

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 304.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 181 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$16,324.99.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026–18983 Filed 9–15–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2026–1587]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

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

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, FRA seeks approval of the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below. Before submitting this ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval, FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified in the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be submitted on <https://www.regulations.gov> to Docket No. FRA–2026–1587. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket, including any personal information provided. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number (2130–0524) in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a

subsequent notice, made available to the public, and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: joanne.swafford@dot.gov or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

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, FRA invites interested parties to comment on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA'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 FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways for FRA 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).

FRA finds that soliciting public comment may reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information that Federal regulations mandate. In summary, 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; and (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 FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Railroad Communications.
OMB Control Number: 2130–0524.

Abstract: The railroad communications regulations in 49 CFR part 220 prescribe the minimum requirements governing radio and wireless communications used in rail operations as well as establish the prohibitions, restrictions, and requirements that apply to the use of personal and railroad-supplied cellular telephones and other electronic devices. FRA amended its radio standards and procedures to: promote compliance by making the regulations more flexible; require wireless communications devices, including radios, for specified classifications of railroad operations and roadway workers; and retitle this part to reflect its coverage of other means of wireless communications, such as cellular telephones and data radio terminals, to convey emergency and need-to-know information. The amended regulations established safe, uniform procedures covering the use of radio and other wireless communications within the railroad industry.

In this 60-day notice FRA has made adjustments that decreased the previously approved burden hours from 95,902 hours to 76,237 hours. This represents a decrease of 19,665 hours annually for this information collection request.

Specifically, under § 220.61(b)(5), which contains the requirements for the marking of fulfilled or canceled mandatory directives, FRA determined that the burden is accounted for under § 220.61(b)(3) concerning written copies of mandatory directives.

Further, under § 220.313(c), which mandates the retention of those written records documenting instruction and examination of this subpart, FRA increased the estimated number of records to more accurately represent the annual volume of employees that require this training.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 773 Railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On Occasion.

Reporting Burden:

49 CFR section	Respondent universe (railroads)	Total annual responses (A)	Average time per response (B)	Total annual burden hours (C = A * B)	Wage rate ¹	Total cost equivalent U.S.D. (D = C * wage rates)
220.8 Waivers: —Petition to Administrator for waiver of compliance	636	2 petition letters	1 hour	2	\$79.02	\$158.04
220.21 Railroad operating rules; radio communications; recordkeeping:						

49 CFR section	Respondent universe (railroads)	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Wage rate ¹	Total cost equivalent U.S.D.
		(A)	(B)	(C = A * B)		(D = C * wage rates)
—(b) Retention of current operating rules, and amendments to these operating rules.	The burden for this requirement is included under § 217.7, OMB Control No. 2130–0035.					
220.61 Radio transmission of mandatory directives: —(b)(3) Written copy of mandatory directive	773	3,040,000 directives	90 seconds	76,000	79.02	6,005,520.00
220.302 Operating rules implementing the requirements of this subpart: —Each railroad shall adopt operating rules that implement the requirements of this subpart for electronic devices.	The burden for this requirement is included under § 217.7, OMB Control No. 2130–0035.					
220.313 Instruction: —(a) Written program of instruction and examination on part 220 requirements for new and existing railroads.	2	2 written instruction programs.	1 hour	2	79.02	158.04
—(c) Employee training records	773	28,000 records	30 seconds	233	79.02	18,438.00
220.315 Operational tests and inspections; further restrictions on use of electronic devices: —(a) Railroad's program of operational tests and inspections under part 217 shall be revised as necessary to include this subpart.	The burden for this requirement is included under § 217.9, OMB Control No. 2130–0035.					
Total ²	773	3,068,004 responses		76,237		6,024,274.08

¹ The dollar equivalent cost is derived from the 2024 Surface Transportation Board Full Year Wage A&B data series using the employee group 600 (Transportation, Train & Engine) hourly wage rate of \$45.16. The total burden wage rate (Straight time plus 75%) used in the table is \$79.02 (\$45.16 × 1.75 = \$79.02).

² Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Total Estimated Annual Responses:
3,068,004.

Total Estimated Annual Burden:
76,237 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$6,024,274.08.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher Van Nostrand,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION [Docket No. FRA–2026–2278]

Federal Railroad Administration

Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program; Ohio Department of Transportation Audit Report

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces and solicits comments on the draft audit report for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program allows a State to assume FRA's environmental responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, and

compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for railroad projects should a State first assume NEPA responsibilities under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). When a State assumes these Federal responsibilities, the State becomes solely responsible and liable for carrying out the responsibilities it has assumed, in lieu of FRA. This program mandates annual audits during each of the first 4 years of State participation to ensure compliance with program requirements.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The draft audit report is available for review at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Comments related to Docket No. FRA–2026–2278 may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must refer to the Federal Railroad Administration and the docket number in this notice (FRA–2026–2278). Note that all submissions received, including any personal information provided, will be posted without change and will be available to the public on <https://www.regulations.gov>. You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477), or at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, for FRA, please contact Ms. Carmen Stemen,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Environmental Program Management, Federal Railroad Administration, telephone: (740) 817–7304, email: Carmen.Stemen@dot.gov. For ODOT, please contact Mr. Timothy Hill, Administrator of ODOT's Office of Environmental Services, Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 West Broad Street, Mail Stop 4170, Columbus, Ohio 43223, telephone: (614) 644–0377; email: Tim.Hill@dot.ohio.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Section 327 of Title 23, United States Code (23 U.S.C. 327) establishes the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program (Program), also known as the NEPA Assignment Program. It allows the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (Secretary) to assign, and a State to assume, responsibility for all or part of the Secretary's responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, or other actions required under NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and any Federal environmental law with respect to one or more highway projects within the State, as well as one or more railroad, public transportation, and/or multimodal projects.¹ FRA is authorized to act on behalf of the Secretary with respect to these matters for railroad projects.

¹ The Secretary may not assign its responsibility for making any conformity determination required under section 176 of the Clean Air Act. Also not assignable is Government to Government consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes.