

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact and Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the Midwest Airspace Enhancement (MASE) Project

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the MASE Final Environmental Assessment with FONSI/ROD.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Terminal Service Area, is issuing this notice to advise the public of the availability of the Final Environmental Assessment Final (EA) and FONSI/ROD for the MASE project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Annette Davis, Federal Aviation Administration, Central Terminal Operations Service Area, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, (847) 294-8091 or MASE Web site, <http://www.faa.gov/ats/nar/mase.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MASE project would implement new en route and terminal airspace procedures to increase efficiency and enhance safety of aircraft movements in the airspace overlying and beyond the Cleveland and Detroit Metropolitan areas. The MASE airspace redesign would integrate high-altitude and en route airspace changes with low-altitude terminal airspace changes to provide for a more seamless operation between the two airspace areas. In addition, MASE would allow for more efficient utilization of the runway configurations at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County and Cleveland Hopkins International airports. Overall, MASE would maintain safety while reducing delays, accommodating growth, and incorporating new technology.

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Issued in Des Plaines, Illinois, on January 5, 2006.

Nancy B. Kort,

Area Director, Central Terminal Operations Service Area.

[FR Doc. 06-492 Filed 1-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[Docket Number: FTA-2006-23636]

Notice of Availability of Guidance on New Starts Policies and Procedures and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Guidance on New Starts Policies and Procedures and requests your comments on it. The guidance explains proposed changes to the New Starts program that will become effective April 30, 2006 and longer-term changes to the New Starts program that FTA plans to be the subject of rulemaking in the future. FTA requests comments on both aspects of the guidance, which is available in DOT's electronic docket and on FTA's Web site.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 10, 2006. Late filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by DOT DMS Docket Number FTA-2006-23636] by any of the following methods:

Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

Fax: 202-493-2251.

Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: You must include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and the docket number (FTA-2006-23636). You should submit two copies of your comments if you submit them by mail. If you wish to receive confirmation that FTA received your comments, you must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to the Department's Docket Management System (DMS) Web site located at <http://dms.dot.gov>. This means that if your comment includes any personal identifying information, such information will be made available to users of DMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Fisher, Office of Planning and Environment, telephone (202) 366-4033, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 or Ron.Fisher@fta.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Background**

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Section 3011 of SAFETEA-LU made a number of changes to 49 U.S.C. 5309, which authorizes the FTA's fixed guideway capital investment program known as "New Starts." This notice announces the availability of FTA's Guidance on New Starts Policies and Procedures and requests your comment as described below. The document is available in the docket, which can be accessed by going to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time, or you can view the document on FTA's Web site at http://www.fta.dot.gov/15052_ENG_HTML.htm.

A. New Starts Program Changes To Be Effective April 30, 2006

The first purpose of the policy guidance is to solicit comments on and document the changes to FTA's New Starts project development and program management procedures that are proposed to become effective on April 30, 2006. The changes apply to all New Starts submittals received after that date and prior to the effective date of future New Starts rulemaking. The proposed improvements to the project review and evaluation process and criteria include: National Environmental Policy Act interfaces; preservation of information for the before and after study; certification of technical methods, planning assumptions and project development procedures; development of costs and ridership forecasts; project development agreements; setting the New Starts maximum dollar funding level at the time of final design approval; and use of mode specific constants. Comments received will be used to develop the New Starts ratings, evaluations and procedures which will be issued in Spring 2006. FTA will respond to comments received on this Notice in a second **Federal Register** notice to be published after the close of the comment period, which will announce the availability of the Reporting Instructions for the Section 5309 New Starts Criteria reflecting the changes implemented as a result of this policy guidance and comments received thereon.

B. Long-term New Starts Program Changes for Future Rulemaking

The second purpose of the policy guidance is to discuss various New Starts implementation issues relating to SAFETEA-LU, discuss the merits of alternative approaches, and solicit input, through a series of questions, on the options that FTA is considering. Issues discussed include project eligibility; project evaluation and ratings; and project development procedures. Comments received will be considered and addressed in future rulemaking for the New Starts program, which FTA hopes to initiate later in 2006.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 12th day of January 2006.

David B. Horner,
Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. E6-563 Filed 1-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. 2006-23613]

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 ADIRONDACK.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 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 2006-23613 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 Pub. L. 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 February 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2006-23613. 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:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

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

Intended Use: "Occasional charter of short trips on Lake Superior, mostly around the Apostle Islands, but may include trips to Minnesota and/or Michigan."

Geographic Region: Lake Superior, including Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Dated: January 11, 2006.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-562 Filed 1-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. 2006-23614]

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 ARCTIC TRAVELLER.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 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 2006-23614 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 Pub. L. 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 February 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2006-23614. 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., ET, 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:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel ARCTIC TRAVELLER is:

Intended Use: "We intend to provide hands-on Trawler operation training emphasizing active participation in all aspects of offshore and inshore passage making. Our emphasis will be on full participation and skill development at