

after the day of publication of this notice.

Charlene Barshefsky,

United States Trade Representative.

Annex

Section A. General note 4(d) to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS") is modified by deleting the country set out opposite the following HTS subheading:

2849.90.50 South Africa

Section B. Modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS") of an article's preferential tariff treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP").

For the following HTS subheadings, the Rates of Duty 1-special subcolumn is modified by deleting the symbol "A+," in the parentheses following the "Free" rate and by inserting the symbol "A," in lieu thereof.

7108.12.50

7108.13.70

Section C. A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act shall apply to imports of eligible articles from South Africa that are provided for in HTS subheading 2849.90.50.

[FR Doc. 99-33385 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Transit Administration

Final Environmental Impact Statement; Denver, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties

AGENCIES: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the FHWA and the FTA, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Regional Transportation District (RTD), have jointly prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed transportation improvements in the Southeast Corridor of the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area. The project is within the municipalities of Denver, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. The Final EIS identifies a preferred alternative and the associated environmental impacts of the proposed preferred alternative. Interested citizens are invited to review the Final EIS and submit comments. Copies of the Final EIS may be obtained by telephoning or writing the contact person list below under Addresses. Public reading copies of the Final EIS

are available at the locations listed under Supplementary Information.

DATES: A 30-day public review period will begin on December 23, 1999, and conclude on January 28, 2000. Written comments on the preferred alternative and impacts to be considered must be received by CDOT by January 28, 2000. A public hearing to receive oral comments on the Final EIS will be held in one location in Denver. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for hearing date and location.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Final EIS should be addressed to Jim Bumanglag, Project Manager, Colorado Department of Transportation, Southeast Corridor, 4201 East Arkansas, Denver, CO 80222. Requests for a copy of the Final EIS may be addressed to Mr. Bumanglag at the address above. Please see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for a listing of the available documents and formats in which they may be obtained. Copies of the Final EIS are also available for public inspection and review. See Supplementary Information section for locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request copies of the Final EIS or for additional information, contact: Mr. Vincent P. Barone, FHWA Colorado Division, 555 Zang Street, Room 250, Denver, CO 80228, Telephone (303) 969-6730, extension 369; or Mr. David L. Beckhouse, FTA Region VIII, 216 16th Street Mall, Suite 650, Denver, CO 80202, Telephone (303) 844-3242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Hearing Date and Location:

- January 12, 2000, Most Precious Blood Catholic School, 2250 South Harrison Street, Denver, CO 80237, 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Copies of the Final EIS are available in hard copy format for public inspection at:

- CDOT Region 6 Office, 2000 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80222, 303-757-9372.
- CDOT Environmental Services, 1325 S. Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80222, 303-757-9259.
- RTD Administrative Services, 1600 Blake Street, Denver, CO 80202, 303-299-2484.
- Denver Public Library, 10 West 14th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203, 303-640-6220.
- Castlewood Public Library, 6739 South Uinta Street, Denver, CO 80237, 303-771-3197.
- Southeast Corridor Project Office (Carter & Burgess), 216 16th Street Mall, Suite 1700, Denver CO 80202, 303-820-5278.

- Aurora Central Library, 14949 East Alameda Drive, Aurora, CO 80012, 303-739-6600.

- Aurora Planning Office, 1470 South Havana St., Room 608, Aurora, CO 80012, 303-739-7250.

- Douglas Public Library District-Philip S. Miller Branch, 961 South Plum Creek Blvd., Castle Rock, CO 80104, 303-688-5157.

Copies of supporting technical reports and engineering plan sheets are available at:

- CDOT Region 6 Office, 2000 South Holly Street, Denver, CO 80222, 303-757-9372.

- Southeast Corridor Project Office (Carter & Burgess), 216 16th Street Mall, Suite 1700, Denver CO 80202, 303-820-5278.

Background

The Final EIS evaluated a No-Action, and a Preferred Alternative (including transportation management solutions) in the Southeast Corridor and determined the estimated costs and potential impacts associated with each. The project study limits are on I-25 from Broadway Avenue to Lincoln Avenue, which includes I-225 from I-25 to Parker Road. CDOT was the local lead agency for the preparation of the Final EIS.

The FHWA, the FTA, the CDOT, the RTD and other local agencies invite interested individuals, organizations, and Federal, State and local agencies to comment on the identified preferred alternative and associated social, economic, or environmental impacts related to the alternatives.

The preferred alternative is generally consistent with the Southeast Corridor Major Investment Study completed in July 1997. It begins at approximately I-25 and Broadway Avenue and proceeds south and southeast to Lincoln Avenue following the general alignment of I-25. Also included is a segment along I-225 from I-25 to Parker Road. The preferred alternative excludes any proposed roadway improvements near I-25 from 6th Avenue to approximately the Logan Street crossing including the I-25 interchanges at Alameda, Santa Fe, and Broadway. The primary purpose of the Southeast Corridor Multi-Modal Project is to improve travel time and enhance safety along these two transportation corridors, while causing the least disruption to neighboring residents, businesses, and commuters. The Southeast Corridor is the most heavily congested corridor on a daily basis, in the State of Colorado. It has been the focus of study for twenty years. These studies have consistently recommended

that improvements be made to the highway system and that public transit be provided.

The alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS include the following:

1. The No-Action alternative served as the baseline for environmental analysis and consists of the existing transit and highway systems and all projects contained in the federally approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Denver metropolitan area.

2. The Preferred Alternative generally will use the I-25 right-of-way between Broadway Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, and the I-225 right-of-way between I-25 and Parker Road. There are 19.12 miles of double tracked light rail transit beginning at the existing Broadway Station and ending at Lincoln Avenue on the west side of I-25. Light rail will also be added to the median of I-225, from I-25 to the existing Nine Mile park-n-Ride. Thirteen light rail stations are planned. Improvements to I-25 and I-225 consist of one additional lane in each direction on I-25 from Logan Avenue to I-225, two additional lanes in each direction on I-25 from I-225 to C-470/E-470 and one additional lane in each direction on I-225 from I-25 to Yosemite. This alternative is designed to accommodate future transportation needs and includes improvements to the highway, transportation systems management, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the study area.

The FHWA, the FTA, the CDOT and the RTD evaluated all significant social, economic, and environmental impacts of the alternatives. The primary areas of examination included transit ridership, the capital outlays needed to construct the recommended alternative, the cost of operating and maintaining facilities created by the project, and the financial requirements on the funding agencies. Environmental and social impacts evaluated in the analysis included land use and neighborhood impacts, traffic and parking impacts near stations, visual impacts, hazardous material impacts, impacts on cultural and paleontological resources, and noise and vibration impacts. Impacts on natural areas, threatened and endangered species, air and water quality, and groundwater are also covered. Right-of-way impacts are also identified. Impacts were also evaluated both for the construction period and for the long-term period of operation. Measures to mitigate adverse impacts were developed.

In accordance with the Federal Transit Act, as amended, (49 U.S.C. 5301 *et seq.*) and FHWA and FTA policy, the Final EIS was prepared with required engineering design studies

necessary to complete the document. On the basis of the Final EIS and the comments received, a Record of Decision will proceed. (23 U.S.C. 315; 49 U.S.C. 107, 5301 *et seq.*; 49 CFR 1.48 and 1.51)

James Daves,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Lakewood, Colorado.

Louis F. Mraz Jr.,

Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region VIII, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 99-32984 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-1999-6669]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) intentions to request approval for three years of an existing information collection entitled, "Maritime Administration Service Obligation Compliance Report and Merchant Marine Reserve, U.S. Naval Reserve (USNR), Annual Report."

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before February 22, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Taylor E. Jones, Jr., Director, Office of Maritime Labor, Training and Safety, MAR-250, Room 7302, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, telephone number: 202-366-5755 or fax 202-493-2288. Copies of this collection can be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: "Maritime Administration Service Obligation Compliance Report and Merchant Marine Reserve, U.S. Naval Reserve (USNR), Annual Report."

Type of Request: Approval of an existing information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0509.

Form Number: MA-930.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from the date of approval.

Summary of Collection of Information: Every student and graduate of the USMMA and subsidized State maritime academy student and graduate incurs a mandatory service obligation in the U.S. merchant marine.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collection is necessary to determine if a graduate of the USMMA or subsidized State maritime academy graduate is complying with the requirement to submit annually a form to MARAD. This form is used to determine if a graduate has complied with the terms of the service obligation for that year.

Description of Respondents: Every student and graduate of the USMMA and subsidized State maritime academy student incurs a mandatory service obligation in the U.S. merchant marine.

Annual Responses: 3000 responses.

Annual Burden: 1500 hours.

Comments: Signed written comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination 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 is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Dated: December 20, 1999.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-33352 Filed 12-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub No. 5) (2000-1)]

Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

SUMMARY: The Board has approved the first quarter 2000 rail cost adjustment factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. The first quarter 2000 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 1.043. The first quarter 2000 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.594. The first quarter 2000 RCAF-5 is 0.581.