

formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

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 and the EIS should be directed to the NYSDOT or FHWA at the addresses provided above.

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

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; U.S.C. 771.123.

Issued on: December 18, 2000.

Douglas P. Conlan,

District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.

[FR Doc. 01-291 Filed 1-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2000-8494]

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Implementation Guidance for Financial Plans of Mega Projects

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of guidance with request for comment.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of the availability of implementation guidance on financial plans for Federal highway projects with an estimated total cost of \$1 billion or more (mega projects). This guidance provides information and assistance to the States in preparing the annual financial plan for projects as required by section 1305(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver comments to the docket number that appears in the heading of this document to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or submit electronically at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. All comments should include the docket number that appears in the heading of this document. All comments received will be available for examination and

copying at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard or you may print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments electronically.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carol Jacoby, Contract Administration Group Leader, HIPA-30, (202) 366-1561; or Mr. Harold Aikens, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCC-30, (202) 366-0791. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access and Filing

You may submit or retrieve comments online through the Document Management System (DMS) at: <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Acceptable formats include: MS Word (versions 95 to 97), MS Word for Mac (versions 6 to 8), Rich Text File (RTF), American Standard Code Information Interchange (ASCII)(TXT), Portable Document Format (PDF), and WordPerfect (versions 7 to 8). The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of the web site.

An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may also reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's web site at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Availability of Guidance

The financial plan guidance may be obtained by calling (202) 366-1561 or may be viewed at the FHWA web page as follows: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure>.

Background

Section 1305(b) of the TEA-21, Public Law 105-178, 112 Stat. 107 at 229, was signed into law on June 9, 1998, and modified 23 U.S.C. 106 by adding subsection (h), which requires that a recipient of Federal financial assistance for a project with an estimated total cost of \$1 billion or more submit to the Secretary of Transportation an annual financial plan for the project. The TEA-21 requires that the plan be based on detailed annual estimates of the cost to complete the remaining elements of the project and on reasonable assumptions

of future increases in the cost to complete the project. Current and potential funding shortfalls must be identified, and future financial resources must be committed to fund the completion of the project.

The content and format of the Initial Financial Plan, annual updates, and core exhibits is intended to encourage consistency in the way the documents are prepared. This consistency of content and format will allow for ease of understanding and review by the U.S. DOT Office of the Secretary, the Congress, the upper echelon of transportation executives, and professionals who routinely deal with these projects.

This guidance is effective immediately for all mega projects with construction less than fifty percent complete as of May 31, 2000. Revisions to this guidance may be made in the future after the initial implementation, and pending receipt of significant comments.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 106(h) and 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: January 2, 2001.

Kenneth R. Wykle,

Federal Highway Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-393 Filed 1-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Best Practices Procurement Manual; Conflicts of Interest Guidance

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments on proposed updates to FTA's Best Practices Procurement Manual; Conflicts of Interest.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is developing additional guidance on identifying and addressing real and apparent conflicts of interest on contracts involving federal financial assistance. FTA is seeking input from interested parties on this issue, including examples of problems and best practices for avoiding and/or dealing with conflicts of interest. Upon consideration of the comments, FTA will issue additional guidance on conflicts of interest for inclusion in the FTA Best Practices Procurement Manual.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 28, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The draft guidance material is available for public review on the

Internet at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/procurement/conflicts.html>. Written comments may be addressed to Lucy T. Jackson, Director, Office of Procurement, Federal Transit Administration, TAD-40, Room 9101, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, and shall reference this notice. Alternatively, you may send comments electronically to [\[conflictsofinterest@fta.dot.gov\]](mailto:conflictsofinterest@fta.dot.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucy T. Jackson, Office of Procurement, (202) 366-4980, or Donald R. Durkee, Office of Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Responding to requests from transit industry representatives, FTA is in the process of developing further guidance on handling conflicts of interest on contracts involving federal financial assistance. Currently, FTA's Best Practices Procurement Manual contains only a brief discussion on conflicts of interest issues. Given the importance of this issue, FTA intends to promulgate additional guidance. The additional coverage will include further discussion of the requirements as established in the FTA Circular 4220.1D, the FTA Master Agreement, and the Code of Federal Regulations, 49 CFR parts 18 and 19; definition of terms; examples and scenarios of various types of conflicts and remedies or solutions to conflicts. This guidance, based on input received from interested parties, will then be incorporated into FTA's Best Practices Procurement Manual. To assist in this endeavor, FTA has established a web page containing the draft guidance along with preliminary definitions and examples that FTA believes might be included in the Best Practices Procurement Manual.

Issued on: December 29, 2000.

Nuria I. Fernandez,
Acting Administrator, Federal Transit
Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-269 Filed 1-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2000-8561]

Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements

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

ACTION: Request for public comment on proposed collections 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 March 6, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments must refer to the docket and notice numbers cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to Docket Management, room PL-401, 400 Seventh St. SW., Washington, DC 20590. Please identify the proposed collection of information for which a comment is provided, by referencing its OMB Clearance Number. It is requested, but not required, that 1 original plus 2 copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Complete copies of the request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Mr. Samuel Daniel, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., room 5313, Washington, DC 20590. Mr. Daniel's telephone number is (202) 366-4921. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Clearance Number.

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:

Motor Vehicle Brake Fluid Container Labeling

49 CFR 571.116

Type of Request—Reinstatement of clearance.

OMB Clearance Number—2127-0521.

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

Requested Expiration Date of Approval—Three years from date of approval.

Summary of the Collection of Information—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 116, "Motor Vehicle Brake Fluids," specifies performance and design requirements for motor vehicle brake fluids and hydraulic system mineral oils. Section 5.2.2 specifies labeling requirements for manufacturers and packagers of brake fluids as well as packagers of hydraulic system mineral oils. The information on the label of a container of motor vehicle brake fluid or hydraulic system mineral oil is necessary to insure the following: the contents of the container are clearly stated; these fluids are used for their intended purpose only; and, the containers are properly disposed of when empty. Improper use or storage of these fluids could have dire safety consequences for the operators of vehicles or equipment in which they are used.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use of the information—This labeling information is used by motor vehicle owners, operators, and vehicle service facilities to aid in the proper selection of brake fluids and hydraulic system mineral oils for use in motor vehicles and hydraulic equipment, to assure the continued safety of motor vehicle braking and hydraulic systems, respectively. The information required on brake fluid and hydraulic mineral oil containers includes the performance capabilities of the fluid. There are also safety warnings required on brake fluid and hydraulic system mineral oil containers to prevent improper use, storage, etc. which might