

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Transit Administration**

[FTA Docket No. FTA-2007-29054]

**Notice of Request for the Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection****AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the following currently approved information collection:

Charter Service Operations.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted before October 23, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the United States Department of Transportation, Central Dockets Office, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493-2251; or submitted electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov>. All comments should include the docket number in this notice's heading. All comments may be examined and copied at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. If you desire a receipt, you must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or, if you submit your comments electronically, you may print the acknowledgement page.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Elizabeth Martineau, Office of Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1936, or e-mail: [Elizabeth.Martineau@dot.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Martineau@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FTA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.

**Title:** Charter Service Operations  
(OMB Number: 2132-0543).

*Background:* 49 U.S.C. 5323(d)

requires all applicants for financial assistance from FTA to enter into a charter bus agreement with the Secretary of Transportation (delegated to the Administrator of FTA in 49 CFR 1.51(a)). 49 U.S.C. 5323(d) provides protections for private intercity charter bus operators from unfair competition by FTA recipients. 49 U.S.C. 5302(a)(10) as interpreted by the Comptroller General permits FTA recipients, but does not state that recipients have a right, to provide charter bus service with FTA-funded facilities and equipment only if it is incidental to the provision of mass transportation service. These statutory requirements have been implemented in FTA's charter regulation, 49 CFR part 604. 49 CFR 604.7 requires all applicants for financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. 5309, 5336, or 5311 to include two copies of a charter bus agreement with the first grant application submitted after the effective date of the rule. The applicant signs the agreement, but FTA executes it only upon approval of the application. This is a one-time submission with incorporation by reference in subsequent grant applications. 49 CFR 604.11(b) requires recipients to provide notice to all private charter operators and allows them to submit written evidence demonstrating that they are willing and able to provide the charter service the recipient is proposing to provide. The notice must be published in a newspaper and sent to any private operator requesting notice and to the United Bus Owners of America and the American Bus Association, the two trade associations to which most private charter operators belong. To continue receiving federal financial assistance, recipients must publish this notice annually. 49 CFR 604.13(b) requires recipients to review the evidence submitted and notify the submitter of its decision. This notice is also an annual requirement. On December 30, 1988, FTA issued an amendment to the Charter Service regulation that allows additional exceptions for certain non-profit social service groups that meet eligibility requirements.

*Respondents:* State and local government, business or other for-profit institutions, and non-profit institutions.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1.2 hours for each of the 1,656 respondents.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 1,984 hours.

*Frequency:* Annual.

**Issued:** August 20, 2007.

**Ann M. Linnertz,**

*Associate Administrator for Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-57-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Transit Administration**

[Docket Number: FTA-2007-25737]

**Notice of Public Meetings on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Major Capital Investment Projects****AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the dates, times, and locations of five public meetings to be held in September and October 2007 concerning a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Major Capital Investment Projects.

Presentations delivered at these meetings will describe the provisions of the NPRM issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on August 3, 2007 that proposes to implement the provisions of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Federal surface transportation law.

**DATES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting locations

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ron Fisher, Office of Planning and Environment, telephone (202) 366-4033, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590 or [Ronald.Fisher@dot.gov](mailto:Ronald.Fisher@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meetings listed below will provide a forum for FTA staff to make oral presentations on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Major Capital Investment Projects. Additionally, the sessions are intended to encourage interested parties and stakeholders to submit their comments to the official docket by the close of the comment period on November 3, 2007 per the instructions found in the NPRM.

**I. Meetings**

The Major Capital Investment Projects NPRM public outreach session meeting dates and addresses are:

1. Thursday, September 13th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time, Los Angeles, CA—Los Angeles County Metropolitan

Transit Authority (MTA) Board Room, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Attendees of this session must register in advance at <http://www.metro.net/newstart.htm>.

2. Tuesday, September 18th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time, Denver, CO—Regional Transit District, T&D Rooms, 1600 Blake Street, Denver, CO 80202.

3. Wednesday, September 26th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time, Chicago, IL—DePaul University Downtown Loop Campus Conference Center, Room 8005, One East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604.

4. Tuesday, October 2nd, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time, Washington, DC—Hilton Washington, Georgetown West Room, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20009. A block of 15 rooms have been reserved.

5. Thursday, October 9th, 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. local time, Charlotte, NC—Charlotte Convention Center, room to be announced, 501 South College, Charlotte, NC, 28202. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the APTA Annual Meeting taking place in Charlotte October 7–10th.

## II. Presentations and Comment Format

Meeting participants should arrive early because each meeting is anticipated to begin promptly at the appointed time.

### A. Questions and Comments

Meeting attendees will have an opportunity to pose questions to the speakers and to the group as a whole. Individuals who wish for their comments to be considered and become part of the official public record must submit their comments directly to the U.S. Docket via postal mail, fax, or through the online Docket Management System (DMS) by November 3, 2007. For instructions on how to submit comments to the Docket (Docket Number FTA–2007–25737), please refer to the NPRM.

### B. Registration

Registration is only required for the information session in Los Angeles on September 13th. Those who wish to attend that session must register in advance on MTA's Web site at: <http://www.metro.net/newstart.htm>.

## III. Special Accommodations

All locations are ADA-accessible and sign language interpreters will be present at each meeting. Individuals attending a meeting who are hearing or visually impaired and have special requirements, or a condition that requires special assistance or

accommodations, may indicate this by calling Erica Hargrove at 202–366–2360.

Issued on: August 20, 2007.

**James S. Simpson,**  
*Administrator.*

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Suite 225, 1455 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005; and G. Paul Moates, Sidley & Austin LLP, 1501 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 245–0395. [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1–800–877–8339.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** By decision and notice served on August 2, 2007, and published on the same date in the **Federal Register** at 72 FR 42465–66, we commenced a proceeding under 49 U.S.C. 10502(b) and 49 CFR 1121.1 to consider MCR's petition for an exemption to authorize it to acquire some 299 miles of rail line from NSR in Michigan and Indiana, to acquire through assignment from NSR some 85.5 miles of existing trackage rights and lease rights, and to acquire yards and stations that are related to this track. In that decision and notice, we also adopted a procedural schedule providing that: Comments on MCR's petition from interested persons were due by September 4, 2007; replies from MCR and NSR were due by September 17, 2002; and a final decision would be issued on October 11, 2007.

Various parties have requested that the schedule be extended to allow more time for them to prepare comments. In its petition for reconsideration of the procedural schedule filed on August 3, 2007, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division/IBT and Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen (BMWE/BRS) jointly request an extension to October 2, 2007, for filing initial comments, to October 22, 2007, for replies and to December 1, 2007, for issuing a decision.<sup>1</sup> In their reply jointly filed on August 7, 2007, the Michigan Southern Railroad Company and the Elkhart & Western Railroad Company (MSR/EWR) support the extension requested by BMWE/BRS. In a pleading filed on August 3, 2007, Michigan State Senator Mark S. Schauer requested an extension but did not propose specific dates. The longest extension request, seeking a 90-day extension to the comment due date, was filed on August 1, 2007, by the Southwest Michigan Council of Governments.

Replies in opposition to the requests for extension were filed by MCR on August 6, 2007, and August 7, 2007, and by NSR on August 8, 2007.

We will allow the parties an additional 2 weeks for the submission of comments. Due to the scope of the proposed transaction and the fact that

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 35063]

### Michigan Central Railway, LLC— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lines of Norfolk Southern Railway Company

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of revised procedural schedule.

**SUMMARY:** By this decision and notice, the Board is revising its previously established schedule for considering the petition of Michigan Central Railway, LLC (MCR) to exempt its acquisition and operation of certain railroad lines of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) in Michigan and Indiana, so as to allow 2 more weeks for the submission of comments. The agency is also denying requests to have this proceeding considered under the formal application process of 49 U.S.C. 10901 and 49 CFR Part 1150, rather than under the exemption provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10502(b) and 49 CFR 1121.1.

**DATES:** Comments on MCR's petition for exemption may now be filed by any interested person by September 18, 2007. Replies by MCR and NSR are now due by October 1, 2007. The Board will issue its final decision by October 25, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Any filing submitted in this proceeding must refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35063 and may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing must attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions found on the Board's [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov) Web site, at the "E-FILING" link. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format must submit an original and 10 paper copies of the filing (and also an electronic version) to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, one copy of each filing in this proceeding must be sent (and may be sent by e-mail only if service by e-mail is acceptable to the recipient) to: Karl Morell, Of Counsel, Ball Janik, LLP,

<sup>1</sup> BMWE/BRS essentially made the same request in its response filed on August 1, 2007, to MCR's petition.