

Memorandum

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Subject: Request for Expedited Review and Temporary Clearance for National Highway Transportation Safety Administration information collection request 201509-2127-002

Date: 12/16/15

Reply to: Claire Barrett, OCIO

From: Claire W. Barrett
DOT Chief Privacy and Information
Governance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

To: Chandana Achanta
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SUMMARY

The Department of Transportation requests expedited review of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's (NHTSA) information collection request 201509-2127-002 entitled Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS). Unfortunately, due to operational challenges only recently brought to management's attention, the PRA clearance package was not forwarded to OMB until now.

NHTSA's collection and assessment of motor vehicle crash information is one of its most important functions. Data collection activities support the agency's efforts to work towards elimination of highway safety related deaths, injuries, and crashes.

BACKGROUND

In support of these efforts, NHTSA has undertaken recent modernization efforts to upgrade its data systems by improving the information technology infrastructure and updating the data to be collected. The goal of this overall modernization effort is to develop a crash data system that meets future data needs. With the current collection efforts ending on December 31, 2015, the replacement system under these modernization efforts is set to begin collection on January 1, 2016. Consistent with the timeframe, the agency has entered into contracts supportive of these activities.

Although a continuation of past efforts in general, the new data system will be used for several important purposes including estimating the overall crash picture, identifying highway safety problem areas, and forming the basis for cost and benefit analyses of highway safety initiatives and regulations. It will give motor vehicle researchers an opportunity to assess the overall state of highway safety and identify existing and emerging highway safety trends as well as assess the effectiveness of motor vehicle safety standards and highway safety programs. Users include virtually every program area in NHTSA, other federal agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, state and local governments, domestic and foreign motor vehicle manufacturers, insurance and consumer organizations, safety research organizations, universities, foreign government agencies, and individual citizens. In short, the inability to collect this information will have drastic implications for NHTSA, the Department of Transportation and the general public.

For this system, which requires data collection from individual State and local governments (as the basic repositories of motor vehicle crash information), we understand that PRA clearance is required. Pursuant to OMB regulations, the agency published a 60 day notice in September 2014 and a 30 day notice in May 2015. NHTSA did not receive any comments in response to the notices.. Consequently, we are requesting that OMB provide a temporary three-month clearance to cover the period from January 1 to April 1 so that these vital data collection activities may continue without issue. Concurrent with this request for a temporary clearance, we are submitting the PRA package for the data collection that covers the three-year period after April 1.

We are happy to respond to any questions that OMB may have with the clearance package. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further.