



NOTE: This Study will not be completed at this time.

PEER REVIEW PLAN / AGENDA

**Federal Railroad Administration
Report to United States Congress
Disparity Study**

Department of Transportation	Name of Operating OA: Federal Railroad Administration	Name of Program Office: Office of Civil Rights (ROA-10)
Preliminary Title:	Federal Railroad Administration Report to United States Congress - Disparity Study	
Subject and Purpose of information dissemination:	<p>The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) plans to release a Congressionally mandated disparity study (Study) evaluating the market availability and utilization of minority- and women-owned small businesses in FRA-funded railroad contracts. The Study will be used as evidence of the state of minority- and women-owned small business contracting in the railroad industry to inform Congress, FRA, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in anticipation of the possible creation of an FRA Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for federally-funded projects modeled after the DBE programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration, as described in the regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 26.</p> <p>Per the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, 70 Fed. Reg. 2665 (2005), this Study is deemed “influential scientific information” that FRA can reasonably determine will have or does have a clear substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions. Therefore, this peer review is being conducted per the guidelines set forth in the OMB Bulletin and DOT’s guidelines for implementing the OMB Bulletin.</p>	
Is this information dissemination likely to be:	Highly Influential Scientific Assessment?	Check One box <input type="checkbox"/>
	Influential Scientific Information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Peer review Plan	What is the schedule for peer review (including proposed OA deferrals /waivers on peer review requirements)? <i>Peer review will occur between April 20, 2022 and May 11, 2022</i>	



	Will the review be conducted through a panel, individual letters, or an alternative procedure will be exercised (e.g., such as those used by National Academy of Sciences: see Bulletin, Section IV, Alternative Procedures, pg. 27)?		
	<i>Peer Review will be conducted through a panel.</i>		
	Will there be opportunities for the public to comment on the work product to be peer reviewed, and if so, how and when these opportunities will be provided?		
	<i>No</i>		
	Will the OA provide significant and relevant public comments to the peer reviewers before they conduct their review?		
	<i>No</i>		
	What is the anticipated number of reviewers (3 or fewer: 4-10; or more than 10)?		
	<i>FRA has 9 members of the panel review team.</i>		
Peer Review Charge	What are the primary disciplines or expertise needed in the review?		
	DBE Background, Legal Analysis and Data and Statistical Analysis		
	Will reviewers be selected by the OA or by a designated outside organization?		
	<i>All reviewers/panelists are selected by FRA</i>		
	Will the public, including scientific or professional societies, be asked to nominate potential peer reviewers?		
	<i>No</i>		
	The peer review charge is to assess the adequacy of the Study, especially concerning the market-based discrepancies in business formation, race and gender disparities in wage and business owner earnings, and DBE availability, utilization, and disparity in FRA-funded projects. The panelists responses to the charge questions will be publicly disseminated via the Peer Review Report, but each panelist's specific comments will not be publicly individually attributed. The draft charge questions were approved by the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs prior to the panel review commencing.		
Contact Person for inquiries	Name Rhonda Dews	E-mail: mailto:Rhonda.Dews@dot.gov	Phone: 202-493-6011