



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Maritime
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

April 14, 2010

Cass Sunstein
Deputy Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Sunstein:

The Department of Transportation requests, on behalf of the Maritime Administration (MARAD), emergency, expedited processing of a request for approval of a collection of information concerning applications for Marine Highway Projects as specified in the America's Marine Highway Program Final Rule, published on April 8, 2010. A Notice soliciting applications for Marine Highway Projects is already available for review electronically and will be published in the *Federal Register* tomorrow.

The purpose of this collection of information is to allow MARAD to implement the America's Marine Highway Program, as announced by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood at last week's Journal of Commerce Marine Highway and Logistics Conference. The normal Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) process set forth in 5 CFR Part 1320 is incompatible with the time frame necessary to review applications and allocate FY 2010 funding. These FY 2010 funds would become unavailable at the end of FY 2010, as they are a one-year appropriation of funds.

We request immediate consideration of this request by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the day it is received in order to comply with the PRA. During the comment period for the interim final rule, no comments were received regarding the burden related to completing the application. A thirty-day collection notice allowing further comment will be immediately published.

Sincerely,

K. Denise Rucker Krepp
Chief Counsel