

activities associated with each TIFIA credit instrument. The current fee, adjusted annually per the Consumer Price Index, is \$11,500 per year.

Finally, the TIFIA credit agreements will allow the TIFIA JPO to charge, as incurred, a monitoring fee equal to its costs of outside advisory services required to assist the TIFIA JPO in modifying or enforcing the agreement.

Applicants may not include any of the fees described above—or any expenses associated with the application process (such as charges associated with obtaining the required preliminary rating opinion letter)—among eligible project costs for the purpose of calculating the maximum 33 percent credit amount.

VIII. Selection Criteria

The eight TIFIA selection criteria are described in statute at 23 U.S.C. 602(b) and assigned relative weights via regulation at 49 CFR 80.15. The criteria are restated below with (where appropriate) language indicating how the DOT will interpret them. The DOT will give priority to projects that have a significant impact on desirable long-term outcomes for the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

Listed in order of relative weight, the TIFIA selection criteria are as follows:

(i) The extent to which the project is nationally or regionally significant, in terms of generating economic benefits, supporting international commerce, or otherwise enhancing the national transportation system. This includes consideration of livability: Providing transportation options that are linked with housing and commercial development to improve the economic opportunities and quality of life for people in communities across the U.S.; economic competitiveness: Contributing to the economic competitiveness of the U.S. by improving the long-term efficiency and reliability in the movement of people and goods; and safety: Improving the safety of U.S. transportation facilities and systems and the communities and populations they impact. Relative weight: 20 percent.

(ii) The extent to which TIFIA assistance would foster innovative public-private partnerships and attract private debt or equity investment. Relative weight: 20 percent.

(iii) The extent to which the project helps maintain or protect the environment. This includes sustainability: Improving energy efficiency, reducing dependence on oil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing other transportation-related impacts on ecosystems; and the state of good repair: Improving the condition of

existing transportation facilities and systems, with particular emphasis on projects that minimize lifecycle costs and use environmentally sustainable practices and materials. Relative weight: 20 Percent.

(iv) The creditworthiness of the project, including a determination by the Secretary of Transportation that any financing for the project has appropriate security features to ensure repayment. Relative weight: 12.5 Percent.

(v) The likelihood that TIFIA assistance would enable the project to proceed at an earlier date than the project would otherwise be able to proceed. Relative weight: 12.5 Percent.

(vi) The extent to which the project uses new technologies, including intelligent transportation systems, to enhance the efficiency of the project. Relative weight: 5 Percent.

(vii) The amount of budget authority required to fund the Federal credit instrument made available under TIFIA. Relative weight: 5 Percent.

(viii) The extent to which TIFIA assistance would reduce the contribution of Federal grant assistance to the project. Relative weight: 5 Percent.

Note that, when evaluating the Letters of Interest, the information needed to address criterion (iv), creditworthiness, and criterion (vii), budget authority, is unlikely to be available in sufficient detail. Therefore, the DOT will not employ these two criteria when reviewing the Letters of Interest. However, DOT will consider these criteria when reviewing project applications.

IX. Program Funding

The SAFETEA-LU authorized \$122 million annually from the Highway Trust Fund for fiscal years 2005–2009 in TIFIA budget authority to pay the subsidy cost of credit assistance. As of the publication date of this notice, extensions of the surface transportation reauthorization act have been enacted continuing highway programs that were authorized through fiscal year 2009, and the expectation is that Congress will reauthorize an equivalent amount of budget authority for the TIFIA program in the future. Any budget authority not obligated in the fiscal year for which it is authorized remains available for obligation in subsequent years. The TIFIA budget authority is subject to an annual obligation limitation that may be established in appropriations law. Like all funds subject to the annual Federal-aid obligation ceiling, the amount of TIFIA budget authority available in a given year may be less than the amount authorized for that fiscal year.

Consistent with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 and the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget, the subsidy cost of a loan is affected by recovery assumptions, allowance for defaults, the borrower's interest rate, and fees. The factors that most heavily influence the subsidy cost of a TIFIA loan fall into the recoveries category (for example, the repayment pledge and whether the debt is senior or subordinate) and the allowance for defaults category (including the credit rating on the debt and the degree of back-loading). The borrower's interest rate will also affect the subsidy cost of the TIFIA loan. The final subsidy cost estimate is expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the credit assistance.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 601–609; 49 CFR 1.48(b)(6); 23 CFR Part 180; 49 CFR Part 80; 49 CFR Part 261; 49 CFR Part 640.

Issued on: January 12, 2011.

Victor M. Mendez,

Federal Highway Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2011–933 Filed 1–18–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–9X–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Value Pricing Pilot Program Participation, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of extension of deadline.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is extending the deadline for formal grant applications for the Value Pricing Pilot (VPP) program, which was published on October 19, 2010, at 75 FR 64397. The original deadline for formal grant applications was January 18, 2011. This notice extends the deadline by 15 calendar days to February 2, 2011.

DATES: Formal grant applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m., Eastern, on February 2, 2011.

Application Submission: Grant applications may be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications for tolling authority only should be submitted through an expression of interest at the following Web site: http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/tolling_pricing/participation.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice or for general questions related to the VPP program, please contact Ms. Angela Jacobs, FHWA Office of Operations, at (202) 366–0076, angela.jacobs@dot.gov.

For technical questions related to the development of pricing projects involving tolls, please also contact Ms. Angela Jacobs, or contact Mr. Patrick DeCorla-Souza, FHWA Office of Innovative Program Delivery, at (202) 366-4076, patrick.decorla-souza@dot.gov. For technical questions related to the development of pricing projects not involving tolls, please contact Mr. Allen Greenberg, FHWA Office of Operations, at (202) 366-2425, allen.greenberg@dot.gov. For legal questions, please contact Mr. Michael Harkins, FHWA Office of the Chief Counsel, at (202) 366-4928, michael.harkins@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded from the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.archives.gov> and the Government Printing Office's database at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Background

On October 19, 2010, at 75 FR 64397, the FHWA published in the **Federal Register** a notice inviting States, along with their local government partners and other public authorities, to apply to participate in the Value Pricing Pilot program and presenting guidelines for program applications for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The original deadline for formal grant applications was January 18, 2011. This notice extends the deadline by 15 calendar days to February 2, 2011. Program application requirements and further application guidance can be found in the October 19, 2010, notice.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; sec. 1216(a), Pub. L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 107; Pub. L. 109-59; 117 Stat. 1144.

Issued on: January 13, 2011.

Victor M. Mendez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2011-1066 Filed 1-18-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 12, 2011.

The Department of Treasury is planning to submit the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance

Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11020, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 21, 2011 to be assured of consideration.

HR Connect

OMB Number: 1505-0224.

Type of Review: Renewal.

Title: New Issue Bond Program and Temporary Credit and Liquidity Program.

Description: Authorized under section 304(g) of the Federal National Mortgage Association Charter Act (12 U.S.C. 1719(g)) and Section 306(l) of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1455(l)), as amended by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-289; approved July 30, 2008) the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) is implementing two programs under the HFA (Housing Finance Agency) Initiative. The statute provides the Secretary authority to purchase securities and obligations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the GSEs) as he determines necessary to stabilize the financial markets, prevent disruptions in the availability of mortgage finance, and to protect the taxpayer. On December 4, 2009, the Secretary made the appropriate determination to authorize the two programs of the HFA Initiative: the New Issue Bond Program (NIBP) and the Temporary Credit and Liquidity Program (TCLP). Under the NIBP, Treasury has purchased securities from the GSEs backed by mortgage revenue bonds issued by participating state and local HFAs. Under the TCLP, Treasury has purchased a participation interest from the GSEs in temporary credit and liquidity facilities provided to participating HFAs as a liquidity backstop on their variable-rate debt. In order to properly manage the two programs of the initiative, continue to protect the taxpayer, and assure compliance with the Programs' provisions, Treasury is instituting a series of data collection requirements to be completed by participating HFAs and furnished to Treasury through the GSEs.

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit institutions, and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 26,170 hours.

Agency Contact: Theo Polan, (202) 622-8085, Room 2054MT, 1500

Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20220.

Robert Dahl,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-992 Filed 1-18-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-P

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

Sentencing Guidelines for United States Courts

AGENCY: United States Sentencing Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed amendments to sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and commentary. Request for public comment, including public comment regarding retroactive application of any of the proposed amendments. Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 994(a), (o), and (p) of title 28, United States Code, the United States Sentencing Commission is considering promulgating certain amendments to the sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and commentary. This notice sets forth the proposed amendments and, for each proposed amendment, a synopsis of the issues addressed by that amendment. This notice also sets forth a number of issues for comment, some of which are set forth together with the proposed amendments; some of which are set forth independent of any proposed amendment; and one of which (regarding retroactive application of proposed amendments) is set forth in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** portion of this notice.

The proposed amendments and issues for comment in this notice are as follows: (1) A proposed amendment on drug trafficking, including (A) a proposal to repromulgate as a permanent amendment the emergency, temporary amendment in response to the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, Public Law 111-220, regarding offenses involving crack cocaine and regarding certain aggravating and mitigating circumstances in drug trafficking cases, and (B) a proposed change to § 2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) to implement the directive in section 4 of the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, Public Law 111-273, and related issues for comment on drug trafficking; (2) a proposed amendment on firearms, including