 18, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD-2021-0211 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD-2021-0211 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD-2021-0211, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**Note:** If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

James Mead, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23-459, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5723, Email [James.Mead@dot.gov](mailto:James.Mead@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described in the application, the

intended service of the vessel PAPILLON is:

—*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* “The vessel will be used for passenger charters.”

—*Geographic Region Including Base of Operations:* “California” (Base of Operations: Berkeley, CA)

—*Vessel Length and Type:* 70.0' Motor

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD 2021-0211 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade to carry no more than 12 passengers will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, MARAD will not issue an approval of the vessel's coastwise endorsement eligibility. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter's interest in the application, and address the eligibility criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**Public Participation***How do I submit comments?*

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD-2021-0211 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

*Will my comments be made available to the public?*

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

*May I submit comments confidentially?*

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit the information you claim to be confidential commercial information by email to [SmallVessels@dot.gov](mailto:SmallVessels@dot.gov). Include in the email subject heading “Contains Confidential Commercial Information” or “Contains CCI” and state in your submission, with specificity, the basis for any such confidential claim highlighting or denoting the CCI portions. If possible, please provide a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

In the event MARAD receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, procedures described in the Department's FOIA regulation at 49 CFR 7.29 will be followed. Only information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under those procedures will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

**Privacy Act**

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL-14 FDMS, accessible through [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy). To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)

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By Order of the Acting Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2021-20040 Filed 9-15-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2021-0075]

**Notice of Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Modification of Existing Information Collection**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below is being forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. A **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published June 24, 2021, and the comment period ended August 23, 2021. One comment related to the ICR was submitted into the docket. The comment proposed striking the existing requirement that an original Application should be provided in three-hole punch binders as part of the application process. The Build America Bureau has accepted this comment and removed the requirement that an original Application should be provided in three-hole punch binders for each loan application.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted directly to the OMB by October 18, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to the attention of the DOT/OST Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503 or by email at [OIRA\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov) with the associated OMB Control Number 2105–0569.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Approval No.:* 2138–0013.

*Title:* Letter of Interest and Application Forms for the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing and Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act Credit Programs.

*Type of Review:* Modification of existing information collection.

*Background:* The RRIF credit program has its origins in Title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976, 45 U.S.C. 821 *et seq.*, which authorized the Federal Railroad Administration to provide railroads certain financial assistance. This Title V financing program was replaced by the RRIF program under section 7203 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century of 1998, Public Law 105–178 (1998) (TEA 21). RRIF was subsequently amended by: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Public Law 109–59 (2005) (SAFETEA–LU); the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, Division A of Public Law 110–432; and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Pub. L. 114–94) (2015) (FAST Act). All applicants for RRIF credit program assistance are

required to submit a completed application. 45 U.S.C. 823(a). The information collection activity request for the RRIF credit program application was most recently approved in 2018 (OMB Control Number 2105–0569). See 83 FR 23525 and 83 FR 35534.

The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 was enacted as part of TEA 21. The TIFIA program was subsequently amended by SAFETEA–LU, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 112–141) (2012) (MAP–21), and the FAST Act. All applicants for TIFIA credit program assistance are required to submit a completed Letter of Interest (LOI) and application. 23 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(A). The existing information collection activity request for the TIFIA credit program letter of interest and application was most recently approved in 2018 (OMB Control Number 2105–0569). See 83 FR 23525 and 83 FR 35534.

The National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau (referenced hereafter as the Build America Bureau or the Bureau), established by the Secretary on July 20, 2016, in accordance with the FAST Act, was created to streamline and improve access to the Department's Federal credit programs, including RRIF and TIFIA. The Bureau was made responsible for administering the application processes for the TIFIA and RRIF credit programs. To streamline and conform these application processes, the Bureau created a single LOI form and a single application form that can be used by applicants of either credit program. Both the LOI form and the application form have been updated to reflect efficiencies in the application process adopted by the Department, provide clarifying information, and make the forms easier for applicants to use. Because some key statutory differences exist between the two programs' application processes and eligibility criteria, the forms have been reorganized to clearly identify where an item of information applies only for one of the programs and need not be answered by applicants of the other program. The Department seeks OMB approval to modify the LOI and application. The forms have also been reviewed to ensure that all information requested is necessary for the Department to properly perform its functions in administering its credit programs and updated to reflect the current statutory requirements.

The LOI asks the applicant to describe, among other things, the project and its location, purpose and cost; the proposed financial plan, the status of

environmental review, and certain information regarding satisfaction of other eligibility requirements under the applicable credit program. The application serves as the official request for credit and, therefore, requires the same information required of the LOI, plus detailed information about the applicant's legal and management structure, its financial health, the revenue stream pledged to repay the loan, and other information regarding satisfaction of eligibility requirements. TIFIA and RRIF credit assistance is awarded based on a project's satisfaction of TIFIA and RRIF (as applicable) eligibility requirements. The Department is authorized to prescribe the form and contents of the LOI and application. 45 U.S.C. 823 and 23 U.S.C. 601(a)(6).

*Respondents:* State and local governments, transit agencies, government-sponsored authorities, special authorities, special districts, ports, private railroads, and certain other private entities.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* Based on the number and type of interested stakeholders that have contacted the Department about the RRIF and TIFIA programs in fiscal years (FY) 2018–2021, the Department estimates that it will receive, on an annual basis, eight (8) RRIF LOIs, twelve (12) TIFIA LOIs, eight (8) RRIF applications, and twelve (12) TIFIA applications.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* The Department estimates that it will generally take applicants not fewer than twenty (20) person-hours to assemble a single LOI (for either credit program) and not fewer than one hundred (100) person-hours to assemble a single application (for either credit program). (Person-hour estimates provided for a RRIF application assume that the applicant will initially submit an LOI, reducing the number of person-hours spent on the application.) Based on the anticipated annual total number of respondents, the total annual hour burden of this collection for RRIF LOIs and applications is 960 and for TIFIA LOIs and applications is 1,440 hours.

*Frequency of Collection:* This information collection will occur on a rolling basis as interested entities seek RRIF or TIFIA credit assistance.

*Public Comments Invited:* The Department invites interested respondents to comment on a proposed information collection activity (summarized below) with respect to: (i) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for the Department to properly execute its functions, including whether the

activities will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of the Department's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (iii) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for the Department to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)(i)–(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1)(i)–(iv). The Department believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations. In summary, the Department reasons that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) Reduce reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that it organizes information collection requirements in a “user friendly” format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

*Authority:* The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 9, 2021.

**Morteza Farajian,**

*Executive Director, the Build America Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 2021–19945 Filed 9–15–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–9X–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT–OST–2021–0106]

### America's Supply Chains and the Transportation Industrial Base

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

**SUMMARY:** On February 24, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order, “America’s Supply Chains,” which directs several Federal agency actions to secure and strengthen America’s supply chains. On June 8, 2021, the President also established a Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force—co-chaired by the Secretaries of Transportation, Agriculture, and Commerce—to address near term supply chain challenges, with a focus on

alleviating bottlenecks and supply constraints in the transportation sector, particularly for ports, rail, and trucking. The Executive Order requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit, within one year, a report to the President on supply chains for the transportation industrial base. DOT’s one-year assessment will build off the work of the Supply Chains Disruption Task Force and focus on the freight and logistics sector, with the goal of strengthening resilience among transportation supply chains. This notice requests information from the public to assist the Department of Transportation in preparing the report required by the Executive Order and solicits practical solutions from a broad range of stakeholders to address current and future challenges to supply chain resilience in the freight and logistics sector.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 18, 2021. DOT will consider comments filed after this date to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Docket Number DOT–OST–2021–0106 by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search by using the docket number (provided above). Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the electronic docket site.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor (W12–140), Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- *Hand Delivery:* W12–140 of the Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and docket numbers.

**Note:** All comments received, including any personal information, will be posted without change to the docket and is accessible via <http://www.regulations.gov>. Input submitted online via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) is not immediately posted to the site. It may take several business days before your submission is posted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ryan Endorf at [ryan.endorf@dot.gov](mailto:ryan.endorf@dot.gov) or at 202–366–4835.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Background:* On February 24, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14017, “America’s Supply Chains” (86 FR 11849) (E.O. 14017). E.O. 14017 focuses on the need for resilient,

diverse, and secure supply chains to ensure U.S. economic prosperity and national security. Such supply chains are needed to address conditions that can reduce critical manufacturing capacity and the availability and integrity of critical goods, products, and services. Section 4 of E.O. 14017 directs that within one year, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (APNSA) and the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy (APEP), on supply chains for the transportation industrial base. Per the Executive Order, the Secretary shall determine what constitutes the “transportation industrial base” for purposes of the report. President Biden has also established a Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force—co-chaired by the Secretaries of Transportation, Agriculture, and Commerce—to address near term supply chain challenges, with a focus on alleviating bottlenecks and supply constraints in the transportation sector, particularly for ports, rail, and trucking.

The transportation industry in the U.S. is both vast and varied and underpins much of the economic activity that takes place in other sectors. It includes both the vehicles required to move goods and people and the roads, rails, waterways, and airways over which those vehicles travel. It includes cargo and passenger terminals that provide for the transfer of people and goods between vehicles and modes. It includes the control and information systems that allow the network to operate smoothly and efficiently and enable users to make the most advantageous choices about their use of that network. It includes public and private providers of transportation services and the operation of privately owned personal vehicles.

In fulfilling this requirement, the Department intends to produce a report on the Nation’s freight and logistics sector, focused on how the freight system supports supply chains and any challenges and resilience issues within that system. DOT has heard from many stakeholders about issues related to bottlenecks on highways, rail, and at ports, as well as severe container/chassis shortages and lack of adequate warehousing capacity, particularly around the nation’s largest ports. The resiliency of the freight system is also a key aspect of supply chain resiliency across the rest of the economy, including the critical products being addressed in the one-year reports being developed by other agencies.