

#### IV. Probable Effects

FTA, FHWA, Metro and Tri-Met will evaluate all significant transportation, environmental, social and economic impacts of the alternatives. Primary issues include: support of state, regional and local land use and transportation plans and policies, cost effective expansion of the transit system, preservation of capacity enhancement options of I-205, neighborhood impacts and environmental sensitivity. The impacts will be evaluated for both the construction period and for the long-term period of operation. Measures to mitigate any significant impact will be developed.

Issued on: February 25, 2002.

**Linda Gehrke,**

*Deputy Regional Administrator, Region, X,  
Federal Transit Administration.*

**Elton H. Change,**

*Environmental Coordinator, Oregon Division,  
Federal Highway Administration.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket No. NHTSA-01-11136]

##### Reports, Forms, and Record Keeping Requirements

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

**SUMMARY:** Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under new procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatements of previously approved collections.

This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 29, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Plaza 401, Washington, DC 20590. Docket No. NHTSA-01-11136.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Alan Block, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative,

Office of Research and Traffic Records (NTS-31), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6240, Washington, DC 20590.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulations (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks public comment on the following proposed collection of information:

##### 2002 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey

**Type of Request:** New information collection requirement.

**OMB Clearance Number:** None.

**Form Number:** This collection of information uses no standard forms.

**Requested Expiration Date of Approval:** December 31, 2003.

**Summary of the Collection of Information:** NHTSA proposes to conduct a year 2002 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey by telephone among a national probability sample of 12,000 adults (age 16 and older). Participation by respondents would be voluntary. NHTSA's information needs require seat belt and child safety seat sections too large to merge into a single survey instrument without producing an inordinate burden on respondents. Rather than reduce these sections, the proposed survey instrument would be

divided into two questionnaires. Each questionnaire would be administered to one-half the total number of subjects to be interviewed. Questionnaire #1 would focus on seat belts and include smaller sections on air bags, motorcyclist safety, and general driving (including speed). Questionnaire #2 would focus on child restraint use, accompanied by smaller sections on air bags and Emergency Medical Services. Both questionnaires would contain sections on crash injury experience, and on drinking and driving because of the extensive impact of alcohol on the highway safety problem. Some basic seat belt questions contained in Questionnaire #1 would be duplicated on Questionnaire #2.

In conducting the proposed survey, the interviewers would use computer-assisted telephone interviewing to reduce interview length and minimize recording errors. A Spanish-language translation and bilingual interviewers would be used to minimize language barriers to participation. The proposed survey would be anonymous and confidential.

##### Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use of the Information

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was established to reduce the mounting number of deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes on the Nation's highways. As part of this statutory mandate, NHTSA is authorized to conduct research as a foundation for the development of motor vehicle standards and traffic safety programs.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, more than 50,000 persons were killed each year in motor vehicle crashes in the United States. Diverse approaches were taken to address the problem. Vehicle safety designs and features were improved; restraint devices were improved; safety behaviors were mandated in state legislation (including seat belt use, child safety seat use, and motorcycle helmet use); alcohol-related legislation was enacted; this legislation was enforced; public information and education activities were widely implemented; and roadways were improved.

As a result of these interventions and improvements, crash fatalities dropped significantly. By 1992, total fatalities had fallen to 39,250, representing a 23% decline from 1966. In addition, the resident population and the number of vehicle miles traveled increased greatly over those years. When fatality rates are computed per 100,000 population, the rate for 1992 (15.39) was about 40

percent lower than the 1966 rate (25.89). In sum, heightened highway safety activity conducted over the past three decades corresponds with major strides in reducing traffic fatalities.

Remaining barriers to safety will be more resistant to programmatic influences now that the easy gains have already been accomplished. Moreover, crash fatalities have edged higher since 1992, totaling 41,821 in 2000. Thus significant effort will be needed just to preserve the gains that already have been made. Up-to-date information is essential to plot the direction of future activity that will achieve reductions in crash injuries and fatalities in the coming years.

In order to collect the critical information needed by NHTSA to develop and implement effective countermeasures that meet the Agency's mandate to improve highway traffic safety, NHTSA conducted its first Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey in 1994. The survey included questions related to seat belts, child safety seats, air bags, bicyclist safety, motorcyclist safety, and Emergency Medical Services. It also contained small segments on alcohol use and on speeding. The survey has been repeated biennially through year 2000, with the survey instrument updated prior to each survey administration to incorporate emergent issues and items of increased interest.

The proposed survey is the fifth Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey. The survey would collect data on topics included in the preceding surveys and would monitor changes over time in the use of occupant protection devices and in attitudes related to vehicle occupant safety. It is important that NHTSA monitor these changes so that the Agency can determine the effects of its efforts to promote the use of safety devices and to identify areas where its efforts should be targeted and where new strategies may be needed. As in earlier years, NHTSA proposes to make a small number of revisions to the survey instrument to address new information needs. If approved, the proposed survey would assist NHTSA in addressing the problem of motor vehicle occupant safety and in formulating programs and recommendations to Congress. The results of the proposed survey would be used to: (a) Identify areas to target current programs and activities to achieve the greatest benefit; (b) develop new programs and initiatives aimed at increasing the use of occupant safety devices by the general public; and (c) provide informational support to States and localities in their traffic safety efforts. The findings would also be used

directly by State and local highway safety and law enforcement agencies in the development and implementation of effective countermeasures to prevent injuries and fatalities to vehicle occupants.

**Description of the Likely Respondents (Including Estimated Number, and Proposed Frequency of Response to the Collection of Information)**

Under this proposed effort, a telephone interview averaging approximately 20 minutes in length would be administered to each of 12,000 randomly selected members of the general public age 16 and older in telephone households. The respondent sample would be selected from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Interviews would be conducted with persons at residential phone numbers selected through random digit dialing. Businesses are ineligible for the sample and would not be interviewed. No more than one respondent would be selected per household. Each member of the sample would complete one interview.

**Estimate of the Total Annual Reporting and Record Keeping Burden Resulting from the Collection of Information**

NHTSA estimates that each respondent in the sample would require an average of 20 minutes to complete the telephone interview. Thus, the number of estimated reporting burden hours a year on the general public (12,000 respondents multiplied by 1 interview multiplied by 20 minutes) would be 4000 for the proposed survey. The respondents would not incur any reporting cost from the information collection. The respondents also would not incur any record keeping burden or record keeping cost from the information collection.

**Rose A. McMurray,**

*Associate Administrator, Traffic Safety Programs.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

**[STB Finance Docket No. 34148]**

**Genesee & Wyoming Inc.—Control Exemption—ETR Acquisition Corporation and Emons Transportation Group, Inc.**

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (GWI), a noncarrier holding company,<sup>1</sup> has filed

<sup>1</sup> The verified notice indicates that GWI has direct control of one Class II rail carrier subsidiary and 14

a verified notice of exemption to (i) acquire all of the stock of Emons Transportation Group, Inc. (Transportation), a noncarrier holding company, and (ii) continue in control of ETR Acquisition Corporation (Acquisition), a noncarrier wholly owned subsidiary of GWI. Transportation directly controls Emons Railroad Group, Inc. (Emons Rail), a noncarrier holding company, and indirectly controls the following wholly owned Class III rail carrier subsidiaries (subsidiaries) of Emons Rail: York Railway Company (York), operating in the State of Pennsylvania; Penn Eastern Rail Lines, Inc., operating in the State of Pennsylvania; St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company (SLR), operating in the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine; and St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (Quebec) Inc., operating in the State of Vermont via trackage rights over a portion of the rail line owned by SLR.<sup>2</sup> Acquisition will be the mechanism used by GWI to acquire ownership of Transportation.<sup>3</sup> Through GWI's acquisition of Transportation, GWI will have indirect control of the subsidiaries.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or shortly after February 22, 2002.

GWI states that: (i) The properties of subsidiaries and affiliates will not connect with each other; (ii) the acquisition and continuance in control are not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the rail lines of subsidiaries and affiliates with each other; and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

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. Because the transaction involves one Class II and one or more Class III rail carriers, the exemption is

Class III rail carrier subsidiaries. In addition, GWI has indirect control of three Class III rail carrier subsidiaries, through its ownership of noncarrier Rail Link, Inc. The direct and indirect subsidiary rail carriers of GWI are collectively referred to as Affiliates.

<sup>2</sup> The verified notice states that Transportation also controls Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad, LLC, and Yorkrail, LLC, two non-operating common carriers, which separately hold the rail assets over which York operates.

<sup>3</sup> According to the verified notice, the shareholders of Transportation will become entitled to payment of money and their shares will be cancelled. Further, Acquisition will be merged into the surviving Transportation with each share of Acquisition being converted into a share of stock of the surviving Transportation and GWI thereby becoming the sole shareholder of Transportation.