

The Agency Scoping Meeting was held July 29, 2024.

Public Scoping Meeting: January 21 and 23, 2025.

The FEIS/ROD is anticipated Summer 2027.

In addition to the public scoping meeting, a public hearing will be held after the Draft EIS is prepared. Public notice will provide the time and place of the hearing. After the public hearing and end of Draft EIS comment period, issuance of the Final EIS/Record of Decision is anticipated. If a build alternative is selected, all permits and authorization decisions would occur before construction.

The following entities have been invited to be cooperating agencies for this EIS: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, and Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

The following entities have been invited to be participating agencies for this EIS: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, McAllen Historic Preservation Council, Texas Division of Emergency Management, The Texas General Land Office, Texas Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority, Hidalgo County Planning and Development, Cameron County Planning and Development, Hidalgo County, Cameron County, Willacy County, Texas Department of Public Safety, City of Harlingen, City of Lyford, City of McAllen, City of Donna, City of Edinburg, City of Elsa, City of La Feria, City of La Villa, City of Alamo, City of San Juan, City of Weslaco, City of Mercedes, City of Palm Valley, City of Pharr, City of Raymondville, Town of Combes, Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, Cameron County Historical Commission, Hidalgo County Historical Commission, Willacy County Historical Commission, Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1, Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, McAllen

Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Harlingen EDC, Edinburg EDC, Alamo EDC, Donna EDC, Lyford EDC, Mercedes EDC, Pharr EDC, San Juan EDC, Weslaco EDC, Elsa EDC, and Combes EDC.

TxDOT will issue a single Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2), unless TxDOT determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of a combined document.

In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 139, cooperating agencies, participating agencies, and the public will be given an opportunity for continued input on project development. A in-person public scoping meeting is planned for Tuesday, January 21, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. CST at J. Economedes High School 1414 N Alamo Rd, Edinburg, Texas 78541, and January 23, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. CST at Elma E. Barrera Elementary School, Hwy 107, Santa Rosa, Texas 78593. The public scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft coordination plan and schedule, the project purpose and need, the range of alternatives, and methodologies and level of detail for analyzing alternatives. It will also allow the public an opportunity to provide input on any expected environmental impacts, anticipated permits or other authorizations, and any significant issues that should be analyzed in depth in the EIS. In addition to the public scoping meeting, a public hearing will be held after the draft EIS is prepared. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meeting and hearing.

The public meeting will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the public scoping meeting, please contact Norma Robledo, TxDOT Pharr District, at (956) 702-6161 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Thursday, January 16, 2025. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

The public is requested to provide public comments on alternatives or impacts and on relevant information, studies, or analyses with respect to this

proposed project. Comments may be provided in writing by mail to Francisco Chapa, TxDOT Project Manager at 600 West I-2, Pharr, Texas, 78577 or by email to Francisco.Chapa@txdot.gov or to PHR_I69_Connector@txdot.gov. Comments must be received by Friday, February 7, 2025.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction.)

Michael T. Leary,

Director, Planning and Program Development, Federal Highway Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number [FRA-2010-0029]]

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation's Request To Amend Its Positive Train Control Safety Plan and Positive Train Control System

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public with notice that, on November 14, 2024, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) submitted a request for amendment (RFA) to its FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plan (PTCSP) to provide supplemental information to its initial RFA, submitted November 7, 2024, to support updates to Amtrak's Onboard Computer (OBC) Serial platform and Fusion software release. As this RFA may involve a request for FRA's approval of proposed material modifications to an FRA-certified positive train control (PTC) system, FRA is publishing this notice and inviting public comment on Amtrak's RFA to its PTCSP.

DATES: FRA will consider comments received by December 17, 2024. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system.

ADDRESSES:

Comments: Comments may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and the

applicable docket number. The relevant PTC docket number for this host railroad is Docket No. FRA–2010–0029. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA’s website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/research-development/program-areas/train-control/ptc/railroads-ptc-dockets>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gabe Neal, Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 816–516–7168, email: Gabe.Neal@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In general, Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 20157(h) requires FRA to certify that a host railroad’s PTC system complies with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 236, subpart I, before the technology may be operated in revenue service. Before making certain changes to an FRA-certified PTC system or the associated FRA-approved PTCSP, a host railroad must submit, and obtain FRA’s approval of, an RFA to its PTCSP under 49 CFR 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA’s regulations provide that FRA will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** and invite public comment in accordance with 49 CFR part 211, if an RFA includes a request for approval of a material modification of a signal or train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that, on November 14, 2024, Amtrak submitted an RFA to its PTCSP for its Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System II (ACSES II), which seeks FRA’s approval for updates to its OBC Serial platform and Fusion software release. That RFA is available in Docket No. FRA–2010–0029.

Interested parties are invited to comment on Amtrak’s RFA to its PTCSP by submitting written comments or data. During FRA’s review of Amtrak’s RFA, FRA will consider any comments or data submitted within the timeline specified in this notice and to the extent practicable, without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system. See 49 CFR 236.1021; see also 49 CFR 236.1011(e). Under 49 CFR 236.1021, FRA maintains the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a railroad’s RFA to its PTCSP at FRA’s sole discretion.

Privacy Act Notice

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.3, FRA solicits comments from the public to better inform its decisions. DOT posts

these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov. To facilitate comment tracking, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact FRA for alternate submission instructions.

Issued in Washington, DC

Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,

Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.

[FR Doc. 2024–27818 Filed 11–26–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[Docket No. FTA–2024–0015]

Notice of Availability of Proposed Circular Updates and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has placed in the docket and on its website proposed guidance in the form of an updated circular pertaining to procurements financed in whole or part with Federal assistance awarded by FTA through grants or cooperative agreements (*i.e.*, “third party” procurements). This updated circular would cancel and replace Circular FTA C 4220.1F, most recently revised March 18, 2013. The proposed updates reflect statutory and regulatory changes that have occurred since the last update, as well as providing additional non-binding guidance. By this notice, FTA invites public comment on its proposed circular, “Third Party Contracting Guidance.”

DATES: Comments must be submitted by December 27, 2024. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments by only one of the following methods, identifying your submission by docket number FTA–2024–0015. All

electronic submissions must be made to the U.S. Government electronic site at <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

(1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

(2) *Mail:* Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

(3) *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

(4) *Fax:* 202–366–7951.

Instructions: You must include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and docket number (FTA–2024–0015) at the beginning of your comments. Submit two copies of your comments if you submit them by mail. For confirmation that FTA received your comments, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov/> including any personal information provided and will be available to internet users. For information on DOT’s compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents and comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> at any time or to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For third party contracting questions, contact Tara Murphy, Division Chief, Office of Administration, Federal Transit Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room E41–311, Washington, DC 20590, phone: (202) 366–5647 or email tara.murphy@dot.gov. For legal questions, Christopher Hall, Office of Chief Counsel, same address, Room E56–312, phone (202) 941–9595 or email christopher.hall@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

FTA proposes an update to its Third Party Contracting Guidance Circular, which would replace and cancel the current iteration dated March 18, 2013 (C 4220.1F). The proposed circular would update FTA’s guidance for