

Authority No. 236–25 of February 13, 2019.

Jennifer Z. Galt,

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department
of State.*

[FR Doc. 2019–03520 Filed 2–27–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2018–0101]

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System

Under part 235 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), this document provides the public notice that on November 16, 2018, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval to discontinue or modify a signal system. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2018–0101.

Applicant: National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Mr. Nicholas J. Croce III, PE, Deputy Chief Engineer C&S, 2995 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Amtrak seeks approval to remove all automatic wayside signals on Tracks No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4, at automatic block points between interlockings Paoli, milepost (MP) 19.9 and Park MP 45.5 on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, Mid-Atlantic Division, Harrisburg Line, Philadelphia to Harrisburg, PA. Automatic Block Signals (ABS) 218, 219, 254, 273, 274, 295, 296, 390, 391, 413, 414, 443, and 494, will be removed with the signal locations remaining in service as block points without wayside signals. These signals will be removed due to Amtrak upgrading the ABS Sections from NORAC Rule 251/261 territory, *cab signals and fixed automatic block signals*, to NORAC Rule 562 territory, *cab signals, without fixed automatic block signals*. In addition to the NORAC Rule 562 upgrades, Amtrak will install Clear Block Signals (C) to existing interlocking signals at Paoli (MP 19.9), Frazier (MP 23.9), Glen (MP 25.3), Downs (MP 32.1), Thorn (MP 35.0), Caln (MP 36.6), and Park (MP 45.5) interlockings through its capital improvement program. Until C signals are installed, movement through the block will be governed by NORAC Rules 550, 554 and 556. Amtrak's overall goal is to eliminate the maintenance and

safety concerns associated with the ABS.

The existing automatic train control and Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System (ACSES) will continue to enforce train speed and positive train stop. ACSES will enforce a positive stop at each interlocking and will also enforce a stop to a train with failed cab signal equipment unless the C signal is displayed allowing the failed train to enter the block.

The reason for removal of the signals in addition to upgrading the ABS Sections is to eliminate maintenance and operation of unnecessary hardware no longer needed, and to reduce delays to trains caused by failures of the signals.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and the Norfolk Southern Railway operate on portions of this line as tenants with trackage rights.

The project will begin immediately upon receiving permission for removal and will be completed within five years of receiving the authority to proceed. The project will begin with the section of track from Park to Thorn Interlocking and will progress eastward until completion.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202–493–2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by April 15, 2019 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Robert C. Lauby,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2019–03454 Filed 2–27–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2019–0016]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated October 30, 2018, the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 236. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2019–0016.

Specifically, Conrail seeks relief from the requirements of § 236.109, *Time Releases, Timing Relays, and Timing Devices*, § 236.377, *Approach Locking*, § 236.378, *Time Locking*, § 236.379, *Route Locking*, § 236.380, *Indication Locking*, and § 236.381, *Traffic Locking*, on vital microprocessor-based systems. Many of Conrail's interlockings, control points, and other locations are controlled by solid-state vital

microprocessor-based systems. These systems utilize programmed logic equations in lieu of relays or other mechanical components for control of both vital and non-vital functions. The logic does not change once a microprocessor-based system has been tested and locking tests are documented on installation. Conrail proposes to verify and test signal locking systems and non-configurable timers controlled by microprocessor-based equipment by use of alternative procedures every 4 years after initial baseline testing or program change as follows:

- Verifying the Cyclic Redundancy Check/Check Sum/Universal Control Number of the existing location's specific application logic to the previously-tested version.

- Testing the appropriate interconnection to the associated signaling hardware equipment outside of the processor (switch indication, track indication, searchlight signal indication, approach locking (if external) to verify correct and intended inputs to and outputs from the processor are maintained.

- Analyze and compare the results of the 4-year alternative testing with the results of the baseline testing performed at the location and submit the results to FRA.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the Department of Transportation's Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200

New Jersey Avenue SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.

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Communications received by April 15, 2019 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy. See also <http://www.regulations.gov/#/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Robert C. Lauby,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2019-03451 Filed 2-27-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Notice of Early Scoping for the Capital Metro Orange Line High Capacity Transit Corridor in Austin, Texas

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of early scoping meeting.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro) of Austin, Texas issue this early scoping notice to advise other agencies and the public that they intend to conduct early scoping for the Orange Line High Capacity Transit (HCT) Corridor. The Orange Line HCT Corridor is the 21-mile corridor used for Capital Metro's MetroRapid 801 from Tech Ridge to Southpark Meadows. The entire 21-mile corridor is being proposed for HCT dedicated pathways.

This notice invites public input to ongoing planning efforts for the Orange Line HCT Corridor by commenting on the project's purpose and need, the

project study area, alternatives being considered, public participation and outreach methods, relevant transportation and community impacts and benefits being considered, potential environmental impacts, and the projected capital and operating costs of the project.

DATES: The public may learn more about the Orange Line HCT Corridor and provide comments at an early scoping meeting scheduled for: Monday, April 8, 2019, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Central Time at Austin Central Library, 710 W Cesar Chavez St., Austin, TX 78701.

Capital Metro is also providing notice of this early scoping meeting on Capital Metro's website (capmetro.org) and in the following publications:

- Austin American Statesman
- Community Impact Newspaper
- The Villager Newspaper
- The LaPrensa Newspaper

ADDRESSES: Public comments will be accepted at the early scoping meeting. In addition, comments may be sent electronically to: orangelinefeedback@projectconnect.com. Comments may be mailed to: Capital Metro Project Connect Office, Orange Line HCT Corridor Comments, 607 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701. All comments are requested by May 24, 2019.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. If translation, signing services, or other special accommodations are needed, please contact Courtney Black at (512) 457-1244 via email at courtney.black@capmetro.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terence Plaskon, FTA, phone: (817) 978-0573, email: terence.plaskon@dot.gov or Joe Clemens, AICP, Capital Metro, phone: (512) 369-6515, email: joe.clemens@capmetro.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Orange Line HCT Corridor is included in Capital Metro's Project Connect Long-Term Vision Plan. Project Connect developed specifically targeted solutions that address existing service deficiencies and identified HCT investments that would add mobility options for the Central Texas region. Early scoping for the Orange Line HCT Corridor builds on previous Project Connect planning efforts and will examine potential alternatives to provide HCT in the Central Texas region.

The early scoping process is intended to support the formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process. In addition, early scoping supports FTA planning requirements associated with the