

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal for an improved transportation facility in the Springdale vicinity. The proposal includes several alternatives based on new location corridors and varying termini as well as reconstructing the existing. The approximate length is 27 kilometers (17 miles). This facility would serve northern Washington County and southern Benton County, including Springdale, Tontitown, Bethel Heights, Elm Springs, and Lowell. It will also provide improved access to the Northwest Regional Airport.

The proposed improvements would improve the capacity of the existing route and increase regional mobility along a proposed ultimate east-west route extending from Missouri to Oklahoma. A new location alternative facility would bypass the rapidly growing urban center of Springdale, with its subsequent traffic congestion. The eastern terminus of the proposed improvements will connect to the five-lane U.S. 412 currently under construction just east of Springdale. The western terminus will connect to the existing five-lane U.S. 412 west of Tontitown.

There are no east-west arterials north of existing U.S. Highway 412 across northern Washington County or southern Benton County. The increased development in the area necessitate the prompt identification of the facility alignment so that right-of-way may be preserved.

Alternatives to be considered are:

1. The "Do-Nothing" Alternative where roads are constructed according to the regional plans with the exception of the proposed facility;

2. The "Reconstruction" Alternative where roads on the regional plan are upgraded to handle traffic forecast for the proposed facility, but with less than full control of access;

3. The "New Location" Alternative, considering several different alignments and full control of access.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state and local agencies and to private organizations, including conservation groups and groups of individuals who have expressed interest in the project in the past and to major Arkansas newspapers. A series of public involvement sessions will be held in the areas to be affected. In addition, a public hearing(s) and a formal scoping meeting(s) will be held. Dates and locations for the meetings will be determined as the project progresses. Public notice will be given

of the time and place of the meetings. 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 Assistant Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Elizabeth Romero,

Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Research and Development Programs Meeting

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting at which NHTSA will describe and discuss specific research and development projects. Further, the notice requests suggestions for topics to be presented by the agency.

DATES AND TIMES: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will hold a public meeting devoted primarily to presentations of specific research and development projects on September 17, 1998, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m. The deadline for interested parties to suggest agenda topics is 4:15 p.m. on August 28, 1998. Questions may be submitted in advance regarding the agency's research and development projects. They must be submitted in writing by September 2, 1998, to the address given below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after the September 2 date will be answered at the meeting during the discussion period. The individual, group, or company asking a question does not have to be present for the question to be answered. A consolidated list of answers to questions submitted by September 2 will be available at the meeting and will be mailed to requesters after the meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tysons Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA. Suggestions for specific R&D topics as described below and questions for the September 17, 1998, meeting relating to the agency's research and development programs should be submitted to the Office of the Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6206, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590. The fax number is (202) 366-5930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In recent years, since April 1993, NHTSA has provided detailed information about its research and development programs in presentations at a series of public meetings. The purpose is to make available more complete and timely information regarding the agency's research and development programs. This is the twenty-first meeting in that series, and it will be held on September 17, 1998, at the Tysons Westpark Hotel, McLean, Virginia.

NHTSA requests suggestions from interested parties on the specific agenda topics to be presented. NHTSA will base its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it receives by close of business at 4:15 p.m. on August 28, 1998. Before the meeting, it will publish a notice with an agenda listing the research and development topics to be discussed. The agenda can also be obtained by calling or faxing the information numbers listed elsewhere in this notice or from NHTSA's Web site under Announcements/Public Meetings at URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>. NHTSA asks that the suggestions be limited to six, in priority order, so that the presentations at the September 17 R&D meeting can be most useful to the audience. Specific R&D topics are listed below. Many of these topics have been discussed at previous meetings. Suggestions for agenda topics are not restricted to this listing, and interested parties are invited to suggest other R&D topics of specific interest to their organizations. Additionally, if any interested parties would like to make a presentation regarding technical issues concerning any of NHTSA's research programs, information concerning the proposed topic and speaker should be submitted in writing by close of business August 28, 1998.

Specific R&D topics are:

Fiscal Year 1999 R&D Research Efforts, International Harmonized Research Activities (IHRA),

On-line tracking system for NHTSA's research projects, and
Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN).

Specific Crashworthiness R&D topics are:

Status of advanced air bag research,
Demonstration of CD ROM for child restraint/vehicle compatibility,
Preparation of new dummies for assessment of advanced air bag technology,
Status of research on restraint systems for rollover protection,
Improved frontal crash protection (program status, problem identification, offset testing),
Advanced glazing research,
Vehicle aggressivity and fleet compatibility,
Upgrade side crash protection,
Upgrade seat and occupant restraint systems,
Child restraint/air bag interaction (CRABI) dummy testing,
Truck crashworthiness/occupant protection,
National Transportation Biomechanics Research Center (NTBRC),
Head and neck injury research,
Lower extremity injury research,
Thorax injury research,
Human injury simulation and analysis,
Refinements to the Hybrid III dummy, and
Advanced frontal test dummy.

Specific Crash Avoidance R&D topics are:

National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS),
Intelligent vehicle initiative,
Status and plans for anti-lock brake system (ABS) research and testing,
Human factors guidelines for crash avoidance warning devices,
Drowsy driver monitoring,
Driver workload assessment,
Rearend collision avoidance system guidelines,
Road departure collision avoidance system guidelines,
Intersection collision avoidance system guidelines,
Lane change/merge collision avoidance system guidelines.

National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) topic is:

Special crash investigation studies of air bag cases.

Separately, questions regarding research projects that have been submitted in writing not later than close of business on September 2, 1998, will be answered. The summary minutes of the meeting, copies of materials handed out at the meeting, and answers to the questions submitted for response at the

meeting will be available for public inspection in the DOT Docket in Washington, DC, within 3 weeks after the meeting. Copies of this material will then be available at ten cents a page upon request to DOT Docket, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. The DOT Docket is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The summary minutes, handouts, and answers to the questions will also be available on NHTSA's Web site under Announcements/Public Meetings at URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>.

NHTSA will provide technical aids to participants as necessary, during the Research and Development Programs Meeting. Thus, any person desiring the assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TTDs), readers, taped texts, braille materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Rita Gibbons on (202) 366-4862 or by telefax on (202) 366-5930 by close of business September 4, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-4862. Fax number: (202) 366-5930.

Raymond P. Owings,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT

[Docket No. RSPA-98-3891; Notice 14]

Pipeline Safety: Mobil Pipe Line Company Approved for Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of risk demonstration project approval and finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has issued a Risk Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing Mobil Pipe Line Company to participate in the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program. OPS has also made a finding that Mobil's demonstration project will have no significant impacts on the environment.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this or any other demonstration project will be accepted in the Docket throughout the 4-year demonstration period. Comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, or you can E-Mail your comments to ops.comments@rspa.dot.gov. Comments should identify the docket number RSPA-98-3891. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Callsen, OPS, (202) 366-4572, regarding the subject matter of this notice. Contact the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-5046, for docket material. Comments may also be reviewed online at the DOT Docket Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Project Authorization: On August 10, 1998, OPS, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 60126, issued Mobil a Risk Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing Mobil to conduct a risk management project at Mobil's Patoka, Illinois crude breakout tank facility located within the city limits of Vernon, Illinois. OPS has determined, after a comprehensive review of Mobil's demonstration project, that the project is expected to provide superior safety.

More detailed descriptions of all aspects of the Mobil demonstration project, including the OPS rationale for approving the project, are available in the following documents:

(1) 63 FR 36024, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Project and Environmental Assessment for the Mobil Pipe Line Company Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program", July 1, 1998.

(2) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Mobil Pipe Line Company; Site: Patoka, Illinois", available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes a map showing the demonstration site.

(3) "Mobil Pipe Line Company—Application for DOT-OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", available in Docket No. RSPA-98-3891 at the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400