
**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice provides NHTSA's finding that a waiver of the Buy America requirements, 23 U.S.C. 313, is appropriate for Connecticut's HSO to purchase twenty-three training motorcycles using grant funds authorized under 23 U.S.C. 405(f) (section 405) for training motorcycles. Section 405(f) funds are available for use by State Highway Safety Programs to implement effective programs to reduce the number of single and multi-vehicle crashes involving motorcyclists that, among other things, include supporting training of motorcyclists. 23 U.S.C. 405(f).

Buy America provides that NHTSA "shall not obligate any funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2097) or [Title 23] and administered by the Department of Transportation, unless steel, iron, and manufactured products used in such project are produced in the United States." 23 U.S.C. 313. However, NHTSA may waive those requirements if (1) their application would be inconsistent with the public interest; (2) such materials and products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) the inclusion of domestic material will increase the cost of the overall project contract by more than 25 percent. 23 U.S.C. 313(b). In this instance, NHTSA has determined a non-availability waiver is appropriate for the twenty-three training motorcycles because there is no sufficient product produced domestically that meets the needs of Connecticut's HSO.

NHTSA recently granted a waiver to the Hawaii Department of Transportation’s Motor Vehicle Safety Office, Highway Safety Section to purchase training motorcycles because the cost of domestically produced motorcycles is 25 percent more than the cost of foreign-made motorcycles. Connecticut's HSO request also meets the cost waiver conditions because purchasing the least expensive American alternative, Harley-Davidson Street 500 would increase the cost of the project more than 25 percent. However, this request should be categorized as a non-availability waiver because American motorcycle manufacturers do not produce a motorcycle designed specifically with a smaller engine displacement (250 CC), which is consistent with motorcyclist training programs. As smaller engine displacement is common for training purposes and no American manufacturer produces motorcycles with this specification, then a non-availability waiver is appropriate in this situation.

Connecticut's HSO seeks a waiver to purchase twenty-three Honda (CMX250) Rebel motorcycles at $4,055 per unit. The total purchase price for all twenty-three motorcycles is $93,265. Connecticut's training program is designed to expand motorcycle safety efforts. Connecticut asserts that this purchase will enhance its aging fleet of motorcycles and accommodate the growing demand for training. HSO requires that its training bikes meet specific specifications. The engine displacement must be no less than one-hundred fifteen cubic centimeters and no more than two-hundred seventy-five cubic centimeters. Additionally, the motorcycles must have four stroke, electric start engines. HSO desires to use these motorcycles for its 2015 Motorcycle Safety Training Program because they are designed specifically with smaller engine displacement (250 CC), low brake horse power, and an upright seating position with typical hand and foot controls, which is consistent with motorcyclist training programs. Connecticut, however, is unable to identify any training motorcycles that meet Buy America requirements. HSO researched motorcycle models made by three American motorcycle manufacturers, Harley-Davidson, Inc., Victory Motorcycles, and Indian Motorcycle. Harley-Davidson produces a 500 CC motorcycle called the Street 500, with a MSRP of $6799. Victory Motorcycles and Indian Motorcycle produce a motorcycle with a much heavier and larger engine displacement than 500 CC, with the lowest MSRP of $12,499 for the Victory Vegas 8-ball motorcycle and the lowest MSRP of $10,999 for the Indian Scout. Connecticut's experience with motorcycles with a 500 CC engine displacement is that the bikes, in general, over power beginning riders and do not provide an appropriate upright position for these riders. HSO was unable to find a motorcycle that meets the requirements for training motorcycles that also meets the Buy America requirements. NHTSA is unaware of any other domestic motorcycle manufacturers other than Harley-Davidson, Victory, and Indian. As these manufacturers do not sell a motorcycle that meets standard requirements for motorcycle safety training purposes, a Buy America waiver is appropriate. NHTSA invites public comment on this conclusion.

In light of the above discussion, and pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 313(b)(3), NHTSA finds that it is appropriate to grant a waiver from the Buy America requirements to HSO in order to purchase twenty-three Honda (CMX250) Rebel motorcycles. This waiver applies to Connecticut and all other States seeking to use section 405 funds to purchase these motorcycles for the purposes mentioned herein. This waiver will continue through fiscal year 2015 and will allow the purchase of these items as required for Connecticut's HSO and its training programs. Accordingly, this waiver will expire at the conclusion of fiscal year 2015 (September 30, 2015). In accordance with the provisions of Section 117 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy of Users Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–244, 122 Stat. 1572), NHTSA is providing this notice as its finding that a waiver of the Buy America requirements is appropriate for certain Honda motorcycles. Written comments on this finding may be submitted through any of the methods discussed above. NHTSA may reconsider these findings, if through comment, it learns of and can confirm the existence of a comparable domestically made product to the item granted a waiver.

This finding should not be construed as an endorsement or approval of any products by NHTSA or the U.S. Department of Transportation. The United States Government does not endorse products or manufacturers.


O. Kevin Vincent, Chief Counsel.

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

**Notice and Request for Comments**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** 30-day notice of request for approval of extension: Notifications of
SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3519 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (Board) gives notice that it is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of an extension of the following information collection—Notifications of Trails Act Agreement and Substitute Sponsorship—further described below. The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the Federal Register (80 FR 11262, March 2, 2015). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

Under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and the Board’s regulations, the STB will issue a Certificate of Interim Trail Use (CITU) or Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) to a prospective trail sponsor who offers to assume managerial, tax, and legal responsibility for a right-of-way that a rail carrier would otherwise abandon. The CITU/NITU permits parties, for 180 days, to negotiate for a railbanking agreement. If parties reach an agreement, the CITU/NITU automatically authorizes railbanking/interim trail use. If no agreement is reached, then upon expiration of the negotiation period, the CITU/NITU authorizes the railroad to exercise its option to fully abandon the line without further action by the Board.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.29, parties must jointly notify the Board when a trail use agreement has been reached, and must identify the exact location of the right-of-way subject to the agreement, including a map and milepost marker information. The rules also require parties to file a petition to modify or vacate the CITU/NITU if the trail use agreement applies to less of the right-of-way than covered by the CITU/NITU. Finally, the rules require that a substitute trail sponsor must acknowledge that interim trail use is subject to restoration and reactivation at any time.

Comments may now be submitted to OMB concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board’s burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board’s request for OMB approval.

Description of Collection

Title: Notifications of Trails Act Agreement and Substitute Sponsorship.

OMB Control Number: 2140–0017.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Parties to an interim trail use agreement; substitute trail sponsors.

Number of Respondents: 40.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 40 hours.

Total “Non-hour Burden” Cost: None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

Needs and Uses: The submissions ensure that the affected public and the agency will have notice whenever a trails use agreement is reached or modified. They also ensure that any trail sponsor, including any substitute trail sponsor, acknowledges that interim trail use is subject to restoration and reactivation at any time.

Retention Period: Information in this report will be maintained in the Board’s files for 10 years, after which it is transferred to the National Archives.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by June 5, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be identified as “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board, Notifications of Trails Act Agreement and Substitute Sponsorship.” These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Chandana L. Achanta, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, by email at OIRA.SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV; by fax at (202) 395–6974; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the Notifications of Trails Act Agreement and Substitute Sponsorship, contact Chris Oehrle, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001, or email PRA@stb.dot.gov. [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877–8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements or requests that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency’s submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: May 1, 2015.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

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