

Retaliation against a USDOT employee or applicant for making a protected disclosure is prohibited (5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(8)). If you believe you are a victim of whistleblower retaliation, you may file a written complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 218, Washington, DC 202-036-4505 using Form OSC-11. Alternatively, you may file online through the OSC Web site at <http://www.osc.gov>.

Disciplinary Actions

Under existing laws, USDOT retains the right, where appropriate, to discipline a USDOT employee who engages in conduct that is inconsistent with Federal Antidiscrimination and Whistleblower Protection laws up to and including removal from Federal service. If OSC initiates an investigation under 5 U.S.C. 1214 according to 5 U.S.C. 1214(f), USDOT must seek approval from the Special Counsel to discipline employees for, among other activities, engaging in prohibited retaliation. Nothing in the No FEAR Act alters existing laws, or permits an agency to take unfounded disciplinary action against a USDOT employee, or to violate the procedural rights of a USDOT employee accused of discrimination.

Additional Information

For more information regarding the No FEAR Act regulations, refer to 5 CFR part 724, as well as the appropriate office(s) within your agency (e.g., EEO/civil rights offices, human resources offices, or legal offices). You can find additional information regarding Federal antidiscrimination, whistleblower protection, and retaliation laws at the EEOC Web site at <http://www.eeoc.gov> and the OSC Web site at <http://www.osc.gov>.

Existing Rights Unchanged

Pursuant to section 205 of the No FEAR Act, neither the Act nor this notice creates, expands, or reduces any rights otherwise available to any employee, former employee, or applicant under the laws of the United States, including the provisions of law specified in 5 U.S.C. 2302(d).

Date Issued: August 30, 2011.

Camille Hazeur,

*Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights,
United States Department of Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 2011-22802 Filed 9-6-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2011-0085]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Notice of request for approval of a new information collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for approval of a new information collection.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of a new information collection that 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 November 7, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number 2011-0085 by any of the following methods:

Web Site: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <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.

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: Lori Fields, 850-553-2204, Florida Field Office, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 545 John Knox Road Suite 200, Tallahassee, FL 32310, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FHWA Exceptional Partnership Workshop Climate Survey.

Type of request: New information collection requirement.

Background: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) values the long-standing relationship it shares with the State Departments of Transportation (DOT) throughout the country. These relationships provide significant and

considerable benefits to citizens of the respective States in the form of a world-class transportation system. There have been substantial changes to our business including funding, the workforce, State and National policy dynamics and the systems used to deliver products and services to the public. What has not changed is the compelling need for a strong and enduring partnership between the FHWA and the State DOTs to ensure the safety and integrity of our highways and bridges.

The FHWA has initiated a series of workshops entitled "Exceptional Partnerships" that are designed to assist its Division Administrators to create and sustain "exceptional" partnerships with their State DOTs. As part of these workshops, the FHWA proposes to use a short pre-workshop climate survey to assess the partnership of FHWA Division Administrators and their counterparts at State DOTs, the result of which will be used in the design and delivery of these workshops. The purpose of the short climate survey is to determine: (1) The perspective of the State DOT partners regarding the effectiveness of the partnerships with FHWA Divisions, (2) the factors that contribute to successful relationships, (3) the successes of and challenges to these partnerships, and (4) recommendations for improvements.

FHWA will hire independent contractors to conduct informal phone interviews, approximately thirty minutes in length, with the State DOT counterpart to the participating FHWA's Division Administrators. The contractor will manage the documentation of interview notes. Individual responses will be held in strict confidence. A summary of aggregate data will be provided to the Workshop Design Team to assist in the preparation of workshop content and materials. Quantitative and qualitative data will be gathered and analyzed to show averages, ranges, and trends. A general report of findings will be shared with participants in the workshop, but no specific answers will be shared.

Respondents: 42 State DOT's Chief Executive Officers (8 participants were interviewed previously).

Frequency: 14 respondents will be interviewed annually for three years. This is a one-time collection.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: It will take approximately 30 minutes per participant.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: Approximately 7 hours annually (21 hours total over 3 years).

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1)

Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the U.S. DOT's performance, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the U.S. DOT's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (3) ways 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 30, 2011.

Judith Kane,

Acting Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 2011-22670 Filed 9-6-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on Proposed Highway in Washington

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of limitation on claims for judicial review of actions of FHWA.

SUMMARY: This notice announces actions taken by the FHWA and other Federal agencies that are found within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). These actions relate to a proposed highway project, State Route (SR) 520, Interstate 5 (I-5) to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV project in King County, Washington. These actions grant approval of the project.

DATES: By this notice, the FHWA is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before March 5, 2012. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 180 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randolph Everett, Major Projects Oversight Manager, Federal Highway Administration, Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd Avenue, Room 3142, Seattle, Washington 98174; Telephone 206-202-7538; and e-mail

randolph.everett@fhwa.gov. Regular office hours for the FHWA Washington Division Oversight Manager are between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time). You may also contact Allison Hanson, Director of Environmental Services—Mega Projects, SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program Office, 600 Stewart Street, Suite 520, Seattle, Washington 98101; *telephone:* 206-805-2880; and *e-mail:* *hanson@wsdot.wa.gov*. The SR 520 Program regular office hours are between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the FHWA has taken final agency actions by issuing approval for the following highway project: the SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project. The project proposes to improve safety and mobility for people and goods across Lake Washington by replacing the SR 520 Portage Bay and Evergreen Point bridges and improve existing roadway between Interstate 5 (I-5) in Seattle and Evergreen Point Road in Medina spanning 5.2 miles. The Selected Alternative for the I-5 to Medina corridor will add continuous HOV lanes and include landscaped lids over SR 520 to reconnect neighborhoods that are currently separated by the highway. The FHWA project numbers are BR-520(49) and BR-520(50).

The actions by the FHWA on this project, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the August 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), January 2010 Supplemental Draft EIS, the June 2011 Final EIS, and the July 2011 Record of Decision (ROD), and in other documents in the FHWA administrative record for the project. The Draft EIS, the Supplemental Draft EIS, the Final EIS, the ROD, and other documents supporting the decision are available by contacting the FHWA or the Washington State Department of Transportation at the addresses provided above.

The Draft EIS, the Supplemental Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and the ROD can be viewed and downloaded from the project Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/EIS.htm> or viewed at local libraries within the project area.

This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions on the project as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to:

1. *General:* National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321-4347]; Federal-Aid Highway Act [23 U.S.C. 109].

2. *Air:* Clean Air Act, as amended [42 U.S.C. 7401-7671(q)].

3. *Land:* Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 [16 U.S.C. 4601]; Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 [49 U.S.C. 303].

4. *Wildlife:* Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531-1544]; Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1536]; Anadromous Fish Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 757(a-757(g))]; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act [16 U.S.C. 661-667(d)]; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*].

5. *Historic and Cultural Resources:* Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended [16 U.S.C. 470(f) *et seq.*]; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 469-469(c)].

6. *Wetlands and Water Resources:* Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1536]; Clean Water Act, (Section 319 [33 U.S.C. 329]); Safe Drinking Water Act [42 U.S.C. 300(f)-300(j)(6)].

7. *Navigation:* Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 [33 U.S.C. 403]; General Bridge Act of 1946 [33 U.S.C. 9 and 11].

8. *Executive Orders:* E.O. 11990 Protection of Wetlands. 11988 Floodplain Management; E.O. 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations; E.O. 11953 Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Resources; E.O. 13007 Indian Sacred Sites; E.O. 13287 Preserve America; E.O. 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; E.O. 11514 Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality; E.O. 13112 Invasive Species.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

Issued on: August 30, 2011.

Daniel M. Mathis,

Division Administrator, Olympia, Washington.

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