

awareness of, and participation in, the FAA's exemption process. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of the petition or its final disposition.

**DATES:** Comments on this petition must identify the petition docket number and must be received on or before May 11, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2020-0492 using any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- **Mail:** Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- **Hand Delivery or Courier:** Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- **Fax:** Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202-493-2251.

**Privacy:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

**Docket:** Background documents or comments received may be read at <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deana Stedman, AIR-612, Federal Aviation Administration, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198, phone and fax 206-231-3187, email [deana.stedman@faa.gov](mailto:deana.stedman@faa.gov).

This notice is published pursuant to 14 CFR 11.85.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 16, 2021.

**Daniel J. Elgas,**

*Manager, Strategic Policy Management Branch, Policy and Innovation Division, Aircraft Certification Service.*

#### Petition For Exemption

*Docket No.:* FAA-2020-0492.

*Petitioner:* Airlines for America.

*Section(s) of 14 CFR Affected:*

§§ 91.9(a) and (b), 121.153(a), 121.337(b)(9)(iii).

*Description of Relief Sought:* Airlines for America petitions for a one-year extension of FAA Exemption No. 18584 that is set to terminate on July 10, 2021. That exemption permits relief from 14 CFR 91.9(a) and 121.153(a)(2) and allows member airlines to transport cargo, subject to the FAA's conditions, on the main deck of transport category airplanes (secured to seats or secured to seat tracks) when no revenue passengers are being transported. Due to the ongoing reduction in demand, passenger carriers continue to have the capacity to carry cargo, including critical medical cargo, in cabin. Approval of the petition would allow operators of passenger airplanes to support COVID-19 response efforts by continuing to carry cargo in-cabin, including critical medical cargo.

[FR Doc. 2021-08263 Filed 4-20-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2020-0027-N-41]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On December 18, 2020, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 21, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find the particular ICR by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Hodan Wells, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Regulatory Analysis Division, Federal Railroad Administration, telephone: (202) 493-0440, email: [Hodan.wells@dot.gov](mailto:Hodan.wells@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On December 18, 2020, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 85 FR 82577. FRA received no comments related to the proposed collection of information.

Before OMB decides whether to approve the proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

*Title:* Occupational Noise Exposure for Railroad Operating Employees.

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0571.

*Abstract:* Title 49 CFR part 227 contains requirements for occupational noise exposure. FRA uses the collection of information to ensure that railroads covered by this rule establish and implement noise monitoring, hearing conservation, and audiometric testing programs to protect their employees against the harmful effects of excessive noise in the workplace. Additionally, railroads must maintain testing and training records on noise and hearing conservation. Further, railroads must make exposure measurement records for specific locations available to regional or national labor representatives upon request.

*Type of Request:* Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved collection.<sup>1</sup>

*Affected Public:* Businesses (Railroads, railroads equipment manufacturers).

*Form(s):* N/A.

*Respondent Universe:* 512 railroads.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses:* 159,927.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* 3,980 hours.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent:* \$316,871.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that a respondent is not required to respond to, conduct, or sponsor a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

*Authority:* 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.

**Brett A. Jortland,**

*Acting Chief Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2021-08181 Filed 4-20-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-06-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Railroad Administration**

[Docket No. FRA-2021-0037]

**Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program; California High-Speed Rail Authority Audit Report**

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program (STPD Program), often referred to as the “NEPA Assignment Program,” allows a State to assume FRA’s responsibilities for Federal environmental review, consultation, and compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other Federal environmental laws, for railroad projects. When a State assumes these responsibilities, it carries out the assigned environmental review process, in lieu of FRA. The STPD Program requires annual audits for the first four years of the State’s lead role in the program to ensure compliance with program requirements. This notice requests comments on FRA’s first audit report of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) under the STPD Program.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 21, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments related to Docket No. FRA-2021-0037 may be submitted by going to <http://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and docket number (docket #). All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information. Please see the Privacy Act heading in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document for Privacy Act information related to any submitted comments or materials.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for accessing the docket.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Andréa Martin, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Railroad Policy and Development (RPD), telephone: (202) 493-6201, email: [Andrea.Martin@dot.gov](mailto:Andrea.Martin@dot.gov); or Marlys Osterhues, Chief Environment and Project Engineering, RPD, telephone:

(202) 493-0413, email: [Marlys.Osterhues@dot.gov](mailto:Marlys.Osterhues@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Privacy Act Statement:* FRA will post comments it receives without edit, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL-14 FDMS, accessible through [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy). In order to facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, inclusion of names is completely optional. Whether commenters identify themselves or not, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

**Draft Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Audit of the California High-Speed Rail Authority: December 8-10, 2020**

**Executive Summary**

This report summarizes the results of FRA’s first audit of CHSRA’s conduct of its environmental review responsibilities under 23 U.S.C. 327, in accordance with the July 23, 2019, memorandum of understanding (section 327 MOU) between CHSRA and FRA.

To carry out its audit responsibilities under the section 327 MOU, FRA formed a team (Audit Team) in April 2020. The Audit Team consisted of NEPA subject matter experts (SMEs) from FRA’s environmental and project management divisions and the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. In addition, FRA designated a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist to serve as a NEPA Assignment Program liaison to CHSRA. The Audit Team reviewed certain NEPA project documentation completed by CHSRA during the first year of the NEPA Assignment Program, and CHSRA’s self-assessment of its NEPA Assignment Program. In addition, the Audit Team reviewed documents related to quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) and conducted interviews with relevant CHSRA staff between December 8 and 10, 2020.

Overall, the Audit Team found that CHSRA is carrying out the responsibilities it has assumed and complies with the provisions of the section 327 MOU.

**Background**

The STPD Program allows a State to assume FRA’s environmental responsibilities for review, consultation, and compliance for railroad projects.

<sup>1</sup> In this 30-day notice, FRA corrects its previous characterization of this type of request as an “extension with change (estimates) of a currently approved collection.”