

relating to the above-named entity's activities in the United States.

Rebecca E. Gonzales,

*Director, Office of Foreign Missions,
Department of State.*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12528; No. 2024–03]

Determination Pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of State under the Foreign Missions Act, 22 U.S.C. 4301, *et seq.* (“the Act”), and delegated pursuant to Department of State Delegation of Authority No. 214, dated September 20, 1994, I hereby determine that the representative offices and operations in the United States of Rossiya Segodnya, including their real property and personnel, are a foreign mission within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(3).

Furthermore, I hereby determine it to be reasonably necessary to protect the interests of the United States to require the representative offices and operations in the United States of Rossiya Segodnya and its agents or employees acting on its behalf, to comply with the terms and conditions specified by the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions relating to the above-named entity's activities in the United States.

Rebecca E. Gonzales,

*Director, Office of Foreign Missions,
Department of State.*

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. MCF 21121]

Student Transportation of America, Inc. et al.—Acquisition of Control—West Point Tours, Inc.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice tentatively approving and authorizing finance transaction.

SUMMARY: On August 12, 2024, Student Transportation of America, Inc. (STA), a noncarrier, and its parent entities (collectively, Applicants) filed an application seeking authority for STA to acquire all voting securities of West Point Tours, Inc. (WPT), a passenger motor carrier that holds operating authority issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The Board is tentatively approving and

authorizing the transaction, and, if no opposing comments are timely filed, this notice will be the final Board action.

DATES: Comments must be filed by October 28, 2024. If any comments are filed, Applicants may file a reply by November 12, 2024. If no opposing comments are filed by October 28, 2024, this notice shall be effective on October 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments, referring to Docket No. MCF 21121, may be filed with the Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to STA's representative: Mark J. Andrews, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian O'Boyle at (202) 245–0364. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: According to the application, STA is a New Jersey-based noncarrier that controls multiple passenger motor carriers that hold operating authorities issued by the FMCSA.¹ STA is a subsidiary of Student Transportation of America Holdings, Inc. (STA Holdings), a Delaware corporation and noncarrier. STA Holdings, in turn, is a subsidiary of Spinner US Acquireco, Inc. (Spinner),² also a Delaware corporation and noncarrier, which will remain under the majority ownership of Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, a pension fund based in the Canadian province of Quebec. (Appl. 5.) Applicants state that the carriers STA controls primarily provide school bus transportation under contract with local school districts, a service that they state is covered by broad exemptions from FMCSA regulation. (*Id.* at 2.)³ According to Applicants, STA and its subsidiaries currently have approximately 23,000 employees, utilize an estimated 22,000 vehicles, and transport approximately 1.25 million students per day based on a 180-day school year. (Appl. 4.) Applicants state that while exempt

¹ Additional information about the carriers controlled by STA, including U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) numbers, motor carrier numbers, and USDOT safety fitness ratings, can be found in Exhibit B of the application.

² Further information about Spinner's corporate structure and ownership can be found in Exhibit A of the application.

³ See 49 U.S.C. 13506(a)(1) (exempting from both Department of Transportation and Board jurisdiction “a motor vehicle transporting only school children and teachers to or from school”).

school transportation accounts for approximately 97% of STA's approximately \$1.3 billion in annual revenues, remaining revenues are generated from use of its vehicles for charter and special operations not involving the transportation of students to and from schools. (*Id.* at 2, 4.)

According to the application, WPT is a New York state-based carrier that holds FMCSA operating authority as well as intrastate operating authorities in New York state and Pennsylvania. (*Id.* at 3.) Like STA's carrier subsidiaries, WPT primarily provides school bus transportation under contracts with local school districts. (*Id.* at 2–3.) WPT transports approximately 9,640 students per day during the school year, employs approximately 200 drivers, and has a fleet of 220 vehicles, consisting primarily of school buses but also approximately 15 motor coaches. (*Id.* at 4.) The application states that WPT generates annual revenues of approximately \$21 million, about 75% of which are derived from school-related transportation, with the remainder being derived from charter and special operations centered on the West Point Military Academy and nearby areas of the Hudson River Valley in New York state. (*Id.*) WPT's interstate motorcoach operations carry approximately 24,000 passengers annually. (*Id.*)

Pursuant to an agreement executed on July 17, 2024, STA will acquire all voting securities of WPT. (*Id.* at 2, 4.) Upon closing of the proposed transaction, WPT will become a direct subsidiary of STA. (*Id.* at 5.) STA and WPT expect to close the proposed acquisition in the fourth quarter of 2024. (*Id.* at 4.)

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), the Board must approve and authorize a transaction that it finds consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least (1) the effect of the proposed transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public, (2) the total fixed charges that result from the proposed transaction, and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees. Applicants have 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), see 49 CFR 1182.2(a)(7), and a jurisdictional statement under 49 U.S.C. 14303(g) that the aggregate gross operating revenues of STA and WPT exceeded \$2 million during the 12-month period immediately preceding the filing of the application, see 49 CFR 1182.2(a)(5). (See Appl. 6–7.)