The initiative was carried out as a pilot program for a period of four years and the purpose of the program was to provide flexibility to utilize hiring preferences to promote equitable creation of employment opportunities and workforce development activities, particularly for economically or socially disadvantaged workers, while evaluating the impact of such preferences on full and open competition and project delivery. This initiative implemented Section 199B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116–260), a provision that has been included in prior Appropriations Acts since Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 that authorizes the Secretary to permit States and local governments to implement geographic, economic, or other hiring preferences not otherwise authorized by law, subject to certain mandatory certifications that the recipient must make. Through this Pilot Program, FTA also intended to exercise flexibility recently granted to Federal agencies by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to support recipients and subrecipients in achieving equitable economic recovery from the COVID–19 pandemic. Additionally, the pilot program advanced Executive Order 13985, “Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government,” issued on January 20, 2021, by supporting workers in overcoming barriers to obtaining successful, long-term careers in the transit construction industry.

Reason for Recession: Section 25019 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Section 25019), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58), authorizes recipients or subrecipients of Federal funds under title 23 or 49, United States Code, to implement certain hiring preferences related to the use of labor for construction projects. Specifically, Section 25019 provides that a “recipient or subrecipient of a grant provided by the Secretary under title 23 or 49, United States Code, may implement a local or other geographical or economic hiring preference relating to the use of labor for construction of a project funded by the grant, including prehire agreements, subject to any applicable State and local laws, policies, and procedures.” In addition, this provision specifically states that the use of such preferences “shall not be considered to unduly limit competition.” Therefore, FTA will not engage in or have a role in evaluating the effects on competition, if any, of labor or hiring preferences expressly authorized by Section 25019. FTA has determined that because Section 25019 provides an express authorization for FTA recipients and subrecipients to utilize a local or other geographical or economic hiring preference relating to the use of labor for the construction of a project funded under title 49, United States Code, FTA recipients and subrecipients no longer must request approval from FTA through the Pilot Program to utilize such preferences. Additionally, the certification requirements of Section 199B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 do not apply to hiring preferences authorized by Section 25019 because such requirements only apply to hiring preferences “not otherwise authorized by law.”

FTA has determined there are no hiring preferences eligible for FTA approval under the Pilot Program that are not authorized by Section 25019, and so such preferences going forward are subject to Section 25019, not Section 199B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. Accordingly, FTA has concluded that the Pilot Program no longer is necessary, and hereby rescinds it.

Nuria I. Fernandez, Administrator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tia Swain, Office of Administration, Management Planning Division, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Mail Stop TAD–10, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366–0354 or tia.swain@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104–13, Section 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.5, 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.12. On November 1, 2021 FTA published a 60-day notice (86 FR 60332) in the Federal Register soliciting comments on the ICR that the agency was seeking OMB approval. FTA received one comment on January 1, 2022 after issuing this 60-day notice. The commenter suggested that although implied, FTA specifically include a reference to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 in the wording of future Federal Register Notices. FTA has a robust ADA program that is separate from this information collection, however we have added the reference to this Federal Register Notice and all future notices so it is explicitly clear FTA supports and enforces the ADA. Accordingly, DOT announces that these information collection activities have been re-evaluated and certified under 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and forwarded to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12(c).

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for
public comment. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b); 5 CFR 1320.12(d). Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)–(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes that the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect. 5 CFR 1320.12(c); see also 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995.

The summaries below describe the nature of the information collection requirements (ICRs) and the expected burden. The requirements are being submitted for clearance by OMB as required by the PRA.

Title: Nondiscrimination as It Applies to FTA Grant Programs.

OMB Control Number: 2132–0542.

Type of Request: The Federal Transit Laws, 49 U.S.C. 5332(b), provide that “no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or age be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any project, program or activity funded in whole or in part through financial assistance under this Act.” This applies to employment and business opportunities and is considered to be in addition to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any FTA applicant, recipient, sub-recipient, and contractor who employ 100 or more transit-related employees and requests or receives capital or operating assistance in excess of $1 million in the previous Federal fiscal year, or requests or receives planning assistance in excess of $250,000 in the previous Federal fiscal year must implement all of the EEO Program elements. Agencies that have between 50–99 transit-related employees are required to prepare and maintain an EEO Program that includes the statement of policy, dissemination plan, designation of personnel, assessment of employment practices, and a monitoring and reporting system.

Respondents: Transit agencies, States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Estimated Annual Respondents: 53.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,575.

Frequency: Annual.

Nadine Pemberton, Director, Office of Management Planning.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[FTA Docket No. FTA 2022–0005]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection Requirements (ICRs) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and their expected burdens.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 14, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” by using the search function.

Comments are Invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department’s estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tia Swain, Office of Administration, Management Planning Division, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Mail Stop TAD–10, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366–0354 or tia.swain@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104–13, Section 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.5, 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.12. On December 8, 2021 FTA published a 60-day notice (86 FR 69712) in the Federal Register soliciting comments on the ICR that the agency was seeking OMB approval. FTA received no comments after issuing this 60-day notice. Accordingly, DOT announces that these information collection activities have been re-evaluated and certified under 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and forwarded to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12(c).

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b); 5 CFR 1320.12(d). Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507 (b)–(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes that the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect. 5 CFR 1320.12(c); see also 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995.

The summaries below describe the nature of the information collection requirements (ICRs) and the expected burden. The requirements are being submitted for clearance by OMB as required by the PRA.

Title: Job Access and Reverse Commute Program.

OMB Control Number: 2132–0563.

Type of Request: The Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program, provided grants for filling gaps in employment transportation. The primary beneficiaries of this program were low-income families and families coming off welfare assistance who otherwise would have a difficult time getting to jobs and related services, such as child care and training. The program was begun in 1999 and was continued under Section 5316 of the federal transportation legislation, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU), passed by