

entity submitting the comments. Submissions that do not contain business confidential information should have a file name identifying the person or entity submitting the comments.

We emphasize that submitters are strongly encouraged to file comments through www.regulations.gov. You must make arrangements for any alternative method of submission with Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-9666 in advance of transmitting a comment. You can find general information about USTR at www.ustr.gov.

As noted, we will publish non-confidential versions of submissions in the docket for public inspection. You can view submissions on www.regulations.gov by entering the relevant docket number in the search field on the home page.

Jeffrey Gerrish,

*Deputy United States Trade Representative,
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 2020-01260 Filed 1-24-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290-F0-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Limited-Scope Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: City of Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Limited-Scope Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Limited-Scope Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the proposed Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway project in the City of Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Sikora, Environmental Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 87 State Street, Room 216, Montpelier, Vermont 05602. Telephone: (802) 828-4573.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the City of Burlington, will prepare a Limited-Scope Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Burlington Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway between Interstate 189 and Main Street in Burlington, Vermont.

The Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway project has a long history with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews dating back to the 1970's. The most recent NEPA document for the project was a Final Supplemental EIS approved by FHWA on September 22, 2009 and a Record of Decision (ROD) issued on January 13, 2010 identifying the Selected Alternative and the reasons for its selection. On October 11, 2019, the FHWA published a notice to rescind the ROD in order to re-evaluate the project's impacts to low-income and minority populations in accordance with 23 CFR 771.129. Based on the environmental re-evaluation, FHWA has determined that a Limited-Scope Supplemental EIS should be prepared for the project to address changes subsequent to 2010 in FHWA guidance and methodology for performing environmental justice analyses, updated demographic information contained in the latest available census data, and to provide additional opportunities for meaningful public involvement.

The Supplemental EIS will be limited in the scope of issues, and only assess impacts to low-income and minority populations. Based on the Executive Order 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, and FHWA's "Guidance on Environmental Justice and NEPA," it is FHWA's policy to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse effects of FHWA actions on the health or environment of low-income and minority populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. The Supplemental EIS review will also address a limited portion of the project along the Pine Street section of the Selected Alternative, between Maple Street and Main Street.

Public involvement is a critical component of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and Federal-aid highway project development process. A Draft Limited-Scope Supplemental EIS will be made available for review and comment by Federal and state resource agencies and the public. A public hearing will be held at an accessible location in Burlington at the time the document is made available. In addition to the public hearing, and as needed during the project's NEPA review, FHWA will work with VTrans and the City of Burlington to plan, organize and provide public involvement opportunities and project status updates through the project website, local media, and a project open house. Public notice will be given of the time and

place of public meetings and hearings through local newspapers and the project website at <http://champlainparkway.com/>. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time. Following approval of the Draft Limited-Scope Supplemental EIS, FHWA plans to issue a combined Final Limited-Scope Supplemental EIS/ROD.

(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.)

Issued on: January 16, 2020.

Matthew R. Hake,

Division Administrator, Montpelier, Vermont.

[FR Doc. 2020-01333 Filed 1-24-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0154; FMCSA-2012-0332; FMCSA-2013-0122; FMCSA-2013-0123]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Hearing

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of renewal of exemptions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to renew exemptions for 12 individuals from the hearing requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) for interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The exemptions enable these hard of hearing and deaf individuals to continue to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: The exemptions were applicable on January 14, 2020. The exemptions expire on January 14, 2022. Comments must be received on or before February 26, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0154, Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0332, Docket No. FMCSA-2013-0122, or Docket No. FMCSA-2013-0123 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Docket Operations; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building

Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the "Public Participation" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, 202-366-4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Operations, (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0154, FMCSA-2012-0332, FMCSA-2013-0122, or FMCSA-2013-0123), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, put the docket number, FMCSA-2012-0154, FMCSA-2012-0332, FMCSA-2013-0122, or FMCSA-2013-0123, in the keyword box, and click "Search." When the new screen appears, click on the "Comment Now!" button and type your comment into the text box on the following screen. Choose whether you are submitting your comment as an individual or on behalf of a third party and then submit.

If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to

know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

B. Viewing Documents and Comments

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Insert the docket number, FMCSA-2012-0154, FMCSA-2012-0332, FMCSA-2013-0122, or FMCSA-2013-0123, in the keyword box, and click "Search." Next, click the "Open Docket Folder" button and choose the document to review. If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting the Docket Operations in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

C. Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.transportation.gov/privacy.

II. Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA may grant an exemption from the FMCSRs for no longer than a 5-year period if it finds such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption. The statute also allows the Agency to renew exemptions at the end of the 5-year period. FMCSA grants medical exemptions from the FMCSRs for a 2-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver's medical certification.

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding hearing found in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(11) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person first perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear at not less than 5 feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing aid when the audiometric device is calibrated to

American National Standard (formerly ASA Standard) Z24.5-1951.

This standard was adopted in 1970 and was revised in 1971 to allow drivers to be qualified under this standard while wearing a hearing aid, 35 FR 6458, 6463 (April 22, 1970) and 36 FR 12857 (July 3, 1971).

The 12 individuals listed in this notice have requested renewal of their exemptions from the hearing standard in § 391.41(b)(11), in accordance with FMCSA procedures. Accordingly, FMCSA has evaluated these applications for renewal on their merits and decided to extend each exemption for a renewable 2-year period.

III. Request for Comments

Interested parties or organizations possessing information that would otherwise show that any, or all, of these drivers are not currently achieving the statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any adverse evidence submitted and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

IV. Basis for Renewing Exemptions

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), each of the 12 applicants has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement. The 12 drivers in this notice remain in good standing with the Agency. In addition, for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders, the Commercial Driver's License Information System and the Motor Carrier Management Information System are searched for crash and violation data. For non-CDL holders, the Agency reviews the driving records from the State Driver's Licensing Agency. These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver's ability to continue to safely operate a CMV in interstate commerce. Therefore, FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each of these drivers for a period of 2 years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

As of January 14, 2020, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following 12 individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers:

Geoffrey Canoyer (MN)
Chase Cook (VA)
Jerry Ferguson (TX)

Douglas Gray (OR)
Sue Gregory (UT)
Buford Hudson (KY)
William Larson (NC)
Raymond Norris (TX)
Jonathan Pitts (MD)
James Queen (FL)
James Schubert (CA)
Morris Townsend (NC)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA–2012–0154, FMCSA–2012–0332, FMCSA–2013–0122, or FMCSA–2013–0123. Their exemptions are applicable as of January 14, 2020, and will expire on January 14, 2022.

V. Conditions and Requirements

The exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) Each driver must report any crashes or accidents as defined in § 390.5; and (2) report all citations and convictions for disqualifying offenses under 49 CFR 383 and 49 CFR 391 to FMCSA; and (3) each driver prohibited from operating a motorcoach or bus with passengers in interstate commerce. The driver must also have a copy of the exemption when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. In addition, the exemption does not exempt the individual from meeting the applicable CDL testing requirements. Each exemption will be valid for 2 years unless rescinded earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be rescinded if: (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 before it was 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).

VI. Preemption

During the period the exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with this exemption with respect to a person operating under the exemption.

VII. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 12 exemption applications, FMCSA renews the exemptions of the aforementioned drivers from the hearing requirement in § 391.41 (b)(11). In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), each exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA.

Issued on: January 17, 2020.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2020–01272 Filed 1–24–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2013–0107; FMCSA–2015–0119; FMCSA 2015–0320]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of renewal of exemptions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to renew exemptions for seven individuals from the requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) that interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers have “no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV.” The exemptions enable these individuals who have had one or more seizures and are taking anti-seizure medication to continue to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: The exemptions were applicable on January 21, 2020. The exemptions expire on January 21, 2022. Comments must be received on or before February 26, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket No. FMCSA–2013–0107; Docket No. FMCSA–2015–0119; Docket No. FMCSA–2015–0320 using any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2013-0107>, <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2015-0119> or <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2015-0320>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** Docket Operations; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

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