

Investment

(a) To establish a fair and transparent legal framework to promote investment through the creation of a stable and predictable environment that protects the investor, his investment and related flows, without creating obstacles to investments from outside the hemisphere.

Standards and Technical Barriers to Trade

(a) To eliminate and prevent unnecessary technical barriers to trade in the FTAA, based on the proposals contained in the Common Objectives Paper approved by the Working Group.

Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties

(a) To examine ways to deepen, if appropriate, existing disciplines provided in the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and enhance compliance with the terms of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

(b) To achieve a common understanding with a view to improving, where possible, the rules and procedures regarding the operation and application of trade remedy laws in order to not create unjustified barriers to trade in the Hemisphere.

Government Procurement

(a) The broad objective of negotiations in government procurement is to expand access to the government procurement markets of the FTAA countries.

More specifically, the objectives are:

(a) To achieve a normative framework that ensures openness and transparency of government procurement processes, without necessarily implying the establishment of identical government procurement systems in all countries;

(b) To ensure non-discrimination in government procurement within a scope to be negotiated;

(c) To ensure impartial and fair review for the resolution of procurement complaints and appeals by suppliers and the effective implementation of such resolutions.

Intellectual Property Rights

(a) To reduce distortions in trade in the Hemisphere and promote and ensure adequate and effective protection to intellectual property rights. Changes in technology must be considered.

Services

(a) Establish disciplines to progressively liberalize trade in services, so as to permit the achievement of a hemispheric free trade area under conditions of certainty and transparency;

(b) Ensure the integration of smaller economies into the FTAA process.

Competition Policy

The objectives of the negotiations are:

(a) General Objectives:

- To guarantee that the benefits of the FTAA liberalization process not be undermined by anti-competitive business practices.

(b) Specific Objectives:

- To advance towards the establishment of juridical and institutional coverage at the national, sub-regional or regional level, that proscribes the carrying out of anti-competitive business practices;

- To develop mechanisms that facilitate and promote the development of competition policy and guarantee the enforcement of regulations on free competition among and within countries of the Hemisphere.

Dispute Settlement

(a) To establish a fair, transparent and effective mechanism for dispute settlement among FTAA countries, taking into account *inter alia* the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes.

(b) To design ways to facilitate and promote the use of arbitration and other alternative dispute settlement mechanisms, to solve private trade controversies in the framework of the FTAA.

Work in different groups may be interrelated, such as agriculture and market access; services and investment; competition policy and subsidies, antidumping and countervailing duties; among others. The TNC shall identify linkages and outline appropriate procedures to ensure timely and effective coordination. We agree to give the mandate to the relevant negotiating groups to study issues relating to: the interaction between trade and competition policy, including antidumping measures; market access and agriculture, in order to identify any areas that may merit further consideration by us. The groups involved will report their results to the TNC no later than December 2000. This is without prejudice to decisions made by the TNC to dissolve, establish or merge groups. Likewise, the negotiating groups may establish ad-hoc working groups.

[FR Doc. 98-17723 Filed 7-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Office of the Secretary****Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on March 30, 1998 [63 FR 15257].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 5, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul Scott, Office Engineering, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, HNG-10, Room 3134, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, telephone (202) 366-4104. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., E.T., Monday thru Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

1. *Title:* Develop and Submit Utility Accommodation Policies.

OMB Number: 2125-0514.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Form(s): N/A.

Affected Public: State highway agencies.

Abstract: The FHWA has elected to fulfill its statutory obligations regarding utility accommodation by requiring the State highway agencies to develop and submit to FHWA a policy statement on the authority of utilities to use and occupy highway rights-of-way; the State's authority to regulate such use; and the policies and/or procedures employed for accommodating utilities within the rights-of-way of Federal-aid highway projects. Upon approval of the policy statement, the State highway agency may take any action required in accordance with the approved policy statement without case-by-case review by the FHWA. Utility accommodation policy statements have previously been approved by the FHWA for all the 50 State highway agencies and the highway agencies of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Even so, these policy statements must periodically be reviewed to see if updating is necessary, and must periodically be updated to reflect policy changes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual reporting burden is 2,800 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention FHWA Desk Officer.

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 publishing in the **Federal Register**.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 29, 1998.

Phillip A. Leach,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 98-17719 Filed 7-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Form and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 USC Chapter 3501, et seq.), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describe the nature of the information collections and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments was published on April 13, 1998 [63 FR 18072].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 5, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-25, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 3430, Washington, DC 20590 (202) 366-4387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Title: Airline Service Quality Performance.

OMB Control Number: 2138-0041.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

Form No.: None.

Affected Entities: Large domestic passenger air carriers—Alaska Airlines, America West Airlines, American Airlines, Continental Air Lines, Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Trans World Airlines, United Air Lines, US Airways.

Abstract: Since Part 234 has been effective, carriers' quality of service has improved, resulting in a decrease in the number of consumer complaints. The Department discloses the carriers' on-time performances and mishandled baggage information to the public. Airline passengers are now more informed to make carrier selections based on the quality of service provided.

Aircraft tail number, wheels-up and wheels-down time gives the FAA valuable data for pinpointing and analyzing air traffic delays. Wheels-up and wheels-down time are used in conjunction with departure and arrival times to show the extent of ground delays. Elapsed flight time (computed from the wheels-up time and the wheels-down time) reveals delays experienced in the air. The reporting of the aircraft tail number allows the FAA to track an aircraft through the air network, which enables the FAA to study the ripple effects of delays at hub airports. Data by aircraft type allows the FAA to calculate the capacity impacted by air traffic congestion. The data can be analyzed for airport design changes, new equipment purchases, the planning of new runways or airports based on current and projected airport delays, and traffic levels.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 1,440 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725—17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, ATTN: DOT/BTS Desk Officer. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collections of information are 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 estimates of the burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collections 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 when OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 29, 1998.

Phillip A. Leach,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 98-17725 Filed 7-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on March 9, 1998 [63 FR 11472].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 5, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Judith Street, Room 612, Federal Aviation Administration, Corporate Information Division, ABC-100, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Title: High Density Traffic Airports Slot Allocation and Transfer Methods.

OMB Number: 2120-0524.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Form(s): N/A.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit.

Abstract: High Density Traffic Airports Slot Allocation and Transfer Methods. The FAA uses this information to allocate slots and maintain accurate records of slot transfers at the High Density Traffic Airports. The information will be provided by air carriers and commuter operators or other persons holding a slot at High Density Traffic Airports.

Estimated annual burden: 1800 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725—17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention FAA Desk Officer.

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