

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1. Describe the Survey Procedures.

This data collection is voluntary, and reporting mechanisms are provided by BTS and made accessible to WMATA employees. Unlike a survey, where all respondents are expected to acknowledge the request for information, BTS receives reports when industry submits them. There is no sample selection for this data collection; again, reporting is voluntary.

Respondents can submit reports to BTS whenever they experience a qualifying event, or close call.

2. Description of procedures for the collection of information.

Respondents have the option to fill out an online reporting form or make a submission by dialing the BTS 1-800 telephone line. Respondents will provide information such as: (1) Name and contact information; (2) time and location of the close call; (3) provide a short description of the event and the conditions that existed at the time of the event; (4) share contributing factors that led up to the event; and (5) any other information that might be useful in determining ways to prevent such events from occurring.

BTS will do the following: collect close call reports submitted by WMATA employees. BTS continues to develop and steward an analytical database using the reported data and other appropriate information; conduct statistical analyses and develop public reports while protecting the confidentiality of notices and reports in accordance with BTS' own statute (49 U.S.C. § 6307) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018 (Pub. L: 115-435 Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Title III).

In accordance with these confidentiality statutes, only statistical (aggregated) and non-identifying data will be made publicly available by BTS through its reports. BTS will not release to any public or private entity, the information that might reveal the identity of individuals mentioned in the event without explicit consent of the respondent and any other affected entities.

3. Describe the methods to maximize response rates and describe how the Department deals with non-responses.

Reporting of a WMATA close call is voluntary. Submitting reports directly to BTS subject matter experts will provide the Transit industry a trusted means of reporting safety information

confidentially, fostering trust in the collection methodology, handling, and storage of the raw data. Efforts to continually reinforce and maintain confidence in the Close Call Data Program consists of routine outreach which promotes a climate for credence.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods undertaken.

This is not a new collection effort. No test of procedures or methods are undertaken in this collection.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor grantee, or other persons who will collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

The team involved with the close call data warehousing and data analysis is as follows:

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Director, Office of Safety Data and Analysis - Statistical expert, confidentiality officer, and project manager at the Bureau of Transportation Statistics – involved in providing project management, data processing, and data analysis.

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