

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Jackson County, Oregon**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed transportation improvement in the City of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ivan Marrero, Liaison Engineer Region 3, Federal Highway Administration, Equitable Center, 530 Center Street, N.E., Suite 100, Salem, Oregon 97301, Telephone: (503) 399-5749, Ivan.Marrero@fhwa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to solve the long-term (year 2020) transportation demands and congestion in the Interstate 5/Barnett Road (South Medford) Interchange Area. Congestion on Barnett Road is impacting existing business and industry and has the potential to curtail future economic development in the area. Improvements are considered necessary to provide for existing and projected traffic demands and a safe and efficient transportation system meeting modern AASHTO design standards.

Alternatives will be developed as part of the project development process that will be incorporated into the EIS. Alternatives may include one or more of the following: taking no action (no build); improving the Interstate 5/Barnett Road Interchange; constructing new roadways to provide for additional local circulation and/or widening existing roadways to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5/Barnett Road Interchange; developing new access across Interstate 5; improved transit service to the area; using Transportation System Management and Transportation Demand Management measures to alleviate traffic congestion; and modifying land use to reduce congestion. Potential impacts and/or improvements to the Bear Creek Greenway regional bicycle and pedestrian facility will also be considered.

Information describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, and to private

organizations and citizens who have expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposed project. A local formal scoping meeting is scheduled on March 18, 1999, 4 pm to 7 pm at the Scottish Right Temple, 955 North Phoenix Road, Medford, Oregon.

Public informational meetings will be held by ODOT during project development and a public hearing will be scheduled. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comments prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(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: February 22, 1999.

Elton H. Chang,

Environmental Engineer, Oregon Division.

[FR Doc. 99-5144 Filed 3-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****Aviation Rulemaking Advisory
Committee Meeting on Airport
Certification Issues**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the March 9 meeting of the Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee, scheduled to discuss Airport Certification Issues (64 FR 8634; 2/22/99), has been cancelled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marisa Mullen, (202) 267-7653, Office of Rulemaking (ARM-200), 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 24, 1999.

Robert E. David,

Assistant Executive Director for Airport Certification Issues, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc 99-5251 Filed 3-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration**

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-99-5012]

**Notice of Availability of a Draft
Programmatic Environmental
Assessment for the Nationwide
Differential Global Positioning System
Service**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) has been authorized by Congress, pursuant to section 346 of the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998, Pub. L. 105-66 (October 27, 1997), to establish, operate, and manage a nationwide system to be known as the Nationwide Differential Global Positioning System (NDGPS) as soon as practicable, to integrate the NDGPS stations into the Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) system of the National Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce, and to investigate the use of the NDGPS reference stations for the Global Positioning System Integrated Precipitable Water Vapor System of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce. A draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the NDGPS program is available for public review and comment. The FHWA seeks public comment on this draft from all interested parties.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Your signed, written comments must refer to the docket number appearing at the top of this document and you must submit the comments to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday and Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the FHWA program office: Written requests for a copy of the draft PEA should be submitted to: Mr. James A. Arnold, (703) 285-2974, Federal Highway Administration, Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center,

HSR-12, 6300 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101-2296. For legal issues: Mr. Brett Gainer, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCC-31, (202) 366-6197, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

Internet users can access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help.

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

An electronic copy of the draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the NDGPS program is available at <http://www.navcen.uscg.mil/>.

Background

The Secretary has delegated his authority under section 346 of the DOT Appropriations Act for FY 1998, to the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the FHWA. The FHWA is the lead agency and the USCG and FRA are cooperating agencies for the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C) and 23 CFR 771. In accordance with NEPA, the FHWA is preparing a PEA for the NDGPS program. A draft PEA for NDGPS is available for public review and comment. After receipt of public comments, a final PEA will be prepared which will provide a basis for the FHWA and the cooperating agencies to determine whether a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is required, or if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate. Copies of the draft PEA will be provided to Federal, State, local agencies, and the public. All interested parties may comment on the NDGPS draft PEA.

The NDGPS service would augment existing satellite-based Global Positioning System range information with a differential correction broadcast

from ground-based reference stations transmitting from known positions, thereby providing users with more precise radio navigation and positioning information for public safety, transportation, scientific, and environmental applications. Federal agencies implementing the proposed NDGPS service are the DOT's Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), the FHWA, the FRA, the NOAA, the U.S. Air Force (USAF), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the USCG.

The NDGPS involves the expansion of an existing network of USCG local area Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) reference stations currently covering United States coastal areas and major inland waterways. To expand this existing DGPS service nationwide, the installation of additional reference stations with low-frequency transmit antennas is required on suitable 11-acre land parcels located principally in the interior portions of the continental United States and Alaska. Sites will typically be on level ground and away from tall structures. Three deployment alternatives for the additional NDGPS reference stations were considered in the draft PEA.

Alternative A consists of conversion of 32 decommissioned USAF Ground Wave Emergency Network (GWEN) sites for use as NDGPS reference stations and the transfer of GWEN equipment from remaining GWEN sites to 28 new NDGPS site locations. Seven additional sites would receive similar new equipment, for a total of 67 NDGPS reference stations. The GWEN transmit antennas to be used are typically 299 feet tall guyed towers and will be operated at an effective radiated power (ERP) of no more than 500 Watts.

Alternative B consists of the installation of new equipment at 32 existing GWEN relay node sites, as well as at 35 new sites. The resulting NDGPS reference stations would be physically similar to the reference stations of Alternative A.

Alternative C is to identify 80 to 100 new sites and install equipment similar to USCG local area DGPS stations. These reference stations would utilize either 90 feet or 120 feet tall towers and operate at an ERP of no more than 170 Watts. The NDGPS is expected to be fully operational in the United States by the year 2002.

During the selection of sites for the NDGPS reference stations, the FHWA and cooperating agencies will consult with key regulatory agencies and apply environmental site-selection criteria to avoid potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant environmental

impact is unavoidable during the selection of sites for the NDGPS reference stations, specific mitigation measures will be implemented to decrease the impact to a less than significant level. Provided that environmental site-selection criteria and specific mitigation measures identified in the draft PEA are implemented for the NDGPS, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur under any of the proposed action alternatives. If planned mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts cannot be implemented at a specific site, or a site-specific impact is encountered that was not anticipated and addressed in the PEA, then additional appropriate NEPA analysis and documentation will be prepared by the FHWA for that specific reference station.

(Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; sec 346, Pub. L. 105-66, 111 Stat. 1425, 1449 (1997); 49 CFR 1.48.)

Issued on: February 23, 1999.

Kenneth R. Wykle,

Federal Highway Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-5272 Filed 3-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-99-5145]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before May 3, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edmund T. Sommer, Jr., Chief, Division of General and International Law, Office of the Chief Counsel, Maritime Administration, MAR-221, Room 7232, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone 202-366-5181 or fax 202-366-7485. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Procedures, New Subpart B—Application for Designation of Vessels as American Great Lakes Vessels.