

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #2816]

United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITAC-T) National Committee and Study Group D; Meeting

The Department of State announces that a meeting of the United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC), will be held as follows: Study Group D on Wednesday, May 20, 1998 and the National committee on Monday, June 29 and July 22, 1998, all beginning at 9:30 a.m. and scheduled for all day, in Room 1408 of the Department of State, 22nd and C Streets, NW., Washington, D.C.

The purpose of ITAC is to advise the Department on policy, technical, and operational matters and to provide strategic planning recommendations, with respect to international telecommunication and information issues. The purpose of these meetings is to develop United States positions for upcoming ITU-T meetings dealing with standards activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In particular, the Study Group D meeting will include preparation for the planned meeting of ITU-T Study Group 8, to be held June 9-18, and other issues within the jurisdiction of Study Group D. The National Committee meetings will include preparation for the Telecommunication Sector Advisory Group meeting to be held September 7-11, 1998. Questions regarding the agenda or ITAC-T Sector activities in general may be directed to the Study Group D Chair, Gary Fereno, telephone 703 607-6166 or the National Committee Chair, Marion Gordon, 202 647-0197.

All participants may join in discussions, subject to instructions of the chair. In this regard, entry to the building is controlled. If you wish to attend, please send a fax to (202 647-7407) at least 24 hours before the meeting, providing name, affiliation, date of birth, and social security number, to arrange for pre-clearance. One of the following valid photo IDs is required for admittance to the State Department building: US driver's license with picture, passport, Government ID. Enter from the C Street Main Lobby.

Dated: May 6, 1998.

Richard E. Shrum,
Executive Director, ITAC.

[FR Doc. 98-12944 Filed 5-12-98; 10:30 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-45-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #2814]

Shipping Coordinating Committee, Council and Associated Bodies; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, June 2nd, in Room 2415, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize preparations for the 80th session of Council, and the 45th session of Technical Cooperation Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which is scheduled for 15-19 June 1998, at the IMO Headquarters in London. At the meeting, discussions will focus on papers received and draft U.S. positions. Among other things, the items of particular interest are:

- a. Reports of the IMO committees
- b. Review of the IMO technical cooperation activities
- c. Relations with the United Nations
- d. Reports for World Maritime University and International Maritime Law Institute
- e. Administrative and financial matters.

Members of the public may attend these meetings up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Mr. Gene F. Hammel, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters (G-CI), 2100 Second Street, SW; Room 2114, Washington, DC 20593-0001, by calling: (202) 267-2280, or by faxing: (202) 267-4588.

Dated: May 1, 1998.

Stephen M. Miller,
Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-12869 Filed 5-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**Notice of Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice that the June 11, 1998, meeting of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and open to the public from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiation will hold

a meeting on June 11, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The meeting will include a review and discussion of current issues which influence U.S. trade policy. Pursuant to Section 2155(f)(2) of Title 19 of the United States Code, I have determined that this meeting will be concerned with matters the disclosure of which would seriously compromise the development by the United States Government of trade policy, priorities, negotiating objectives or bargaining positions with respect to the operation of any trade agreement and other matters arising in connection with the development, implementation and administration of the trade policy of the United States. The meeting will be open to the public and press from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. when trade policy issues will be discussed. Attendance during this part of the meeting is for observation only. Individuals who are not members of the committee will not be invited to comment.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for June 11, 1998, unless otherwise notified.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Madison Hotel in the Dolly Madison Room, located at 15th & M Streets NW, Washington, D.C., unless otherwise notified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Daley, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6120.

Charlene Barshefsky,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 98-12837 Filed 5-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration**Environmental Impact Statement: Tarrant County, TX**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing a third notice to advise the public that the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed State highway 121 (SH 121) project in Tarrant County, Texas, will be revised.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter C. Waidelich, District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 826 Federal Office Building, 300 E 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 Telephone: (512) 916-5988 or Dianna F. Noble, Director, Environmental Affairs Division, Texas Department of

Transportation, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483 Telephone: (512) 416-2734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project was initially planned to be studied in a single EIS with limits from Interstate Highway 35 West (IH 35W) in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, to State Highway 174 (SH 174) in Johnson County. A first Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the August 4, 1988, Federal Register with the SH 121 EIS limits being proposed for the South Section of the project. A second NOI was published in the April 5, 1990, Federal Register with the SH 121 EIS limits being proposed for the North Section of the project. This third NOI will change the scope of the EIS. The result will be a change of the limits and scope of the freeway project with portions that are proposed to be developed as a toll road where it is determined to be economically feasible. The limits of the EIS for the proposed project are now portions of the North and the South Sections of SH 121 and will extend from Interstate Highway 30 (IH 30) in Fort Worth to Farm-to-Market Road 1187 (FM 1187), all within Tarrant County. The previous documentation was subdivided into a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the North Section with another DEIS for the South Section. The DEIS for South Section was completed and a public hearing was held but a Record of Decision was not issued. The DEIS for the North Section was not completed and work was suspended. The new EIS for the proposed facility will cover a part of the South Section from IH 20 to FM 1187 and part of the North Section from IH 30 to IH 20. Companion documentation is being prepared separately for the remainder of the North Section of the proposed facility from IH 35W to IH 30 in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, as well as the remainder of the South Section of the proposed facility from FM 1187 in Tarrant County to U.S. Highway 67 (US 67) in Cleburne; Johnson County.

Numerous public involvement activities have taken place during the development of the proposed project and will continue until a general consensus is reached on a preferred alternative. Many alternatives and routes have been considered. Among the alternatives considered for a proposed project are build nothing, freeway development, and toll road development.

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 the proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or TxDOT at the address provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Walter C. Waidelich,
District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 98-12876 Filed 5-13-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.9 and 211.41, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations. The petition is described below, including the regulatory provisions involved, and the nature of the relief being requested.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Docket Number RST-97-6

This notice covers the request of the BNSF to be relieved of compliance with Section 213.57(b) of the Federal Track Safety Standards (49 CFR 213) for the operation of National Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) trains at up to five (5) inches of unbalance on the former Santa Fe Railroad. Since 1994, Amtrak trains have been operating at up to 4 inches of unbalance or cant deficiency on the former Burlington Northern Railroad. This petition would extend the waiver to the former Santa Fe Railroad and increase the level of unbalance from 4 inches to 5 inches.

Section 213.57(b) refers to the maximum allowable train operating speeds on non-tangent track as a function of existing curvature and superelevation and, further, introduces the concept of unbalanced superelevation (cant deficiency) in particular modes of train operation. The idea of trains negotiating curved track at speeds producing either positive or negative unbalance was discussed previously in the **Federal Register** (52 FR 38035 on October 13, 1987).

Currently, Section 213.57(b) permits a maximum of 3 inches to be used as the underbalance term in the formulation of curve/speed tables by track maintenance

engineers defining intermediate train speeds and curved track superelevations for any route between two points.

BNSF petitioned for permission to substitute the value of 5 inches instead of 3 inches in determining maximum train speeds on track owned by the railroad and used under contract by Amtrak in the provision of transcontinental passenger train service. BNSF is requesting the waiver to assist Amtrak in improving its operating efficiency.

Interested parties may submit written views, data, or comments on this petition. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number RST-97-6), and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Communications received within 30 days from the publication of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.—5 p.m.) at FRA's offices at 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 7051, Washington, DC 20005.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 4, 1998.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 98-12767 Filed 5-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[FRA Docket No. RST-97-5]

Petition for Exemption or Waiver of Compliance With the Requirements of Section 213.233(c) of the Federal Track Safety Standards; New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Inc.

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.41, notice is hereby given that the New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Incorporated, (NJTR) has submitted a petition, dated December 3, 1997, for a