

<https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/privacy-act-system-records-notices>, the comments are searchable by the name of the submitter.

II. Background

On May 1, 2023, FMCSA published a notice announcing its decision to renew exemptions for seven individuals from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(8) to operate a CMV in interstate commerce and requested comments from the public (88 FR 34916). The public comment period ended on June 30, 2023, and no comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of these applicants and determined that renewing these exemptions would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by complying with § 391.41(b)(8).

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding epilepsy found in § 391.41(b)(8) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause the loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV.

In addition to the regulations, FMCSA has published advisory criteria¹ to assist medical examiners in determining whether drivers with certain medical conditions are qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce.

III. Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received no comments in this proceeding.

IV. Conclusion

Based on its evaluation of the seven renewal exemption applications and comments received, FMCSA announces its decision to exempt the following drivers from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition in § 391.41(b)(8).

As of June 10, 2023, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following seven individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (88 FR 34916):

John D. Archer (MO)
 Brian Brown (PA)
 Marvin Fender (CO)
 Daniel Gast (KS)
 Denton Hineline (WA)

¹ These criteria may be found in Appendix A to Part 391—Medical Advisory Criteria, section H. *Epilepsy*: § 391.41(b)(8), paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, which is available on the internet at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title49-vol5/pdf/CFR-2015-title49-vol5-part391-appA.pdf>.

Steve Hunsaker (ID)
 Bryan R Jones (PA)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA–2010–0203, FMCSA–2011–0089, FMCSA–2014–0213, FMCSA–2015–0115, FMCSA–2016–0007, FMCSA–2018–0057, or FMCSA–2019–0027. Their exemptions were applicable as of June 10, 2023 and will expire on June 10, 2025.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), each exemption will be valid for 2 years from the effective date unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if the following occurs: (1) the person fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained prior to being granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b).

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2023–14722 Filed 7–11–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[Docket No. FTA–2023–0009]

Grant Programs for Urbanized Areas: Program Guidance and Application Instructions, Proposed Circular

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed circular and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is seeking public comment on a new, consolidated circular entitled, “Grant Programs for Urbanized Areas: Program Guidance and Application Instructions” which consolidates and replaces the circulars for the Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program, the State of Good Repair Grants Program, and the Urbanized Area formula component of the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. The update and consolidation of the circulars incorporate provisions from the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL); the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal awards to non-Federal entities;

and current FTA policies and procedures.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by September 11, 2023. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments by only one of the following methods, identifying your submission by docket number FTA–2023–0009. All electronic submissions must be made to the U.S. Government electronic site at <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

(1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

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

(3) *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

(4) *Fax:* 202–493–2251.

Instructions: You must include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and Docket number (FTA–2023–0009) for this notice at the beginning of your comments. Submit two copies of your comments if you submit them by mail. For confirmation that FTA received your comments, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov/> including any personal information provided and will be available to internet users. For information on DOT’s compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents and comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> at any time or to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For program questions, Latrina Trotman, Office of Program Management, Federal Transit Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room E46–301, Washington, DC 20590, phone: (202) 366–2328, or email, Latrina.Trotman@dot.gov. For legal questions, Jerry Stenquist, Office of Chief Counsel, same address, Room E56–314, phone: (202)

493–8020, or email, Jerry.Stenquist@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Overview

The Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) proposed circular titled, “Grant Programs for Urbanized Areas: Program Guidance and Application Instructions” is a consolidation of guidance for the administration and preparation of grant applications for the Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program under 49 U.S.C. 5307 (FTA Circular C 9030.1), State of Good Repair Grants Program under 49 U.S.C. 5337 (FTA Circular C 5300.1), and the Urbanized Area component of the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program under 49 U.S.C. 5339(a) (FTA Circular C 5100.1). Additionally, this circular incorporates provisions of the FAST Act (Pub. L. 114–94) and BIL (Pub. L. 117–58) and includes program-specific guidance for these formula programs. Additional requirements for all grant programs are identified in FTA’s Award Management Requirements Circular C 5010.1. The proposed circular is posted on <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket FTA–2023–0009.

The proposed circular consolidates and summarizes programmatic information, streamlines pre-existing guidance from the three program circulars, and reduces duplication of information provided between the Urbanized Area Formula Programs circular and FTA’s other topic-specific circulars, including by moving certain text applicable to most or all of FTA’s grant programs to FTA’s Award Management Requirements Circular C 5010.1. Furthermore, the proposed circular clarifies a number of policy issues as interpreted and applied by FTA. These clarifications address topics in the existing program circulars, including: reallocations or transfers of apportionments; consolidation of grants to insular areas; intermodal use of formula funds; eligible projects and activities for each formula program; operating assistance limitations and

exceptions; capital cost of contracting; the role of transportation network companies in providing public transportation services; period of availability to obligate funds flexed to the FTA formula programs from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); planning requirements; pre-award authority; and requirements pertaining to fares charged to seniors and persons with disabilities.

II. Chapter-by-Chapter Analysis

A. Chapter I—Introduction and Background

Due to the consolidation of the three program circulars, definitions and program descriptions were compared and revised for consistency with proposed updates to Circular C 5010.1E “Award Management Requirements,” Circular C 9040.1G “Formula Grants for Rural Areas,” and Circular C 9070.1G “Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities.” FTA proposes to amend the definitions section for consistency, clarification, and to reflect changes to statute and other authorities. Specifically, FTA has updated the following terms:

- “Capital Asset” is modified for consistency with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), and FTA’s Uniform System of Accounts.
- “Clean Fuel Bus” now recognizes other low or no emissions technologies besides full electric and hybrid electric buses.
- “Fleet Management Plan” is modified to explicitly clarify that the management plan includes an inventory of all rolling stock.
- “Mobility Management” is modified to explicitly exclude the operation of public transportation service as a mobility management activity, consistent with the definition in 49 U.S.C. 5302.
- “Rehabilitate” is expanded to include applicability to facilities and amended to clarify that not all rehabilitative activities must be a restoration to original condition to more accurately reflect the term’s broad usage in 49 U.S.C. 5337 and 5339.
- “Urbanized Area” is updated to reflect changes in designation by the Census Bureau, which no longer utilizes “Urbanized Area” but “Urban Area” (UZA), as defined by the Secretary of Commerce.
- “Useful Life” now applies to real property and other capital assets. Because useful life depends on depreciation and estimated time in use,

consideration of useful life changes according to the type of asset in question.

B. Chapter II—Programs Overview

FTA proposes several updates to its program guidance within Chapter II to reflect statutory and regulatory changes, including information disseminated by the Census Bureau. The proposed circular further addresses administrative procedure in apportioning and distributing funds, including the roles of designated recipients (DR), state recipients, subrecipients, and private contractors.

The proposed circular includes information related to private contractors such as transportation network companies (TNCs) and taxi service; these entities are not eligible subrecipients under sections 5307, 5337 and 5339(a) but may be contracted to perform public transit activities through eligible recipients for shared-ride on-demand service to the general public or to a segment of the public for certain eligible transit services.

C. Chapter III—General Program Information

The proposed circular contains several updates regarding the apportionment of program funds for Sections 5307, 5337, and 5339 to reflect statutory and regulatory changes. Specifically, the percentages of Section 5307 funds available for state safety oversight programs and small transit intensive cities have been amended. Furthermore, the proposed circular includes additional formula factors for apportionments for the Section 5307 and 5339 programs. Chapter III also clarifies and highlights recipients’ flexibility to reallocate or transfer apportionments, including consolidating formula program funds for use in insular areas. Lastly, the circular sets forth the circumstances in which certain human resources and training supportive services are eligible costs under 49 U.S.C. 5314(b)(4) to assist individuals in the enrollment and completion of workforce training, including child and dependent care, tools, work clothing, costs of apprenticeship, and required pre-employment training.

D. Chapter IV—Eligible Projects and Requirements

The proposed circular contains several changes to the programs’ eligibility and requirements to include additional flexibilities provided by law. Specifically, FTA proposes additional flexibility in financial assistance eligibility, namely that Section 5307

funds that are apportioned to a UZA based on service metrics for a variety of public transportation modes may be expended on eligible activities for other modes. Additionally, funds apportioned under 49 U.S.C. 5340 may be expended on the same activities that are eligible under Section 5307 for each recipient. FTA further clarifies that Section 5337 funds apportioned to a UZA based on the presence of high intensity motorbus may also be expended on high intensity fixed guideway projects. Lastly, the proposed circular explains that while funds are apportioned based on the presence of high intensity motorbus and high intensity fixed guideway segments in revenue service for at least seven years, the funds may be used on any part of a recipient's fixed guideway or high intensity motorbus system.

The proposed circular includes guidance on additional flexibility in program eligibility provided by the FAST Act and BIL, including additional eligibility for a recipient to use up to 20 percent of its annual Section 5307 apportionment at the capital project 80/20 Federal/local share ratio to pay for complementary paratransit services, providing for innovative procurement tools for acquiring rolling stock, accounting for the expansion of transit facilities to accommodate clean fuel vehicles, and providing funding for programs addressing public transportation human resource needs.

The proposed circular reemphasizes procedural safeguards in accounting for the capital cost of contracting to prevent recipients from utilizing this method for publicly funded assets and thus receiving reimbursement for the asset from two or more public sources and potentially resulting in overlapping federal interests. The capital cost of contracting language is also modified to clarify the exclusion of Section 5337 and 5339(a) funds from use toward capital cost of contracting except for what is specifically eligible under both programs (*e.g.*, leasing of vehicles, equipment, and facilities for Sections 5337 and 5339, and maintenance for Section 5337).

FTA also proposes updating language to account for multiple modifications to the special operations rule for large UZAs due to statutory changes, including applicability of vehicles in demand-response service and an exception to the special rule that allows up to a ten percent greater operating assistance cap for recipients. In addition, FTA updated the list of operating expenses eligible for FTA operating assistance, including public transportation security operating assistance projects. The proposed

circular also modifies the list of eligible activities for Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) projects.

E. Chapter V—Planning & Project Development

The proposed circular amends various provisions regarding planning and project development, including clarifications of how transportation improvement programs and statewide transportation improvement programs should address projects outside of UZAs but within the metropolitan planning area. The circular explicitly identifies MPOs as the responsible party for the development and adoption of the metropolitan transportation plan and transportation improvement program, clarifying that each must cover a minimum twenty-year horizon and four-year horizon, respectively.

FTA proposes to remove language in the Section 5339 circular that restricts application for funds directly to designated recipients only on behalf of subrecipients, as section 3017 of the FAST Act authorized state and local government entities operating fixed route bus service to be direct recipients of FTA grants, regardless of their status as designated recipients.

The proposed section titled “Program of Projects and Public Participation Requirements” clarifies that recipients must submit the appropriate documentation demonstrating recipients complied with a local project selection process through an amendment to the relative Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The section also clarifies that recipients must provide FTA with documentation of their amendment of a Program of Projects, TIP, and STIP to reflect applicable changes when the recipient proposes an award modification deviating from an applicable Program of Projects, TIP, or STIP.

In the section titled, “Availability of FHWA Flexible Funds for Transit Projects,” FTA describes how recipients may flex funds from FHWA to FTA, which may only be used for activities eligible under both the transferring and receiving programs. Funds transferred to FTA must be administered under applicable FTA program requirements. This section includes a list of FHWA programs from which funds may be flexed for planning, capital, or operating projects, and has been updated to reflect changes in the law since the last circular update.

The proposed circular seeks to further reduce the administrative burden on recipients by consolidating reporting requirements, including allowing

information reporting on the spending toward associated transit improvements, required under 49 U.S.C. 5307(c)(1)(K), to be included within other federally-required reports.

Under “Public Transportation Security Projects,” the proposed circular notes that some security projects may also satisfy the separate requirement that each recipient in a UZA of 200,000 people or more use 0.75 percent of Section 5307 funds on safety projects.

In the section on “Transit Asset Management Requirements,” FTA updated its guidance to reflect changes in 49 U.S.C. 5326 and 49 CFR 625, including clarifying the relationship between transit asset management (TAM) plans and recipients' use of Section 5337 funds.

In the section titled “Public Transportation Safety Requirements,” the proposed circular contains updates reflecting statutory and regulatory updates, including 49 U.S.C. 5329 requirements for a National Public Transportation Safety Plan (49 CFR 670), requirements for Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Programs (49 CFR 672), requirements for Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (49 CFR 673), and requirements for State Safety Oversight Agencies (49 CFR 674).

The circular includes proposed language addressing pre-award authority, including providing automatic pre-award authority for certain types of capital expenses. The proposed circular also clarifies that recipients may incur capital expenses under pre-award authority for projects that clearly meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 23 CFR 771.118, though they do so at their own risk.

F. Chapter VI—Program Management and Administrative Requirements

FTA proposes updates to reflect statutory changes and to expand the explanation of various certifications required for the Urbanized Area Formula Grant Programs. Specifically, the proposed circular more comprehensively describes the requirement and circumstances under which Section 5307 recipients must charge seniors and persons with disabilities during nonpeak hours no more than half the peak fare.

G. Appendices

FTA proposes consolidating and revising various appendices within the three formula circulars as they are shown within the new proposed circular. As such, appendices have been relabeled, updated, or removed. For

example, the proposed “Appendix B: Preventive Maintenance (Section 5307 and 5337)” was previously Appendix E in the current Section 5307 circular (C 9030.1).

After a review and consideration of the comments provided on this proposed circular, FTA will publish the final circular on its website.

Nuria I. Fernandez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2023–14793 Filed 7–11–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2023–0141]

Coastwise Endorsement Eligibility Determination for a Foreign-Built Vessel: REEL TIME (Motor); Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to issue coastwise endorsement eligibility determinations for foreign-built vessels which will carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. A request for such a determination has been received by MARAD. By this notice, MARAD seeks comments from interested parties as to any effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. Information about the requestor’s vessel, including a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before August 11, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2023–0141 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD–2023–0141 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD–2023–0141, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Note: If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Hagerty, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23–461, Washington, DC 20590. Email: patricia.hagerty@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described in the application, the intended service of the vessel REEL TIME is:

—*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* “UNinspected Passenger Vessel Charter.”

—*Geographic Region Including Base of Operations:* “Oregon.” (Base of Operations: Newport, OR)

—*Vessel Length and Type:* 28’6” Motor Outboard

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD 2023–0141 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade to carry no more than 12 passengers will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, MARAD will not issue an approval of the vessel’s coastwise endorsement eligibility. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter’s interest in the application, and address the eligibility criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even

days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD–2023–0141 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit the information you claim to be confidential commercial information by email to SmallVessels@dot.gov. Include in the email subject heading “Contains Confidential Commercial Information” or “Contains CCI” and state in your submission, with specificity, the basis for any such confidential claim highlighting or denoting the CCI portions. If possible, please provide a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

In the event MARAD receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, procedures described in the Department’s FOIA regulation at 49 CFR 7.29 will be followed. Only information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under those procedures will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). For information on DOT’s compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)