

or interested parties may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2013.

Robert C. Lauby,

*Deputy Associate Administrator for
Regulatory and Legislative Operations.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-1999-5102]

Petition for Extension of Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated February 1, 2012, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 213, Track Safety Standards. The docket number associated with this petition is FRA-1999-5102.

Specifically, SEPTA seeks to extend a waiver from 49 CFR 213.233(c), relating to the frequency of the required visual track inspections. FRA issued the initial waiver that granted SEPTA relief on July 24, 2000, and FRA extended the waiver on August 4, 2003, and February 28, 2008.

SEPTA requests an extension of approval to reduce the frequency of required, visual track inspections for certain tracks that carry passenger traffic, specifically only those tracks that are constructed with continuous welded rail. SEPTA proposes to conduct one visual track inspection per week, instead of the two inspections per week that are required in 49 CFR part 213, and to supplement its visual inspections with the operation of an automated track geometry measuring vehicle over the affected main tracks and sidings four times per year. SEPTA has owned and operated such a measuring vehicle since 1990.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations

Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comments, they should notify FRA in writing before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202-493-2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Federal Holidays.

Communications received by April 11, 2013 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). See <http://www.regulations.gov/#/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov or interested parties may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

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Robert C. Lauby,

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2009-0077]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, this document provides the public notice that by a document dated December 5, 2011, the Central California Traction Company (CCT) and the United Transportation Union (UTU) have jointly petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for an extension of their waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal hours of service laws contained at 49 U.S.C. 21103(a)(4). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2009-0077.

In their petition, CCT and UTU seek relief from 49 U.S.C. 21103(a)(4), which, in part, requires a train employee to receive 48 hours off duty after initiating an on-duty period for 6 consecutive days. Specifically, CCT and UTU seek an extension of the existing waiver to allow a train employee to initiate an on-duty period for 6 consecutive days followed by 24 hours off duty. In support of their request, CCT explained that the waiver allows for better flexibility and responsiveness to its customers, and that FRA inspectors monitoring CCT's operations have found no violations of the regulations. CCT also stated that this type of schedule has not compromised rail safety.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

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Communications received by April 11, 2013 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). See <http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov or interested parties may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

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Robert C. Lauby,

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-1999-6254]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated December 21, 2012, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-1999-6254.

VTA's 42.2-mile light rail transit (LRT) system began service in December 1987. The initial 9-mile segment from Santa Clara through downtown San Jose, CA, was completed in June 1988. By April 1991, VTA had extended its service to a 20.8-mile LRT system with 33 stations and 11 park-and-ride lots.

In December 1999, VTA began operations on its 7.6-mile Tasman West Extension, which connects Mountain View, CA, with VTA's existing light rail line. The Tasman East Extension followed in two phases. Phase I, which provides LRT service from VTA's Baypointe Transfer Station to its I-880/Milpitas Station, was completed in May 2001. Phase II, which provides LRT service from VTA's I-880/Milpitas Station to its Hostetter Station, was completed in June 2004, in conjunction with the Capitol Light Rail Extension south of Hostetter Station to Alum Rock Station. On October 1, 2005, VTA's Vasona Extension—which runs from downtown San Jose, CA, to the Winchester Transit Center—began service.

The Vasona Extension is an LRT line that features “limited connections” to the general railroad system of transportation due to a shared corridor of operation with Union Pacific Railroad (UP). Specifically, the Vasona Extension includes 5 miles of an existing 15-mile long freight railroad industrial lead that is serviced by UP. VTA owns the 5-mile section of track along the shared corridor with UP. VTA and UP maintain an Operations and Maintenance Agreement (Agreement), which includes an exclusive operating easement for UP. The Agreement allows UP to fulfill its common carrier obligation to operate freight service along the shared corridor. This Agreement also requires VTA to inspect, maintain, and repair all track, signal systems, and automatic warning devices along the shared corridor. UP's freight operations are minimal and limited to daylight hours, with a maximum authorized speed of 10 mph.

By letter dated September 26, 2005, FRA granted VTA partial relief from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations for VTA's operations on the Vasona Extension. In a July 11, 2011, letter, VTA requested that FRA extend the terms and conditions of the waivers for another 5 years. FRA's subsequent reply letter, dated November 16, 2011, denied the requested 5-year extension, citing “certain instances of noncompliance by [VTA] with applicable FRA safety regulations.” Instead, FRA granted VTA an 18-month extension of the waivers, with the possibility of a further extension, subject to VTA addressing FRA's safety concerns.

In a December 21, 2012, letter, VTA requested that FRA extend the terms and conditions of the subject waivers for another 5 years. VTA states that it has worked diligently to address the issues raised by FRA in its November 16, 2011, reply letter. Since 2011, VTA has

written to and met with FRA officials to clarify specific areas of concern, as well as to obtain guidance on complying with the applicable FRA regulations. VTA maintains that as a result of the discussions with FRA, it has implemented a number of changes to address FRA's concerns and to achieve full regulatory compliance. VTA therefore believes that it is appropriate to request, and for FRA to grant, a 5-year extension of the waivers.

VTA also falls under the safety oversight of the California Public Utilities Commission, which is authorized by the Federal Transit Administration. See *Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Jurisdiction Over the Safety of Railroad Passenger Operations and Waivers Related to Shared Use of the Tracks of the General Railroad System by Light Rail and Conventional Equipment*, 65 FR 42529 (July 10, 2000). See also *Joint Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Shared Use of the Tracks of the General Railroad System by Conventional Railroads and Light Rail Transit Systems*, 65 FR 42626 (July 10, 2000).

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

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