

further states that Evans currently controls Elizabethtown Industrial Railroad LLC (EZR), a Class III rail carrier that operates in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pa.

Evans states that: (1) the railroads would not connect with each other or any other railroads in the EZR corporate family, (2) the proposed transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the lines with each other or any other railroad in the EZR corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. Therefore, the proposed transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is September 19, 2024, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. However, 49 U.S.C. 11326(c) does not provide for labor protection for transactions under 49 U.S.C. 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions to stay must be filed no later than September 12, 2024 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36796, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Evans' representative, John K. Fiorilla, Dyer & Peterson, PC, 605 Main Street, Suite 104, Riverton, NJ 08077-1440.

According to Evans, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: August 20, 2024.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Stefan Rice,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2024-19114 Filed 8-23-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. 2024-0217]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of Renewed Approval of Information Collection: Air Taxi and Commercial Operator Airport Activity Survey

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval renew an information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on January 26, 2024. The collection involves requesting that small on-demand operators voluntarily provide the number of revenue passengers that boarded their aircraft at each airport annually. This information is used in determining an airport's category and eligibility for federal funding on an annual basis. It is not available through any other federal data source.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by September 25, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection 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 this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Luis Loarte by email at [Luis.Loarte@faa.gov](mailto:Luis.Loarte@faa.gov); phone: 202-267-9622.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Public Comments Invited:* You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to

enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information.

*OMB Control Number:* 2120-0067.

*Title:* Air Taxi and Commercial

Operator Airport Activity Survey.

*Form Numbers:* FAA Form 1800-31.

*Type of Review:* Clearance of a renewal of an information collection.

*Background:* The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on January 31, 2024, under FRN document citation number 2024-0217.

The data collected through this survey is the only source of data for charter and nonscheduled passenger data by Part 135 operator (air taxis). The data received on the form (either paper or signed electronic copy) is then incorporated into the Air Carrier Activity Information System which is used to determine whether an airport is eligible for Airport Improvement Program funds and for calculating primary airport sponsor apportionment as specified by title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.), section 47114. The data collected on the form includes passenger enplanements by carrier and by airport. Passengers traveling on air taxis would be overlooked entirely if this passenger survey were not conducted. As a result, many airports would not receive their fair share of funds since there is currently no other source for this type of charter activity. On average, approximately 70 operators respond each year, reporting a total 1 million passengers. This data is important to those airports that struggle to meet the 2,500 and 10,000 passenger levels and could not do so without the reporting of the charter passengers.

*Respondents:* A cover letter and instructions are sent through the United Parcel Service. The cover letter and instructions provide the carriers with the Airports External Portal ([faa.gov](http://faa.gov)) (AEP) site and the password for the voluntary Airport Activity Survey form. The cover letter and password for the Airport Activity Survey form is sent to approximately 100 small on-demand operators (certificated under Federal Aviation Regulation Part 135) that have reported activity in the last three years. The form is also available on the FAA website. We allowed electronic submittals of the voluntary survey beginning with calendar year 2020 data. Operators can electronically access the form, sign, and submit to the FAA. The Airports External Portal is used by airports in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

They can also view their final data through AEP once the process is complete.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Estimated Average Burden per*

*Response:* 1.0 hours per respondent.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* On average, approximately 70 respondents submit an annual response. The cumulative total annual burden is estimated to be 70 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 20, 2024.

**Luis Loarte,**

Senior Airport Planner, Office of Airports/  
Airport Planning and Environmental  
Division.

[FR Doc. 2024–19015 Filed 8–23–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA–2024–0060]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway  
Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA has forwarded the information collection request described in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Please submit comments by September 25, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number 0060 by any of the following methods:

*Website:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.

*Mail:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

*Hand Delivery or Courier:* U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Patricia Sergeson, (202) 493–3166,

Office Corporate Research, Technology and Innovation Management, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 6300 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101, Office hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We published a **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day public comment period on this information collection on June 21, 2024, at [89 FR 52202]. The comments and FHWA’s responses are below.

FHWA received a comment from WSDOT providing feedback on the timeline for nominations to be sent as well as the eligibility criteria. WSDOT requested that the award section criteria be changed requiring that a final report be posted by June 30th of the year submitted. We have changed these criteria to require a TPF study be in the objectives fulfilled status (as defined in the TPF Procedures Manual published on [pooledfund.org](http://pooledfund.org)) by July 30th of the year submitted.

WSDOT also noted a difference in language between the notice and FAQ. FHWA will ensure all materials are consistent in what areas will be recognized. The nomination period has been updated and will be open August through end of September each nomination year.

*Title:* Transportation Pool Fund (TPF) Excellence Award.

*Background:* FHWA is partnering with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to further promote research, innovation, and excellence through a new TPF Program Excellence Award.

For more than 45 years, the FHWA’s TPF Program has enabled public and private entities to collaboratively conduct cutting-edge transportation research. Through the TPF Program, participants can pool funds and expertise to develop innovative solutions at a lower cost while extending the reach and impact of their research.

The TPF Excellence Award will recognize outstanding TPF studies that have made significant advancements in national research efforts in the areas of safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence. The future award will highlight the importance of meaningful collaboration and partnership in transportation research. Administered through a partnership between FHWA and the AASHTO RAC, the biennial

TPF Excellence Award will recognize two TPF studies. Nominations would be received between August and end of September of the nomination year. Nomination forms would be sent to FHWA Division Offices and State DOTs to solicit nominees.

*Award:* Any participant in the TPF program can nominate a TPF study that is in the objectives fulfilled status (defined in the TPF Procedures Manual on [pooledfund.org](http://pooledfund.org)) by July 30th of the year submitted. The nominator is responsible for completing the nomination form that summarizes the outstanding accomplishments of the entry. FHWA will use the collected information to evaluate, showcase, and enhance the public’s knowledge of research and innovation conducted through these TPF projects. Nominations will be reviewed by an independent panel of judges from various backgrounds. The awards will be given every 2 yr. The winners will be presented awards at the completion of the process.

*Respondents:* Any participant in the Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) program can submit a nomination of a TPF study for the TPF Excellence Award, including staff from the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other global partners.

*Frequency:* The information will be collected biennially.

*Estimated Average Burden per Response:* The nomination email takes 2 minutes per respondent and the nomination form takes 5 hours per respondent per application to complete.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* It is expected that the 550 respondents will complete an application for an estimated total of 267 annual burden hours.

*Public Comments Invited:* You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA’s performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB’s clearance of this information collection.

*Authority:* The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.