

for operators of gas pipelines, specifically gas distribution pipelines, gas transmission pipelines, regulated gas gathering pipelines, Type R gas gathering lines, underground natural gas storage facilities, and liquefied natural gas facilities. PHMSA also proposed to extend the National Pipeline Mapping System information submission deadline for operators of gas transmission and liquefied natural gas facilities.

(8) *Pipeline Safety: Eliminating Limitations on Welders and Welding Operators*, Docket Number PHMSA–2026–1552. PHMSA proposed to remove the exclusion from welding on compressor station pipe and components for welders or welding operators qualified by nondestructive testing.

(9) *Pipeline Safety: Harmonize Class Change Pressure Test Requirements with Subpart J Pressure Test Requirements*, Docket Number PHMSA–2025–0116. PHMSA proposed amendments to align the minimum pressure testing duration for certain short segments affected by class location changes with the longstanding pressure test duration requirements for other short segments.

(10) *Pipeline Safety: Removing Unnecessary Provision for Material Properties Verification During MAOP Reconfirmation*, Docket Number PHMSA–2026–1549. PHMSA proposed to remove an unnecessary provision from the MAOP reconfirmation requirements for testing pipe materials cut out from test manifold sites.

(11) *Pipeline Safety: Codify Enforcement Discretion on Incidental Gathering Lines*, Docket Number PHMSA–2025–0113. PHMSA proposed to codify a 2022 exercise of limited enforcement discretion applicable to certain incidental gathering lines.

(12) *Pipeline Safety: Eliminating Burdensome and Duplicative Deadlines for Gas Pipeline Coating Damage Assessments and Remedial Actions*, Docket Number PHMSA–2025–0114. PHMSA proposed to eliminate unnecessarily prescriptive and burdensome deadlines on gas transmission and certain gas gathering lines for completing coating damage assessments following trench backfilling of newly installed pipe and remedial actions following failed coating assessments. This proposal would replace those existing requirements with a general requirement to complete, prior to the in-service date of the pipeline, any coating damage assessments for newly installed pipe, as well as remedial actions undertaken in response to a failed coating damage assessment.

(13) *Pipeline Safety: Atmospheric Corrosion Reassessment for Pipeline Replacements*, Docket Number PHMSA–2025–0115. PHMSA proposed to eliminate an existing requirement for a 3-year atmospheric corrosion reassessment interval for gas distribution service lines following replacement of pipeline segments or components undertaken in response to a previous identification of atmospheric corrosion. Operators replacing a pipeline facility would instead be able to employ on that replacement facility the default 5-year reassessment interval provided for elsewhere in the Federal pipeline safety regulations.

Note: All comments received are posted without edits to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

- **Privacy Act Statement:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

- **Confidential Business Information:** Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments in response to this notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Pursuant to 49 CFR 190.343, you may ask PHMSA to provide confidential treatment to information you give to the agency by taking the following steps: (1) mark each page of the original document submission containing CBI as “Confidential;” (2) send PHMSA a copy of the original document with the CBI deleted along with the original, unaltered document; and (3) explain why the information you are submitting is CBI. Unless you are notified otherwise, PHMSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the Freedom of Information Act and they will not be placed in the public docket of this notice. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Joseph Berry at the email address listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Any material PHMSA receives

that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket.

- **Docket:** Access the dockets of each rulemaking at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The dockets contain background documents and comments received. Alternatively, you may review the documents in person at the street address listed above.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 28, 2026, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Thomas Correll,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 2026–17890 Filed 8–31–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

[Docket No. DOT–OST–2026–3367]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Information Collection Request (ICR) for the Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant (DIIG) Program

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST–R), Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence (HASS COE), Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, and its implementing regulations, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST–R) invites the general public and all other interested entities to comment on a new information collection request associated with a new Federal Assistance program entitled “2026 Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant (DIIG) Program.” This program was established under the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 to support government entities in deploying and enhancing highly automated drone systems for critical infrastructure safety inspections.

OST–R is seeking a new OMB Control Number for this data collection effort.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. DOT–OST–2026–3367, using any of the following methods:

Electronic Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building 5th Floor, Room W58-213, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to this collection, please contact the HASS COE DIIG Program Administration via email at thy.nguyen@dot.gov or via the HASS COE Engagement Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60-days' notice to the public to allow comment on information collection activities before seeking OMB approval of the activities. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. Specifically, OST–R invites interested parties to comment on the following ICR regarding:

(1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for OST–R to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility.

(2) the accuracy of OST–R's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the

validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates.

(3) ways for OST–R to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected.

(4) ways for OST–R to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. (See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1).)

OST–R believes that soliciting public comment may reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information that Federal regulations mandate. In summary, OST–R reasons that comments received will advance three objectives:

(1) reduce reporting burdens.

(2) organize information collection requirements in a “user-friendly” format to improve the use of such information.

(3) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. (See 44 U.S.C. 3501.)

The summary below describes the ICR that OST–R will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Program Title: Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant (DIIG) Program Application and Reporting Requirements.

Forms: SF–424, SF–424A, SF–424B, and DIIG Specific Project Narrative and Budget Templates.

Type of Review: New Information Collection Request (ICR).

Background: The DIIG Program provides competitive federal funding up to \$9,000,000 to state, local, tribal, and territorial government entities to safely integrate drone technologies into workflow processes for evaluating bridges, dams, roads, and other essential physical infrastructures. Collected information will enable the HASS COE technical evaluation panel to verify applicant eligibility, evaluate merit according to multi-jurisdictional complexity criteria, and ensure compliant fiscal oversight throughout the post-award grant lifecycle.

Respondents: State, local, tribal, and territorial government authorities requesting federal matching grants for drone system expansion, training, and deployment.

ESTIMATED BURDEN

Collection instrument/activity	Respondents	Frequency	Annual responses	Hours/ response	Total annual burden hours
DIIG application narrative package	60	1 per competition	60	40	2,400
Optional Federal-share waiver request under section 912(g)	12	1 if requested	12	4	48
Periodic performance report	5 active recipients	Quarterly	20	8	160
Program evaluation/data submission	5 active recipients	Annual	10	8	80
Final performance report	5 recipients	Once at closeout	5	20	100
Total			107	80	2,788

ANNUALIZED RESPONDENT LABOR COST

Annual burden hours	Loaded hourly rate	Calculation	Estimated annual labor cost
2,738	\$66.41	2,788 × \$66.41	\$185,151.08

Note: Total anticipated program awards will be limited to approximately 5 distinct government recipients ranging from \$500,000 to \$9,000,000 per award, resulting in a significantly lower overall post-award compliance burden compared to the initial application field.

Request for Public Comments

Comments are specifically invited on:

1. Whether the planned information collection is vital for the proper execution of HASS COE infrastructure validation goals.

2. The accuracy of the agency's technical calculation of the estimated time and cost burden.

3. Specific avenues to leverage modern technical tools (e.g., cloud data platform templates) to streamline workflow burden for local jurisdictions.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), OST–R informs all interested parties that a respondent is not required to respond to, conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. (Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.)

Issued in Washington, DC, on Aug 27th, 2026.

Thy H. Nguyen,

SMART Grants Agreements Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–17776 Filed 8–31–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–9X–P