

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration****Agency Request for Emergency Processing of Collections of Information Associated With Today's Publication of Solicitation of Applications and Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)**

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby gives notice that it has submitted the following information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Emergency Processing under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). FRA requests that OMB authorize the collection of information identified below on or before February 29, 2008, for 180 days after the date of approval by OMB. A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling FRA's Clearance Officers, Mr. Robert Brogan (tel. (202) 493-6292) or Ms. Gina Christodoulou (tel. (202) 493-6139). These numbers are not toll-free. A copy of this ICR may also be obtained electronically by contacting Mr. Brogan at robert.brogan@dot.gov or by contacting Ms. Christodoulou at gina.christodoulou@dot.gov. Comments and questions about the ICR identified below should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Attn: FRA OMB Desk Officer, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503. Comments and questions about the ICR identified below may also be transmitted electronically to OIRA at: oira_submissions@omb.eop.gov.

DATES: Comments should be submitted as soon as possible upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Title: Solicitation of Applications and Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Capital Assistance to States—Intercity Rail Service Program.

OMB Control Number: 2130-New.

Frequency: One-time.

Affected Public: 50 States and District of Columbia/Their Partners.

Form(s): SF-424.

Other Instruments: Collection of Information Associated with the NOFA Published in Today's **Federal Register**.

Estimated Total Annual Number of Responses: 7.0 Grant Applications (Paper/Electronic).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,309 Hours.

Abstract: On December 16, 2007, President Bush signed Public Law 110-

161, The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008. As part of this Act, Congress provided \$30 million to FRA to award in one or more grants for eligible projects related to capital improvements (fixed facilities and rolling stock) necessary to support improved or new intercity passenger services, and planning activities that lead to the development of a passenger rail corridor investment plan. Funds provided under this grant program may constitute no more than 50 percent of the total cost of a selected project, with the remaining cost funded from other sources. The funding provided under these grants will be made available to grantees on a reimbursement basis. FRA anticipates awarding grants to multiple eligible participants. FRA may choose to award a grant or grants within the available funds in any amount. Funding made available through grants provided under this program, together with funding from other sources that is committed by a grantee as part of a grant agreement, must be sufficient to complete the funded project and achieve the anticipated improvement to intercity passenger rail service. FRA will begin accepting grant applications on Monday, March 18, 2008. Applications may be submitted until the earlier of Wednesday, September 30, 2009, or the date on which all available funds will have been committed under this program.

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

Issued in Washington, DC on February 12, 2008.

D.J. Stadtler,

*Director, Office of Financial Management,
Federal Railroad Administration.*

[FR Doc. E8-3011 Filed 2-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration****Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236**

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroad has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR Part 236, as detailed below.

[Docket Number FRA-2007-0026]

Applicant: CSX Transportation, Incorporated, Mr. C. M. King, Chief Engineer, Communications and Signals, 500 Water Street, SC J-350, Jacksonville, Florida 32202.

The CSX Transportation, Incorporated seeks approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of three power operated split point derails, Number (No.) 2, No. 4, and No. 6, located within a traffic control system in St. Joseph, Michigan, milepost CG-87; Grand Rapids Subdivision; Chicago Division. The derails are manually controlled by the St. Joseph Drawbridge tender under the authority of the train dispatcher located in Jacksonville, Florida.

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the derails are no longer needed in present day operation.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and include a concise statement of the interest of the party in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without an oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by Docket Number FRA-2007-0026 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic site;

Fax: 202-493-2251;

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

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

Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the

public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FRA wishes to inform all potential commenters that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78) or you may visit <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 12, 2008.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. E8–3026 Filed 2–15–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Solicitation of Applications and Notice of Funding Availability for the Capital Assistance to States—Intercity Passenger Rail Service Program

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

ACTION: Notice of funding availability; solicitation for applications.

SUMMARY: Under this Notice, the FRA encourages interested State departments of transportation to submit applications for grants to fund capital improvements and planning activities necessary to support improved or new intercity passenger rail service.

DATES: FRA will begin accepting grant applications on Monday, March 18, 2008. Applications may be submitted until the earlier of Wednesday, September 30, 2009, or the date on which all available funds will have been committed under this program. The last-mentioned date will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted electronically to <http://www.grants.gov> (“Grants.Gov”). Grants.Gov allows organizations electronically to find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Any State wishing to submit an application pursuant to this notice should immediately initiate the process of registering with Grants.Gov at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Please confirm all Grants.Gov submissions by e-mailing paxrail@dot.gov.

For application materials that an applicant is unable to submit via Grants.Gov (such as oversized engineering drawings), applicants may submit an original and two (2) copies to the Federal Railroad Administration at the following address: Federal Railroad Administration, Attention: Peter Schwartz, Office of Railroad Development (RDV–11), Mail Stop #20, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Due to delays caused by enhanced screening of mail delivered via the U.S. Postal Service, applicants are encouraged to use other means to assure timely receipt of materials.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Schwartz, Office of Railroad Development (RDV–11), Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Phone: (202) 493–6360; Fax: (202) 493–6333, or Desmond Brown, Grants Officer, Office of Acquisition and Grants Services (RAD–30), Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Phone: (202) 493–6152; Fax: (202) 493–6171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Capital Assistance to States—Intercity Passenger Rail Service Program (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Program Number 20.317) will be supported with \$30,000,000 of Federal funds provided to FRA as part of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (Division K of Pub. L. 110–161 (December 26, 2007)). Funds provided under this program may constitute no more than 50 percent of the total cost of a selected project, with the remaining cost funded from other sources. FRA anticipates awarding grants to multiple eligible participants. Eligible projects include capital improvements (fixed facilities and rolling stock) necessary to support improved or new intercity passenger rail services, and planning activities that lead directly to the development of a passenger rail corridor investment plan. FRA anticipates that no further public notice will be made with respect to selecting grantees under this program.

Purpose: In 2002, then-Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta, announced a number of principles to guide the future of intercity passenger rail in the United States. One of these principles was to “establish a long-term partnership between States and the Federal Government to support intercity

passenger rail.” In furtherance of that principle, the President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Budget proposed, and the Congress enacted, a program that would increase the States’ role in intercity passenger rail development by establishing Federal-State partnerships for intercity passenger rail investment along the model of those that currently exist for other modes of transportation. This program makes \$30,000,000 in Federal funding available directly to States through grants to fund up to 50 percent of the cost of capital investments and planning activities necessary to achieve tangible improvements to, or institute new, intercity passenger rail service. Examples of such improvements include (but are not strictly limited to) the purchase of passenger rolling stock, the improvement of existing track to allow for higher maximum speeds, the addition or lengthening of passing tracks to increase capacity, the improvement of interlockings to increase capacity and reliability, and the improvement of signaling systems to increase capacity and maximum speeds, and improve safety.

Authority: The authority for the Program can be found in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (Division K of Pub. L. 110–161 (December 26, 2007)).

Funding: The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, provides \$30,000,000, and directs FRA to award one or more grants covering up to 50 percent of the cost of capital investments (and limited planning activities) necessary to support improved intercity passenger rail services. The funding provided under these grants will be made available to grantees on a reimbursement basis. It is anticipated that the available funding could support the projects proposed by multiple applicants. FRA may choose to award a grant or grants within the available funds in any amount. Funding made available through grants provided under this program, together with funding from other sources that is committed by a grantee as part of a grant agreement, must be sufficient to complete the funded project and achieve the anticipated improvement to intercity passenger rail service.

Schedule for Capital Grant Program: FRA will begin accepting grant applications on Monday, March 18, 2008. Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, September 30, 2009 or the date (to be announced) on which all available funds will have been committed. Due to the limited funding