



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington DC 20590

**To: Office of Management and Budget**

**February 1, 2013**

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, President Obama signed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21), which authorized the Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program (ER Program) under 49 U.S.C. 5324. This program provides a means for the Federal Transit Administration to provide emergency operating assistance and capital funding to public transportation systems affected by an emergency or major disaster, and is subject to Congressional appropriations in the wake of such a disaster or emergency. In response to Hurricane Sandy, Congress recently passed a supplementary emergency appropriations bill that would provide approximately \$10.4 billion in emergency relief funding through the ER Program. In anticipation of funding becoming available under this program, and in order to ensure these grants are awarded in an expeditious manner, FTA requests approval to use OMB's emergency processing system to meet Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements.

FTA is required to undertake PRA for the ER Program as this is a new program not currently covered by any of FTA's existing programs. FTA intends to collect information from this program consistent with FTA 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. In addition, in order to ensure that funds are awarded in response to the needs of agencies affected by Hurricane Sandy or any future emergencies or disasters, FTA needs to collect information such as damage assessments, descriptions of emergency recovery operations, and proposed improvements to public transportation infrastructure that improve their ability to withstand future emergencies.

In order to provide necessary funding to the affected States and public transportation agencies in a responsive and timely manner, FTA intends to post an announcement in grants.gov within one week of the enactment of a supplementary emergency appropriations bill, and to concurrently publish in the Federal Register (FR) a Non-Competitive Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for these funds. For publishing to take place by February 5th, 2013, FTA requests an approval by February 4th. Without a waiver of OMB's normal approving process, the delivery of emergency response and

recovery funds to the affected agencies will be delayed, further extending the impact of this storm on the populations and public transportation riders in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other northeastern States.

Sincerely,



Henrika Buchanan-Smith  
Associate Administrator for Program Management  
Federal Transit Administration