

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**[Docket No. FD 36718]****East Chattanooga Belt Railway Company, LLC—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company**

East Chattanooga Belt Railway Company, LLC (ECTB), a Class III carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41, to lease from Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) and to operate approximately 0.24 miles of rail line extending between milepost C448 in the vicinity of CP 23rd Street and milepost C447.7, a point roughly 100 feet south of the southernmost bridge abutment of a bridge over Dobbs Branch, also known as Spring Branch (the Line).¹

According to ECTB, it has reached an agreement with NSR to supplement the terms of an original lease between them, dated April 1, 2001.² ECTB states that the supplemental agreement expands its leasehold interest by extending to it the right to operate over and the obligation to maintain the Line, which is proximate to a line that ECTB currently operates pursuant to the original lease agreement. According to ECTB, it will obtain the right to conduct overhead operations over the Line and NSR will retain the obligation to provide local service on the Line in the event any such service demand emerges.

ECTB certifies that its anticipated annual freight common carrier revenues following consummation of the proposed transaction will qualify it as a Class III carrier and will not exceed \$5 million. ECTB also certifies that the agreements do not contain any provision that would limit ECTB's ability to interchange traffic with any third-party connecting carrier.

The transaction may be consummated on or after September 14, 2023, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than September 7, 2023 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

¹ ECTB notes that, mileposts notwithstanding, the distance between the terminal points of the lease has been calculated to be approximately 1,250 feet, which equates to 0.24 miles, not 0.3 miles.

² See *E. Chattanooga Belt Ry.—Acquis. & Operation Exemption—Norfolk S. Ry.*, FD 34024 (STB served Apr. 10, 2001).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36718, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on ECTB's representative, Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606-3268.

According to ECTB, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: August 28, 2023.

By the Board, Mai T. Dinh, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Kenyatta Clay,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2023-18861 Filed 8-30-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****[Docket No. FHWA-2023-0026]****Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for an information collection, which is summarized below under Supplementary Information. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by October 2, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number 0026 by any of the following methods:

Website: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Hand Delivery or Courier: U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Spencer Stevens, 202-366-6221, Office of Planning, Environment and Realty Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Planning and Research Program Administration

Background: Planning and Research Program Administration is covered under 23 CFR part 420. 23 CFR part 420 regulation includes administrative requirements and procedures for PL funds (23 U.S.C. 104(b)(5)) provided for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to carry out metropolitan planning, and SPR funds (provided under the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 505) for State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) to implement statewide transportation planning and research, development and technology (RD&T) work activities. Also, at a State DOT's option, other title 23 funds as identified in the definition of FHWA planning and research funds in 23 U.S.C. 505 and 23 CFR 420.103 may be used to perform planning activities. Different from this request, the information collection requirement for work performed by MPOs is a joint Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration requirement, and is covered under OMB Control Number 2132-0529.

In accordance with government-wide grant management procedures, a grant application must be submitted for these funds. In addition, recipients must submit periodic progress and financial reports. The content and frequency of submission of progress and financial reports specified in 23 CFR part 420 is as specified in 2 CFR 200 grant management regulations. With the implementation of 2 CFR 200, the focus will be more on using data to determine the grant's achievement outcomes and less on accountability compliance. FHWA and the State DOTs are called upon to identify clear performance goals, indicators and milestones for the grants.

This information collection supports the DOT's Strategic Objective of "Organizational Excellence" by providing an ongoing mechanism to review applications and approve Federal grants to States for their

transportation planning and research, development and technology work programs.

Respondents: Each State, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are required to provide information. The annual number of burden hours (professional and clerical staff) per respondent for preparation of work programs and progress and financial reports is estimated to be 720 (18 weeks × 40 hours per week). The total annual burden for all respondents is estimated to be 37,440 burden hours (720 burden hours per respondent times 52 respondents).

Frequency: This annual burden consists of staff time of each respondent for preparation of the work programs, and progress and financial reports. For those respondents that elect to use biennial work programs, the burden for preparation of work programs would be significantly less for the second year.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Professional staff time for preparation of work programs: 400 hours/respondent. Professional staff time for preparation of progress and financial reports: 120 hours/respondent. Clerical staff time: 200 hours/respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 720 hours/respondent × 52 respondents = 37,400 hours.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: August 28, 2023.

Jazmyne Lewis,

Information Collection Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023-18838 Filed 8-30-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Limitation on Claims Against Proposed Public Transportation Project—Honolulu Rail Transit Project Modifications

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces final environmental actions taken by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding the Honolulu Rail Transit Project, City of Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii. The purpose of this notice is to publicly announce FTA's environmental decisions on the subject project, and to activate the limitation on any claims that may challenge these final environmental actions.

DATES: A claim seeking judicial review of FTA actions announced herein for the listed public transportation project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before January 29, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathryn Loster, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, (312) 705-1269, or Saadat Khan, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Environmental Programs, (202) 366-9647. FTA is located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that FTA has taken final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l) by issuing certain approvals for the public transportation project listed below. The actions on the project, as well as the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the documentation issued in connection with the project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in other documents in the FTA environmental project files for the project. Interested parties may contact either the project sponsor or the relevant FTA Regional Office for more information. Contact information for FTA's Regional Offices may be found at <https://www.transit.dot.gov>.

This notice applies to all FTA decisions on the listed project as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including, but not limited to, NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-4375), Section 4(f) requirements (49 U.S.C. 303), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108),

Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (42 U.S.C. 4601). This notice does not, however, alter or extend the limitation period for challenges of project decisions subject to previous notices published in the **Federal Register**. The project modifications and actions that are the subject of this notice follow:

Project name and location: Honolulu Rail Transit Project (Project), City of Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii. **Project Sponsor:** Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), Honolulu, Hawaii. **Project description:** The Project is a 20-mile, automated fixed-guideway rail system with 21 stations extending from East Kapolei to Ala Moana Transit. The Project is separated into three phases, two of which have been constructed. FTA issued the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation in June 2010, and a Record of Decision (ROD) in January 2011. Subsequent to the original ROD, FTA issued the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS)/Section 4(f) Evaluation and amended ROD in September 2013. FTA also published a notice of limitation on claims against the Project on November 1, 2013, per 23 U.S.C. 139(l). Since then, FTA has completed a re-evaluation of the Project to address changes that have been proposed by HART resulting from design modifications (e.g., reducing the number of stations to 19), temporary reduction in the length of the Project from 20 miles to 18.9 miles, and stakeholder coordination. This notice only applies to the discrete actions taken by FTA under the re-evaluation described below.

Final agency actions: FTA determined as the result of the re-evaluation that neither a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement nor a Supplemental Environmental Assessment is necessary, and the 2011 ROD, and September 2013 FSEIS and amended ROD remain valid.

Supporting documentation: Environmental Re-evaluation concerning the Project modifications dated August 24, 2023. All supporting documentation can be viewed and downloaded from: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/environmental-programs/environmental-decision-documents>.