

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee—Public Teleconference**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee Teleconference.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of a teleconference of the Business/Legal Working Group (BLWG) of the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC).

DATES: The teleconference will take place on Friday, January 25, 2013, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The teleconference call-in number and passcode will be posted by approximately one week prior to the teleconference date at the following Web site link: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/advisory_committee/. Individuals who participate in the teleconference should contact Paul Eckert, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by email approximately 15 minutes before the call begins, using the email address provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Eckert, Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST), 800 Independence Avenue SW., Room 331, Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267-8055; Email paul.eckert@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this call is to discuss how to respond to a request to COMSTAC by the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA/AST), regarding how best to conduct a review of the Office's methodology for calculation of Maximum Probable Loss (MPL). The FAA/AST request to COMSTAC took place following a 2012 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report titled "Commercial Space Launches—FAA Should Update How It Assesses Federal Liability Risk." This report included a recommendation calling for FAA/AST to carry out periodic reviews of its MPL methodology. GAO further stated that FAA/AST should consider using external experts in the course of an MPL review.

The MPL represents an estimate of the maximum probable cost of damage to life and property, in the event of a launch mishap. MPL calculation has considerable significance, because the

figure is used to determine the financial responsibility requirements of each launch license or experimental permit holder. While AST believes its current MPL methodology has been effective, GAO's recommendation to conduct a review of the methodology is prudent given the growth of the commercial space transportation industry and the amount of time that has passed since MPL modification.

In addition to or in lieu of teleconference participation, interested members of the public may submit relevant written statements for COMSTAC to consider, in compliance with advisory committee procedures. Statements may address the issues mentioned above or additional issues that may be relevant for the U.S. commercial space transportation industry. Interested parties wishing to submit written statements regarding the January 25, 2013 teleconference should contact Paul Eckert, DFO (the Contact Person listed below) in writing (i.e., by mail or email) by January 18, 2013. Written statements should be supplied in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature or one electronic copy via email.

Individuals who plan to participate and need special assistance should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Complete information regarding COMSTAC is available on the FAA Web site at: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/advisory_committee/.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 2, 2013.

George C. Nield,

Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.

[FR Doc. 2013-00279 Filed 1-8-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration**

[Docket No. FHWA-2013-0001]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for a new information collection, which is summarized below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. We

published a **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day public comment period on this information collection on June 28, 2012. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by February 8, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments within 30 days to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer. You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. All comments should include the Docket number FHWA 2013-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James A. Cheatham, james.cheatham@dot.gov, 202-366-6221, Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Assessment of Transportation Planning Agency Needs, Capabilities, and Capacity.

Background: FHWA will collect information on the current state of the practice, data, methods, and systems used by state, metropolitan, regional, local, and tribal transportation planning entities to support their required planning process in accordance with Title 23 United States Code 134 and 135. This includes, but is not limited to, information to support transportation research, capacity building, data collection, planning, travel modeling, and performance management. This also includes information about how data is shared between planning agencies and how it is processed and used in the planning context. Questionnaires will be sent to State DOT headquarters and districts, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Planning Organizations, and Tribal Governments. FHWA anticipates that one representative from each agency will take approximately 30 minutes to complete up to 4 questionnaires each

year. The questionnaires will be administered via the Internet and invitations to participate in the questionnaire will be distributed via email.

This information, once compiled, will allow the FHWA to better understand the existing capabilities that agencies across the country have in support of the planning process and the readiness they possess to handle new and ongoing challenges. As a result of the collected information, FHWA will focus its efforts and resources on providing targeted and meaningful support for planning and readiness nationwide. Additionally, FHWA will ensure that excellent planning practices are identified will be shared broadly across the country.

Respondents: Respondents are representatives of State DOT headquarters and districts, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Planning Organizations, and Tribal Governments.

Respondents: 950 respondents annually.

Frequency: 4 per year for 3 years.

Estimated Average Burden per

Response: Approximately 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: Up to 1,900 hours annually.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of computer technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: January 4, 2013.

Michael Howell,

Information Collection Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013-00240 Filed 1-8-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2012-0126]

Public-Private Partnerships Public Meeting and Request for Comment

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Public meeting notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The USDOT/FHWA is tasked by MAP-21 to develop "standard public-private partnership transaction model contracts for the most popular types of public-private partnerships for the development, financing, construction and operation of transportation facilities." We invite the public to provide ideas and comments on what should be included or excluded from such model public-private partnership (P3) contracts. The comments can be made to the docket or at a Listening Session in the District of Columbia.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 31, 2013. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. The Listening Session will be conducted on Wednesday, January 16, 2013, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., e.t.

ADDRESSES:

Comment Submission:

Mail or hand deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, or fax comments to (202) 493-2251. Alternatively, comments may be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> (follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments). 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. All comments received into any docket may be searched in electronic format by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Persons making comments may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70, Pages 19477-78).

Listening Session Location:

The listening session will be held at the U.S. Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding this notice please contact Prabhat Dikshit via email

at Prabhat.dikshit@dot.gov or via telephone at (720) 963-3202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Public-private partnerships are contractual arrangements between public and private sector entities that allow for greater participation by the private sector in the delivery of surface transportation projects and services. Generally, in addition to designing or building a project, which is traditional, a private partner in a P3 may be involved in designing, constructing, financing, operating and maintaining the project. By transferring certain risks and responsibilities to the private partner, P3s can result in more efficient and effective project delivery. However, P3 contracts are complex and are of much longer duration than traditional construction contracts. Their terms and conditions address many requirements not covered by traditional construction contracts such as financing arrangements and performance during a concession period, among others. Public agencies generally acquire special expertise to ensure that they can successfully negotiate P3 agreements. Congress, recognizing both the growing interest in this delivery option, as well as the inherent complexities in P3 agreements, tasked the USDOT, via the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), to develop "standard public-private partnership model contracts" and to "encourage states, public transportation agencies and other public officials to use the model contracts as a base template".

II. Purpose of This Notice

Section 1534(d) of MAP-21, enacted October 1, 2012, requires the USDOT to develop model P3 contracts that could serve as a base template and guide States and other public transportation providers in developing their own P3 contracts. The legislation states:

(d) STANDARD TRANSACTION CONTRACTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop standard public-private partnership transaction model contracts for the most popular types of public-private partnerships for the development, financing, construction, and operation of transportation facilities.

(2) USE.—The Secretary shall encourage States, public transportation agencies, and other public officials to use the model contracts as a base template when developing their own public-private partnership agreements for the development, financing, construction, and operation of transportation facilities.