

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board****[STB Docket No. MC-F-20959]****Laidlaw Inc., and Laidlaw Transportation, Inc.—Acquisition and Control—Hotard Coaches, Inc., and Coastliner, d/b/a Mississippi Coast Limousine, Inc.****AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.**ACTION:** Notice Tentatively Approving Finance Transaction.

SUMMARY: In an application filed under 49 U.S.C. 14303, Laidlaw Inc. (Laidlaw), a noncarrier, through its noncarrier subsidiary, Laidlaw Transportation, Inc. (Laidlaw Transportation) (collectively referred to as Laidlaw), seeks to purchase and acquire control of Hotard Coaches, Inc. (Hotard), and Hotard's subsidiary, Coastliner, d/b/a Mississippi Coast Limousine, Inc. (Coastliner), both motor passenger carriers. Persons wishing to oppose the application must follow the rules under 49 CFR 1182.5 and 1182.8. The Board has tentatively approved the transaction, and, if no opposing comments are timely filed, this notice will be the final Board action.

DATES: Comments must be filed by March 20, 2000. Applicant may file a reply by April 3, 2000. If no comments are filed by March 20, 2000, this notice is effective on that date.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-20959 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to applicant's representative: Fritz R. Kahn, Suite 750 West, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3934.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beryl Gordon, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Laidlaw seeks authority to acquire control of Hotard and Coastliner through the acquisition of all of Hotard's common stock which is being held in a voting trust.¹ Laidlaw states that Hotard will continue to be managed by its president, Ms. Eva Hotard, and will maintain its separate office in New Orleans.

Hotard has limited regular-route authority and holds federally issued

authority in Docket No. MC-143881, which authorizes it to provide special and charter operations in Louisiana and Mississippi. Coastliner also provides special and charter operations in Louisiana and Mississippi pursuant to federally issued authority in Docket No. MC-133182.

Laidlaw currently controls motor passenger carriers whose operations, with the exception of those of Greyhound Lines, Inc. (Greyhound), are largely limited to charter and special operations in the United States. Greyhound holds federally issued operating authority in Docket No. MC-1515 and provides mainly nationwide, scheduled regular-route operations. Although Greyhound performs some special and charter operations, according to Laidlaw, Greyhound does not have the same contacts and relationships with patrons as Hotard and Coastliner, within their distinct regional market.² The other Laidlaw motor passenger carriers do not conduct operations in the regional markets served by Hotard and Coastliner. Laidlaw asserts that the addition of Hotard and Coastliner will contribute significantly to the breadth of services that Greyhound and the other Laidlaw affiliates are able to provide to the public.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), we must approve and authorize a transaction we find consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least: (1) The effect of the transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public; (2) the total fixed charges that result; and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees.

Applicant has submitted the information required by 49 CFR 1182.2, including information to demonstrate that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b). Specifically, applicant has shown that the proposed transaction will have a positive effect on the adequacy of transportation to the public and will result in no increase in fixed charges and no changes in employment. See 49 CFR 1182.2(a)(7). Additional information may be obtained from applicant's representative.

On the basis of the application, we find that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest and should be authorized. If any opposing comments are timely filed, this finding will be deemed vacated and, unless a

final decision can be made on the record as developed, a procedural schedule will be adopted to reconsider the application. See 49 CFR 1182.6(c). If no opposing comments are filed by the expiration of the comment period, this decision will take effect automatically and will be the final Board action.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at: "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

This decision will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The proposed acquisition and control is approved and authorized, subject to the filing of opposing comments.

2. If timely opposing comments are filed, the findings made in this decision will be deemed as having been vacated.

3. This decision will be effective on March 20, 2000, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

4. A copy of this notice will be served on: (1) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Motor Carrier Safety—HMCE-20, 400 Virginia Avenue, S.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024; (2) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530; and (3) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590.

Decided: January 28, 2000.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Burkes, and Commissioner Clyburn.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2285 Filed 2-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Office of the Comptroller of the Currency****Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The OCC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the

¹ Laidlaw Transportation purchased all of the issued and outstanding shares of the common stock of Hotard and placed them in a voting trust, pursuant to the terms of a Voting Trust Agreement, dated December 21, 1999.

² Laidlaw states that Hotard and Coastliner have contacts with casino operators in Louisiana and Mississippi and established relationships with churches, schools, and other institutions in the area. In addition, Laidlaw states that Hotard provides sightseeing services in New Orleans.

general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The OCC may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Currently, the OCC is soliciting comments concerning an extension, without change, of an information collection titled Bank Activities and Operations—12 CFR 7. The OCC also gives notice that it has sent the information collection to OMB for review.

DATES: You should submit your written comments to both OCC and the OMB Reviewer by March 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You should send your written comments to the Communications Division, Attention: 1557-0204, Third Floor, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219. In addition, you can send comments by facsimile transmission to (202) 874-5274, or by electronic mail to regs.comments@occ.treas.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may request additional information, a copy of the collection, or a copy of the supporting documentation submitted to OMB by contacting Jessie Dunaway or Camille Dixon, (202) 874-5090, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division (1557-0200), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OCC is proposing to extend OMB approval of the following information collection:

Title: Bank Activities and Operations—12 CFR 7.

OMB Number: 1557-0204.

Form Number: None.

Abstract: This submission covers an existing regulation and involves no change to the regulation or to the information collections embodied in the regulation. The OCC requests only that OMB renew its approval of the information collections in the current regulation.

National banks need these collections of information to ensure that they

conduct their operations in a safe and sound manner and in accordance with applicable federal banking statutes and regulations. The collections of information provide needed information for examiners and provide protections for national banks. The collections of information are necessary for regulatory and examination purposes and for national banks to ensure their compliance with federal law and regulations.

The information requirements in 12 CFR part 7 are located as follows:

12 CFR 7.1000(d)(1) (Lease financing of public facilities): The lease agreement must provide that the lessee will become the owner of the building or facility upon the expiration of the lease.

12 CFR 7.1014 (Sale of money orders at nonbanking outlets): The written agreement between a national bank and bonded agent to sell the bank's money orders at a nonbanking outlet should define the responsibilities of both parties, set forth their respective duties, and provide for remuneration of the agent.

12 CFR 7.2000(b) (Other sources of guidance for corporate governance procedures): A national bank shall designate in its bylaws the body of law selected for its corporate governance procedures.

12 CFR 7.2004 (Honorary directors or advisory boards): Any listing of a national bank's honorary or advisory directors (who act in advisory capacities without voting power or the power of final decision in matters concerning bank business) must distinguish between them and the bank's board of directors, or indicate their advisory status.

12 CFR 7.2014(b) (Indemnification of institution-affiliated parties in administrative proceedings or civil actions not initiated by a federal banking agency): A national bank shall designate in its bylaws the body of law selected for making indemnification payments in administrative proceedings or civil actions not initiated by a federal banking agency.

National banks use the information to ensure their compliance with applicable federal banking law and regulations. Further, the collections of information evidence bank compliance with various

regulatory requirements. This information assists bank management in the safe and sound operation of the bank. The OCC uses the information in the conduct of bank examinations and as an audit tool to verify bank compliance with law and regulations.

Type of Review: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,600.

Total Annual Responses: 1,600.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 480 burden hours.

OCC Contact: Jessie Dunaway or Camille Dixon, (202) 874-5090, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, OMB No. 1557-0142, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20219.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander Hunt, (202) 395-7340, Paperwork Reduction Project 1557-0204, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

COMMENTS: Your comment will become a matter of public record. You are invited to comment on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(b) Whether the OCC's burden estimate is accurate;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Whether the OCC's estimates of the capital or startup costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information are accurate.

Dated: January 28, 2000.

Mark J. Tenhundfeld,

Assistant Director, Legislative & Regulatory Activities Division.

[FR Doc. 00-2400 Filed 2-2-00; 8:45 am]

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