



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

June 17, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) established the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program. This program is a new \$8 billion discretionary grant program to support the administration's new vision for developing high-speed rail in America. In order to ensure these grants are awarded in an expeditious manner and in the timeframes established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requests approval to use OMB's emergency processing system to meet Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements.

FRA is required to undertake PRA for HSIPR as this is a new program not currently covered by any of FRA's existing programs. FRA intends to collect information from this program consistent with FRA and government-wide practices for grant applications and reporting requirements, including such elements as collected in Standard Form 424, project descriptions, budgets, Financial Status Reports and Progress Reports. FRA also needs to collect program specific information in the applications in order to meet the selection criteria established for this program.

ARRA has established a June 17, 2009 deadline for this discretionary program to post interim guidance requesting applications. Concurrent with posting the guidance, FRA will also publish in the Federal Register (FR) a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for this program. For publishing to take place today, June 17, FRA requests immediate approval. Without a waiver of OMB's normal approving process, FRA will not meet the requirements set by the legislation for announcing this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret B. Reid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Margaret B. Reid

Associate Administrator for Financial
Management and Administration