

The agenda for the meeting will include a legislative update on Congressional activities involving commercial space transportation; an activities report from FAA's Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (formerly the Office of Commercial Space Transportation [60 FR 62762, December 7, 1995]); and a status report on the FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Licensing and Safety Requirements for Launch.

Meetings of the Technology and Innovation, Reusable Launch Vehicle, Risk Management, and Launch Operations and Support Working Groups will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2001. For specific information concerning the times and locations of these meetings, contact the Contact Person listed below.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Parker (AST-200), Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST), 800 Independence Avenue SW, Room 331, Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 385-4713; E-mail brenda.parker@faa.dot.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, September 4, 2001.

Patricia G. Smith,

Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.

[FR Doc. 01-23035 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Chatham County, NC

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Chatham County, North Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Emily Lawton, Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, Telephone: (919) 856-4350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the North

Carolina Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct the Pittsboro Bypass. The Pittsboro North-South Bypass is a proposed multi-lane, controlled access freeway on new location that begins at US 15-501 south of Pittsboro and ends at the US 64 Bypass. The proposed improvements are expected to be implemented in multiple stages. The project would begin with the construction of a two-lane shoulder section for the entire project length, an interchange at US 64 Bypass, acquisition of right-of-way to accommodate an ultimate four-lane divided facility with full control of access, and acquisition of right-of-way for three future interchanges. The final stages of the project would include the remaining construction to provide a four-lane, median-divided section with additional interchanges at locations to be determined.

Construction of the proposed freeway is considered necessary to accommodate the existing and projected traffic demand through the Town of Pittsboro, in Chatham County. The preliminary study area encompasses the entire Town of Pittsboro, as well as outlying rural areas. The study area is bounded by the Haw River to the east, Rocky River and Deep River to the south, Harlands Creek to the west, and Russell Chapel Road (SR 1520) to the north. Study alternatives will be chosen that best suit the Purpose and Need for the Project. Potential alternatives to be considered include (1) taking no action; (2) using alternative travel modes; (3) improving the existing facilities through the Town of Pittsboro (US 15-501 and US 64); and, (4) construction of a multi-lane, controlled access facility on new location. Design variations of alignment and grade will be incorporated into the study of each of the build alternatives.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. Citizen informational workshops will be held in the project area throughout the study process. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the workshops and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are 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 provide 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.)

Emily Lawton,

Operations Engineer, Raleigh, NC.

[FR Doc. 01-23026 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Erie County, NY

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the Southtowns Connector/Bufalo Outer Harbor scoping process has resulted in a major revision to the project's alternatives. Previously, the range of 'Build Alternatives' included new freeway extensions, added freeway capacity or a new transit way. The environmental impact statement will now be progressed with a combination of a new arterial, existing local street/arterial improvements and improved transit/pedestrian/bicyclist facilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert E. Arnold, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Leo O'Brien Federal Building—7th Floor, Albany, New York 12207, Telephone (518) 431-4127 or Brian O. Rowback, Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation, 125 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14203, Telephone: (716) 847-3238.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Administration, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Southtowns Connector/Bufalo Outer Harbor Project in Erie County, New York. The proposed improvements could include existing street and arterial road system consolidation, additional arterial street capacity and improved transit/pedestrian/bicyclist facilities. These

improvements are considered necessary because the existing transportation facilities do not provide for waterfront access, adequately connect development sites, provide sufficient capacity or include provisions for multi-modal uses. Alternatives under consideration are: (1) taking no action, (2) transportation systems management (improvement existing facility efficiency) and (3) provide existing street and arterial improvements and a new arterial street. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, local agencies and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed interest or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A formal scoping process will be followed for this revised project proposal. This process will include public and agency meetings to be scheduled. Advance notice will be provided through the media. In addition, public hearings will be held. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to these public hearings.

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 agencies and interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the NYSDOT or FHWA at the address provided above.

Authority 23 U.S.C. 315, 23 CFR 771.123.

Issued on: September 5, 2001.

Douglas P. Conlan,

District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.

[FR Doc. 01-22952 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: St. Charles, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes, Louisiana Agencies: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT)

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare environmental documents, including an environmental impact statement for highway component and an environmental impact statement for transit rail component.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) are issuing this notice to advise interested agencies and the public that, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the following projects in the East-West Corridor in St. Charles, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes in Louisiana:

1. A rail transit connector between the New Orleans Central Business District (CBD) and the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (LANOIA); and
2. Extending the existing Earhart Expressway from its terminus at LA 3154 (Dickory Avenue) to the vicinity of Interstate 310.

These proposed transportation projects were identified in a Major Investment Study (MIS) completed in 1999. In addition to the proposed improvements identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative in the MIS, the No-Build Alternative and new alternatives generated through the Scoping Process will be evaluated. Scoping will be accomplished through coordination with interested persons, organizations and federal, state and local agencies. Four (4) public scoping meetings and one (1) interagency scoping meeting are currently planned. Based on the results of the Scoping Process, FHWA and FTA will make the following determinations regarding the preparation of environmental documentation under NEPA:

1. Identification of environmental issues to be addressed;
2. Identification of appropriate alternatives for evaluation;
3. How cumulative environmental effects of the projects will be addressed; and
4. The need for a separate Environmental Impact Statement for each of the proposed projects, or for a single, combined Environmental Impact Statement for both projects.

FHWA and FTA currently propose to proceed with the preparation of separate environmental documents for each project. FHWA is serving as the federal lead agency for the extension of the existing Earhart Expressway. FTA is serving as the federal lead agency for the rail transit connector between the CBD and the LANOIA. At the conclusion of the Scoping Process, based on the agency and public comment received, FHWA and FTA will either continue with the preparation of two individual

Environmental Impact Statements, will proceed with a single Environmental Impact Statement for both projects, or may proceed with an Environmental Assessment for either of the projects, if appropriate.

DATES: Interagency and public scoping and information meetings will be held during the week of October 8th.

Interagency Scoping Meeting: Wednesday, October 10th, 2001 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Regional Planning Commission's 21st Floor Conference Room at 1340 Poydras Street in New Orleans, Louisiana 70122.

Public Scoping Meetings: Wednesday, October 10th, 2001 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Xavier University Auditorium in the Xavier University Administration Building at 1 Drexel Drive in New Orleans, Louisiana 70125; Thursday, October 11th, 2001 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Joseph S. Yenni Building Council Chambers at 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard in Jefferson, Louisiana 70123; Saturday, October 13th, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the R.J. Bunche Middle School Gymnasium at 8101 Simon Street in Metairie, Louisiana 70003; and Saturday, October 13th, 2001 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the R.J. Bunche Middle School Gymnasium at 8101 Simon Street in Metairie, Louisiana 70003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope should be sent by November 1, 2001, to either Mr. William Farr, Programs Operations Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, or Mr. John Sweek, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, Region VI, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102. See **DATES** above for addresses of scoping meeting locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Farr, Programs Operations Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, Telephone: (225) 757-7600; or Mr. John Sweek, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, Region VI, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102, Telephone: (817) 978-0571.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping

The FHWA and FTA will hold a total of four public scoping meetings on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, October 10, 11, and 13. Two evening public scoping meetings will be held between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, October 10 and 11, in the Xavier University Auditorium in New Orleans and Joseph