

Affected Public: Employees of private firms from which FHWA procures products and services.

Abstract: The mission of the FHWA's Office of Budget and Finance is the administration of fiscal programs to ensure an effective budget process and proper utilization and accounting for agency resources. In addition, the office works to improve the financial management practices of State Highway Agencies. Some of these functions include: (1) The planning, coordination, and administration of FHWA programs, as they relate to the budget process; (2) the allocation and administration of fiscal and ceiling control aspects of personnel resources within employment ceilings, fiscal limitations, and other established criteria; (3) the administration of a nationwide highway project reporting system; and (4) the administration of a system of accounting for agency resources and programs. A survey of FHWA's vendors to be selected at random will provide feedback to help focus on accounting operations and organization toward a customer service/ satisfaction-oriented way of doing business. The information will be collected on a standardized questionnaire via mail. Respondents will be advised of the purpose for the survey and the confidentiality of their responses by an accompanying letter. The questionnaire will request respondents if their telephone calls are answered in a timely manner; if their inquiries receive timely responses; if their invoices are paid in a timely fashion; and if the members of the finance staff are accessible, professional, and courteous in providing assistance and resolving payment issues. The sample size of respondents will be approximately 200. The results of the surveys will be analyzed and presented in a report to management. This report will be used for ongoing improvements to FHWA's payment process.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 33.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be

collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 6, 1998.

Vanester M. Williams,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[CGD08-98-069]

Public Hearing; CSX Railroad Bridge across the Mobile River, Mile 13.3, at Hurricane, Alabama

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will hold a public hearing on whether the CSX Railroad Bridge across the Mobile River at Hurricane, Alabama, is an unreasonable obstruction to navigation which should be altered. The Coast Guard has received complaints that the bridge is unreasonably obstructive to navigation. The hearing will allow interested parties to present comments and information concerning the bridge.

DATES: The hearing will start at 10 a.m. on December 7, 1998. Comments must be received by December 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held in the Killian Auditorium at the International Trade Center, 250 North Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602. Written comments may be submitted to, and will be available for examination from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the office of the Director, Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2398.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger Wiebusch, Director, Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch, telephone (314) 539-3900 ext. 378.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Coast Guard has received complaints alleging that the CSX Railroad Bridge is unreasonably obstructive to navigation. The preliminary Coast Guard investigation indicates there were 73 marine

collisions with the bridge between 1986 and 1997. These collisions have caused moderate to heavy damage to the bridge. In addition, the restrictive navigation channel of the bridge caused delays to the passage of waterway traffic. Based on this information, the bridge appears to be a hazard to navigation and many require increasing the horizontal clearance on the bridge to meet the needs of navigation.

Procedural

Any person who wishes may appear and speak or present evidence at this public hearing. Persons planning to speak at the hearing should notify the Director, Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch at the location listed under ADDRESSES or the telephone number listed in FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT any time prior to the hearing indicating the amount of time required. Depending upon the number of scheduled statements, the Coast Guard may limit the amount of time allocated to each person. Any time limitations will be announced at the beginning of the hearing.

Written statements and exhibits may be submitted in place of, or in addition to, oral statements and will be made a part of the hearing record. Written statements and exhibits may be delivered at the hearing or mailed in advance to the Director, Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch. Transcripts of the hearing will be made available for purchase upon request.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information about facilities or services for individuals with disabilities, or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the Director, Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch at the number under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT as soon as possible.

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 513; 49 CFR 1.46.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

Paul J. Pluta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Financial Responsibility Advisory Material

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, Associate