

destination, support expansion plans for both UAB and the Convention Center, and better serve transit dependant populations are needed.

III. Alternatives

Alternatives have been identified to address transportation needs in the study area, connecting major activity centers including the Downtown Financial core, University of Alabama Birmingham Campus, Five Points South commercial area, the Convention Center, area hospitals/medical centers, and adjacent neighborhoods. The project will be consistent with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Alternatives Analysis and Section 5309 New Start Program requirements for determining future federal funding in recommended programs and be consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The alternatives being considered will analyze mobility needs and identify and compare the costs, benefits, and impacts of a range of transit alignment and technology alternatives. At a minimum the following alternatives will be considered:

- *No-Build Alternative*—This includes all of the transportation improvements included in the RPCGB Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan but assumes that the potential new start project being evaluated in the EIS is not constructed.

- *Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative*—This includes all of the improvements assumed in the No-Build alternative plus other reasonable low cost improvements to address the project purpose and need. The TSM also assumes that the potential new start project being considered in the EIS is not constructed.

- *Build Alternative: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)*—This assumes that all of the improvements included in the No-Build Alternative are constructed plus the addition of a rubber tired transit service that operates in either mixed traffic or in reserved right-of-way connecting the major activity centers in the study area.

- *Build Alternative: Streetcar*—This assumes that all of the improvements included in the No-Build Alternative are constructed plus the addition of a rail transit service that operates on tracks in either mixed traffic or in reserved right-of-way connecting the major activity centers in the study area.

The alternatives will be developed further during the preparation of the AA/DEIS. Based on previous studies several candidate streets in the study area have been identified as possible

alignments for the Build Alternatives. These streets include: 18th Street, 19th Street, 20th Street, and Richard Arrington Blvd in the north-south direction and 5th Avenue South, 6th Avenue South, 7th Avenue South, and University Boulevard in the east-west direction. Additional reasonable Build Alternatives suggested during the scoping process including those involving other modes, may be considered.

IV. Probable Effects

The purpose of the DEIS is to fully disclose the environmental consequences of building and operating a major capital investment in the Downtown Birmingham and UAB Activity Centers study area in advance of any decision to commit substantial financial or other resources towards its implementation. The DEIS will explore the extent to which study alternatives and alignment options result in environmental impacts and will discuss actions to reduce or eliminate such impacts.

Environmental issues to be examined in the DEIS include impacts to: Community facilities, cultural resources, parklands, traffic operations, parking, transit service and operations, local economy, air quality, noise and vibration, environmental justice populations, potential contaminated sites, and water resources as well as any displacements of residents and businesses. Impacts will be identified for both the construction period and long term operation of the alternatives. The proposed transportation criteria will include transportation, social, economic, and financial measures as required by current federal (NEPA) environmental laws and the implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality and of FTA.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action will be addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed and the DEIS should be directed to Mr. Darrell Howard at the RPCGB at the address noted in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

V. FTA Procedures

Depending on the outcome of the scoping process and the analysis of a wide range of transit alternatives, an LPA will be selected and evaluated in the DEIS. The DEIS will be prepared simultaneously with the conceptual engineering for the alternatives, including station and alignment options. The DEIS will address the

potential use of federal funds for the proposed action as well as assess the social, economic, environmental, and transportation impacts of the station and alignment options. Station and alignment options will be refined to minimize and mitigate any adverse impacts.

After publication, the DEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment, and a public hearing will be held. Based on the DEIS and comments received, the LPA may be refined, and the RPCGB will further assess the LPA in the Final EIS and will apply for FTA approval to initiate Preliminary Engineering of the LPA.

Issued on: October 19, 2005.

Alexander E. McNeil,

Director, Office of Planning & Program Development.

[FR Doc. 05-21237 Filed 10-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number 2005 22783]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel CRYSTAL SPIRIT.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383 and Public Law 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2005-22783 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Public Law 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the

comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2005 22783. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Cassidy, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-4357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel CRYSTAL SPIRIT is:

Intended Use: "Passenger charter for leisure purposes."

Geographic Region: Alaska.

Dated: October 18, 2005.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 05-21239 Filed 10-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number 2005 22784]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel DAY DREAMER.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383 and Public Law 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build

requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2005-22784 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Public Law 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2004 22784. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Cassidy, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel DAY DREAMER is:

Intended Use: "CHARTERS AND Sail Training."

Geographic Region: Florida, U.S. Gulf Coast, U.S. East Coast.

Dated: October 18, 2005.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 05-21238 Filed 10-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-98-4470]

Pipeline Safety: Meetings of the Pipeline Safety Advisory Committees

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces public meetings of PHMSA's Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC) and Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (THLPSSC) to discuss regulatory issues.

DATES: The TPSSC and the THLPSSC will meet in joint sessions on December 13-14, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC at 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information regarding these meetings contact: Cheryl Whetsel at (202) 366-4431; cheryl.whetsel@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Meeting Details

Attendees staying at the hotel must make reservations by 5 p.m., November 18, 2005. The phone number for reservations at the hotel is (202) 484-1000. The hotel will give priority to the Committee members and State Pipeline Safety Representatives for rooms blocked under "DOT Technical Advisory Committee Meetings".

Members of the public may make short statements on the topics under discussion. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should notify Cheryl Whetsel, no later than November 21, of the topic and the length of the presentation. The presiding officer at each meeting may deny any request to present an oral statement and may limit the time of any presentation.

You may submit written comments by mail or deliver them to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC