

the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB renewal of this information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul Scott, Office Engineering, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, HNG-10, Room 3134, 400 7th St., S.W. Washington, DC 20590-0001, telephone (202) 366-4104. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., E.T., Monday thru Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Develop and Submit Utility Accommodation Policies.

OMB Number: 2125-0514.

Background: The FHWA has elected to fulfill its statutory obligations regarding utility accommodation by requiring the State highway agencies to develop and submit to FHWA a policy statement on the authority of utilities to use and occupy highway rights-of-way; the State's authority to regulate such use; and the policies and/or procedures employed for accommodating utilities within the rights-of-way of Federal-aid highway projects. Upon approval of the policy statement, the State highway agency may take any action required in accordance with the approved policy statement without case-by-case review by the FHWA. Utility accommodation policy statements have previously been approved by the FHWA for all the 50 State highway agencies and the highway agencies of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Even so, these policy statements must periodically be reviewed to see if updating is necessary, and must periodically be updated to reflect policy changes.

Respondents: State Highway Agencies.

Average Burden Per Response: The average burden for updating an existing policy is 280 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden, based upon 10 updates per year, is 2,800 hours.

Frequency: The existing frequency is an initial submission of a utility accommodation policy. Once this is approved, updating is at a State's discretion. The FHWA recommends the State highway agencies periodically review their policies to see if updating is necessary but no specific frequency is mandated.

Authority: 23 U. S. C. 116, 109(l) and 315.

Issued on: March 19, 1998.

George S. Moore,

Associate Administrator for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[FHWA Docket No. 98-3607]

Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; Eligibility Statement for Utility Adjustments

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement in section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the FHWA to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew the information collection that requires a State or local highway agency to furnish a statement to the FHWA establishing its authority to pay for utility adjustments on Federal-aid projects.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All signed, written comments should refer to the docket number that appears in the heading of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard/envelope. Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including, but not limited to: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FHWA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB renewal of this information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul Scott, Office Engineering, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, HNG-10, Room 3134, 400 7th St., S.W. Washington, DC 20590-0001, telephone (202) 366-4104. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., E.T., Monday thru Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Eligibility Statement for Utility Adjustments.

OMB Number: 2125-0515.

Background: The FHWA requires State (and in some cases local) highway agencies to submit to the FHWA a statement which establishes the highway agency's legal authority or obligation to pay for utility adjustments. The FHWA reviews this statement for acceptability. If the statement is found to be suitable, it then forms a basis for Federal-aid participation in utility relocation costs under the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 123. The State highway agencies have previously submitted statements covering the extent to which utility adjustments may be legally reimbursed under State law. These statements have previously been reviewed by the FHWA and a determination of suitability has been made. Hence, the only submissions required now would be for those instances where circumstances have modified (for example, a change in State statute) the extent to which utility adjustments are eligible for reimbursement by the State or those instances where a local highway agency's legal basis for payment of utility adjustments differs from that of the State.

Respondents: State highway agencies and local highway agencies.

Average Burden Per Response: The average burden for preparing and submitting an eligibility statement is 36 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden, based upon 5 submissions of eligibility statements per year, is 180 hours.

Frequency: The existing frequency is an initial submission of an eligibility statement by the highway agency. Once this is accepted by the FHWA, no further submissions are made unless circumstances change, such as enactment of a new statute. This is a relatively infrequent occurrence.

Authority: 23 U. S. C. 123.

Issued on: March 19, 1998.

George S. Moore,

Associate Administrator for Administration.

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