

the draft EIS later in 2000. Public notice will be given of the exact time and place of the meetings and hearing to be held for the MIS and EIS elements of the project. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. A scoping meeting for the MIS was held in June 10, 1998. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time for the EIS.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action, the MIS, or the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: March 18, 1999.

**Mr. Michael B. Armstrong,**

*Field Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Columbus, Ohio.*

[FR Doc. 99-7152 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket No. NHTSA-99-5199]

#### Reports, Forms, and Record Keeping Requirements

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

**SUMMARY:** Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under new procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatements of previously approved collections.

This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Plaza

401, Washington, DC 20590. Docket No. NHTSA-99-5199.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Alan Block, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Office of Research and Traffic Records (NTS-31), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 6240, Washington, DC 20590.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulations (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks public comment on the following proposed collection of information:

#### National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behavior

*Type of Request*—New information collection requirement.

*OMB Clearance Number*—None.

*Form Number*—This collection of information uses no standard forms.

*Requested Expiration Date of Approval*—December 31, 2001.

*Summary of the Collection of Information*—NHTSA proposes to conduct a National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behavior by telephone among a national probability sample of 4,200 adults (age 16 and older). Participation by

respondents would be voluntary. The proposed survey would collect information on pedestrian and bicycling behavior, obstacles to walking and bicycling, use of bicycle helmets, training in bicycling safety, pedestrian and bicyclist safety education for children, knowledge of safety issues and rules of the road, assessment of existing community facilities for walking and bicycling, and other related issues.

In conducting the proposed survey, the interviewers would use computer-assisted telephone interviewing to reduce interview length and minimize recording errors. A Spanish-language translation and bilingual interviewers would be used to minimize language barriers to participation. The proposed survey would be anonymous and confidential.

*Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use of the Information*—The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was established to reduce the mounting number of deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle-related crashes on the Nation's highways. As part of this statutory mandate, NHTSA is authorized to conduct research as a foundation for the development of motor vehicle safety standards and traffic safety programs.

While not as much in the public eye as other traffic safety problems, motor vehicle crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists exact a heavy toll. Pedestrians and bicyclists account for 15 percent of all traffic fatalities, and more than 130,000 injuries each year. Yet there are simple things that people can do to reduce these risks, provided that they are sufficiently aware and willing to take the appropriate steps. For example, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that the universal use of helmets by all bicyclists could have prevented as many as 2,500 deaths and 757,000 head injuries between 1984 and 1988.

There is a lack of data concerning the public's exposure to risk as pedestrians and bicyclists, their awareness of correct pedestrian and bicyclist safety practices, their perceptions of the responsibilities of other roadway users, and their perceptions of risks. Without this information, safety professionals are left with inadequate tools for determining if there are critical deficits in education or training that should be addressed, or whether interventions are efficiently targeted to where they are most needed. This in turn would pose severe constraints on the ability to meet the U.S. Secretary of Transportation's goal of reducing by 10 percent the number of

injuries and fatalities occurring to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Besides reducing pedestrian/bicyclist injuries and fatalities, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has called for a doubling in the national percentage of transportation trips made by bicycling and walking. Both goals are part of the DOT Secretarial Initiative for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety. This is a national effort to promote walking and bicycling as safe, efficient, and healthy ways to travel. It involves partnering with numerous groups to foster the development of a more balanced transportation system. Yet while the Initiative calls for an increase in pedestrian and bicyclist activities, there are no exposure data to measure its progress. Moreover, there is a lack of information on the obstacles to walking and bicycling that would have to be addressed to meet the Secretarial goal; as well as information on how persons decide whether or not to walk, or to bike.

The proposed survey would collect data to meet the informational needs described above. The survey instrument would include items to measure exposure, knowledge, risk perception, community characteristics, and decision factors. The survey data would be used to assess the adequacy of present strategies to increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and to help guide policies aimed at encouraging these modes of transportation.

*Description of the Likely Respondents (Including Estimated Number, and Proposed Frequency of Response to the Collection of Information)*—Under this proposed effort, a telephone interview averaging approximately 23.5 minutes in length would be administered to each of 4,200 randomly selected members of the general public age 16 and older in telephone households. The respondent sample would be selected from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Interviews would be conducted with persons at residential phone numbers selected through random digit dialing. Businesses are ineligible for the sample and would not be interviewed. No more than one respondent would be selected per household. Each member of the sample would complete one interview.

*Estimate of the Total Annual Reporting and Record Keeping Burden Resulting from the Collection of Information*—NHTSA estimates that each respondent in the sample would require an average of 23.5 minutes to complete the telephone interview. Thus, the number of estimated reporting burden hours a year on the general public (4,200 respondents multiplied by 1 interview multiplied by 23.5 minutes)

would be 1645 for the proposed survey. The respondents would not incur any reporting cost from the information collection. The respondents also would not incur any record keeping burden or record keeping cost from the information collection.

**Rose A. McMurray,**

*Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs.*

[FR Doc. 99-7074 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub No. 5) (99-2)]

#### Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor

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

**ACTION:** Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

**SUMMARY:** The Board has approved the second quarter 1999 rail cost adjustment factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. The second quarter 1999 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 0.993. The second quarter 1999 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.589. The second quarter 1999 RCAF-5 is 0.587.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** H. Jeff Warren, (202) 565-1533. TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., Suite 210, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001, telephone (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or energy conservation.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Decided: March 18, 1999.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Clyburn, and Commissioner Burkes.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-7206 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-U

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War will be held on April 12th through 14th, 1999, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. The meeting will be held in Room 230. Each day the meeting will convene at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under Title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war, and to make recommendations on the need of such veterans for compensation, health care and rehabilitation.

The agenda for April 12 will begin with an introduction of committee members and dignitaries, a review of Committee reports, an update of activities since the last meeting, and also a period for POW veterans and/or the public to address the committee. Additionally, the Committee will receive presentations on the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration activities. The agenda on April 13 will include updates on the Center for POW Studies, continuing learning education seminars and the Mortality/Morbidity Study. On April 14, the Committee's Medical and Administrative subcommittees will break out to discuss their activities and report back to the Committee. Additionally, the committee will review and analyze the comments that had been discussed throughout the meeting for the purpose of assisting and compiling a final report to be sent to the Secretary.

Members of the public may direct questions or submit prepared statements for review by the Committee in advance of the meeting, in writing only, to Mr. Robert J. Epley, Director, Compensation and Pension Service (21), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Submitted materials must be received by April 2, 1999. A report of the meeting and roster of Committee members may be obtained from Mr. Epley.

Dated: March 15, 1999.