



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

Mr. Howard Shelanski  
Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

February 19, 2016

Dear Administrator Shelanski:

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) (Public Law 114-94). Section 11405, "Bridge Inspection Reports," provides a means for a State or a political subdivision of a State to obtain a public version of a bridge inspection report generated by a railroad for a bridge located within its respective jurisdiction. While the FAST Act specifies that requests for such reports are to be filed with the Secretary of Transportation, the responsibility for fulfilling these requests is delegated to FRA. See 49 CFR 1.89.

FRA is revising its currently approved information collection to account for the additional burden that will be incurred by States and political subdivisions of States requesting a public version of a bridge inspection report generated by a railroad for a bridge located within their respective jurisdictions, and published the required notice in the Federal Register on February 19, 2016. See 81 Fed. Reg. 8588. FRA has developed a new form titled "Bridge Inspection Report Public Version Request Form" to facilitate such requests by States and their political subdivisions. Additionally, FRA is revising its currently approved information collection to account for the additional burden that will be incurred by railroads to provide the public version of a bridge inspection report upon agency request to FRA.

As provided under 49 CFR 1320.13, FRA is requesting emergency processing for this new collection of information as specified in the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations. FRA cannot reasonably comply with normal clearance procedures since they would be reasonably likely to disrupt the collection of information. With the recent passage of the FAST Act, FRA expects States and their political subdivisions to immediately request a public version of bridge inspection reports that affect critical infrastructure within their jurisdictions to ensure public safety. Upon receipt of such requests, FRA will require railroads to submit to the agency a public version of the most recent bridge inspection report. Therefore, FRA is requesting OMB approval as soon as possible (i.e., 7 days after publication of the required notice in the Federal Register) for this collection of information.

Sincerely,

*Corey Hill*

Corey Hill  
Acting Executive Director