*11. Statement Regarding the Inferred Death of an Individual by Reason of Continued and Unexplained Absence—20 CFR 404.720 & 404.721—0960–0844.* Section 202(d)–(i) of the Social Security Act (Act) provides for the payment of various monthly survivor benefits, and a lump sum death payment, to certain survivors upon the death of an individual who dies while currently insured. In cases where insured wage earners have been absent from their homes for at least seven years, and there is no evidence these individuals are alive, SSA may presume they are deceased and will pay their survivors the appropriate benefits. SSA uses the information Form SSA–723 provides to determine if we may presume that a missing wage earner is deceased and, if so, to establish a presumed date of presumed death. The respondents are relatives, friends, neighbors, or acquaintances of the presumed deceased wage earner, or the person who is filing for survivor's benefits.

*Type of Request:* Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

| Method of completion | Number of respondents | Frequency of response | Average burden per response (minutes) | Estimated total annual burden (hours) | Average theoretical hourly cost amount (dollars) * | Average wait time in field office (minutes) ** | Total annual opportunity cost (dollars) *** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SSA–723 ..... | 806 | 1 | 30 | 403 | $33.54 * | 19 ** | $22,069 *** |

* We based this figure on an average U.S. citizen's hourly salary ($33.54), as reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics data (*Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics*).

** We based this figure on the average November 2026 wait time for field offices (19 minutes), as captured by SSA's current management information data. This figure is also posted on our public-facing website (*Social Security performance | SSA*). As the figures fluctuate, the wait times may be different on the website than they appear here. We continue to monitor our website and management information data to ensure we report updated figures when possible. While we have included wait time for all respondents who complete the paper form, we note that respondents are not required to complete the form in person, and those who mail or drop off a completed form do not experience any wait time.

*** This figure does not represent actual costs that SSA is imposing on individuals; rather, these are theoretical opportunity costs for the additional time respondents will spend to complete the information collection. *There is no actual charge to respondents to complete the information collection.*

**Mark Steffensen,**

*General Counsel, Chief of Law, Policy and Legislative Affairs, Social Security Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2026–23987 Filed 11–24–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191–02–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

**[Docket No. FRA–2026–2278]**

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the final 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.

**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: C*armen.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.

The State of Ohio initially participated in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Program and in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 327, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FHWA for the FHWA NEPA Assignment Program in Ohio. The FHWA NEPA Assignment MOU between the State, acting through ODOT, and FHWA became effective December 11, 2015, was amended on June 6, 2018, and renewed on December 14, 2020. The MOU was most recently renewed on May 8, 2026, for a period of ten years. Since being accepted into the FHWA NEPA Assignment Program, the State has successfully completed four audits, eight self-assessments, and two monitoring events. FHWA has consistently publicly stated that the State continues to meet all requirements of the FHWA NEPA Assignment Program. The State will have participated in the Program for 11 years on December 11, 2026.

ODOT published its application to assume FRA's environmental review responsibilities for railroad projects (''FRA NEPA Assignment'') on June 2, 2024, and made it available for public comment for 30 days. After considering public comments, ODOT submitted its application to FRA on July 22, 2024. The application served as the basis for developing an MOU that identifies the

[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.

responsibilities and obligations that ODOT would assume. The FRA published a notice of the draft MOU in the **Federal Register** on September 9, 2024, with a 30-day comment period to solicit the views of the public and Federal agencies. After the close of the comment period, FRA and ODOT considered comments and proceeded to execute the MOU pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 (Section 327 MOU). Effective December 3, 2024, ODOT assumed FRA's responsibilities under NEPA, and the responsibilities for NEPA-related Federal environmental laws described in the Section 327 MOU.

Section 327(g) of Title 23, U.S.C., requires the Secretary to conduct annual audits during each of the first 4 years of State participation. After the fourth year, the Secretary shall monitor the State's compliance with the written agreement. The results of each audit must be made available for public comment. FRA is issuing this notice to advise the public that it has conducted the first-year audit of the State of Ohio, acting through ODOT. This notice finalizes FRA's finding of the first-year audit of ODOT's FRA NEPA Assignment Program following the 30-day public comment period in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 327(g).

*Finalizing the Report:* FRA published a notice announcing the draft version of this report in the **Federal Register** on September 16, 2026,[2] and made it available for public review and comment for 30 days in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 327(g) under Docket No. FRA–2026–2278. FRA received two anonymous responses to the **Federal Register** notice during the public comment period for the draft report. One response was filed in the wrong docket. The second response, which repeated observations made in the report, did not raise any substantive issues for FRA to address and did not require changes to the draft report's content. This is FRA's final version of the audit report.

*Authority:* 23 U.S.C. 327; 42 U.S.C. 4331, 4332; 23 CFR part 773; and 49 CFR 264.101.

**Marlys Ann Osterhues,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Program Management, Office of Railroad Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2026–23976 Filed 11–24–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–06–P**

[2] 91 FR 58746.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**[Docket No. NHTSA–2026–0299]**

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Notice and Request for Comment; Driver Body Position and Readiness To Respond When Using L2 Systems

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments on a request for approval of a new information collection.

**SUMMARY:** NHTSA invites public comments about our intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a new information collection. Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from OMB. Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections. *This document describes a collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval, consisting of a* research study to examine driver body position and readiness to respond when using L2 features.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before January 25, 2027.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by the Docket No. NHTSA–2026–0299 through any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submissions:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *http://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* (202) 493–2251.
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W58–213, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9322 before coming.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and docket number for this notice. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to *http://www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

*Privacy Act:* 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 (65 FR 19477–78) or you may visit *https://www.transportation.gov/privacy.*

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to *http://www.regulations.gov* or the street address listed above. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets via internet.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or access to background documents, contact Jeremiah Singer, Human Factors/Engineering Integration (W46–430), (202) 366–7679, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) how to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses. In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collection of information for which the agency is seeking approval from OMB.