

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4158]

United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee; Preparations for Various Telecommunication Standardization Meetings: Notice of Meetings

The Department of State announces meetings of the U.S. International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC). The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Department on policy, technical and operational issues with respect to international telecommunications standardization bodies such as the International Telecommunication Union.

The ITAC will meet to debrief the ITU Plenipotentiary Meeting recently completed in Marrakech, Morocco on November 20, 2002 from 9:30–noon at the Department of State in a room to be announced.

Members of the public will be admitted to the extent that seating is available, and may join in the discussions, subject to the instructions of the Chair. Entrance to the Department of State is controlled; people intending to attend a meeting at the Department of State should send their clearance data by fax to (202) 647–7407 or e-mail to worsleydm@state.gov not later than 24 hours before the meeting. Please include the name of the meeting, your name, social security number, date of birth and organizational affiliation. One of the following valid photo identifications will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with your picture on it, U.S. passport, or U.S. Government identification. Directions to the meeting location may be obtained by calling the ITAC Secretariat at (202) 647–2592 or e-mail to worsleydm@state.gov.

Dated: October 25, 2002.

Marian Gordon,

Director, Telecommunication Development, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02–28218 Filed 11–5–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4179]

Advisory Committee Meeting on Law Applicable to Securities Intermediaries Meeting Notice

The State Department's Advisory Committee on Private International Law Study Group on International Securities Transactions will hold two meetings at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on proposed treaty rules on determining

the law applicable to securities intermediaries for cross-border arrangements, and in particular the law applicable to dispositions of securities held through an indirect holding system. The meeting will provide an opportunity for comment on current proposals for such rules, on which final agreement will be sought in December 2002.

A preliminary meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 29 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and a final meeting on Wednesday, November 20 to review positions of the securities industry, agency authorities, and state and federal securities law and other related interests.

Finalization of the proposed rules, to be set out in multilateral treaty form, will be sought under the auspices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, located at The Hague, Netherlands, an international private law body of which the United States is a member. Finalization of the proposed treaty rules does not in any manner commit the United States or any participant to implement the rules, and a review of the rules as adopted and full opportunity for comment will be initiated during the first quarter 2003.

Agenda: The meeting will review the latest draft rules which have been considered by a number of countries, organizations and industry representatives since work on this topic was initiated in January 2001, together with proposed amendments thereto. Recommendations will also be sought on further amendments and provisions that may be suggested.

Subject to availability of time, the meeting will review developments involving direct and indirect holders of securities, transfers of interest, dematerialization and immobilization of securities, the systemic role of multiple indirect holding systems, and the balance of interests to be achieved through harmonization at the international level by treaty. Among other issues, an applicable law regime will need to address what law governs transfers of securities held through custodial accounts and financial intermediaries. Important in that regard will be the interface with existing state and federal law in the United States.

Time permitting, the desirability of new efforts to prepare substantive rules on securities intermediaries by other international bodies which could build on progress achieved at the Hague Conference will be discussed, including in particular UNIDROIT and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Documentation: The conference working documents are available at

<http://www.hcch.net>, including the most recent draft provisions, in particular Preliminary Doc. Nos. 15 and 16, and the initial basic study by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference, "Law applicable to disposition of securities held through indirect holding systems", Prel. Doc. No. 1.

Attendance: The public is invited to attend up to the capacity of the meeting room and may participate subject to the rulings of the chair. The meetings will take place at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, 33 Liberty Street, NYC. Since access to the building is controlled, persons wishing to attend should, not later than three (3) days prior to each meeting, notify Audrey Watson at 212–720–8403, fax 720–1756 of their participation, along with address, contact numbers and affiliation. For further information on the proposed rules or the Hague Conference, please contact Joyce Hansen, Sr. Vice President, New York Federal Reserve, at 212–720–5024, fax 212–720–1756 or Harold Burman, Office of the Legal Adviser, State Department, 202–776–8421; fax 202–776–8482.

Dated: October 23, 2002.

Harold S. Burman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02–28219 Filed 11–5–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration**Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the Expansion of Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Transit Service From Hamilton E. Holmes Station in the City of Atlanta, Georgia to Fulton Industrial Boulevard in Fulton County, GA**

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), is issuing this notice to advise interested agencies and the public that, in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for an expansion of transit services westward from MARTA's Hamilton E. Holmes Station on its West Line to a logical terminus on Fulton Industrial Boulevard. Identified

by MARTA's Board of Directors as the top priority for expansion of services, possible rail extensions and other types of transit service are outlined in MARTA's "Three Corridor Feasibility Study" (August 2000). As a part of an Alternatives Analysis and the ensuing EIS, the benefits and impacts of eighteen individual alternatives, including a no-build or no-action alternative, a transportation system management (TSM) alternative (also called New Starts Baseline alternative) and several build alternatives, will be examined. Scoping will be accomplished through coordination with interested persons, organizations, and federal, state and local agencies. FTA is serving as the federal lead agency for the project in anticipation of a grant application from MARTA for its construction through the Federal Section 5309 New Starts Program. Based on the results of the scoping process, FTA will establish the scope of the environmental review under NEPA, including the identification of environmental issues and effects to be addressed and reasonable alternatives to be retained for detailed evaluation. If a need to expand the study area west into Cobb and Douglas County can be demonstrated during the scoping process and if a project sponsor other than MARTA can be identified for that portion of the project, this NEPA undertaking will be accordingly augmented.

DATES: Interagency and public scoping and information meetings will be held on the following dates at the locations indicated:

- *Interagency Scoping Meeting:* Wednesday, November 13, 2002 from 10 AM to 12 Noon, at the URS Corporation Offices at 235 Peachtree St., NE, Suite 2000—North Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30324.

- *Public Scoping Meetings:*
 - Tuesday, November 19, 2002 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, at the Peyton Forest Elementary School Gymnasium, 301 Peyton Road, SW, Atlanta Georgia 30311.
 - Thursday, November 21, 2002 from 11:30 am to 2 pm, at the Comfort Inn, Meeting Room, 4330 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW, Atlanta, GA 30336.
 - Thursday, November 21, 2002 from 6 am to 8:30 pm, at the Peyton Forest Elementary School Gymnasium, 301 Peyton Road, SW, Atlanta Georgia 30311.

- Written Comments:* on the scope of the environmental study are welcome and should be sent by December 20, 2002 to Connie Cannon, Project Manager, MARTA, 2424 Piedmont Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30324.

Comments can also be emailed to westline.comments@itsmarta.com.

ADDRESSES: The addresses where scoping meetings will be held and where comments on the scope of study may be sent appear above in the **DATES** Section. A scoping booklet is available from Connie Cannon, Project Manager, MARTA, 2424 Piedmont Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30324 or by accessing the project Web site at www.itsmarta.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tony Dittmeier, Transportation Program Specialist, Federal Transit Administration, Region IV Office, telephone 404.562.3512 or Connie Cannon, MARTA, 2424 Piedmont Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30324.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping

MARTA will hold interagency and public scoping meetings as presented in the **DATES** section above. At these meetings, MARTA will present preliminary results of an Alternatives Analysis and the alternatives proposed for detailed evaluation in the EIS. At the public meetings, interested persons will have an opportunity to speak individually with a MARTA representative. In addition, representatives will be available to receive written and record verbal comments on the scope of the NEPA review. All scoping meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, to participate in the meeting should contact Ms. Rosalyn V. Green, ADA Compliance Officer, MARTA, 2424 Piedmont Rd. NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30324 or by telephone at (404) 848-4800, TDD at (404) 848-5665 or TTY (404) 848-4931. Interested individuals, organizations, and public agencies are invited to attend the scoping meetings and participate in identifying any important environmental impact issues related to the proposed alternatives and suggesting alternatives which would be more economical or would have less environmental impact while achieving similar transportation objectives. An information packet, referred to as the Scoping Booklet, will be distributed to all public agencies and interested individuals and will be available at the meetings. Others may request the Scoping Booklet by contacting Brian Piascik at the address listed above in **ADDRESSES**. Anyone wishing to be placed on the project mailing list to receive meeting notices and further information as the project develops

should also contact Connie Cannon at the address listed in **ADDRESSES** or call the project information line (404) 589-0929. Comments during the scoping period should focus on identifying the social, economic, and environmental concerns associated with the proposed action, and alternatives that deserve consideration, and not on a preference for a particular alternative. Comments regarding preference for a particular alternative may be submitted during subsequent public meetings or at a hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, when it is published. Scoping comments may be made at the scoping meetings or may be directed in writing to Connie Cannon, Project Manager, at the address given in **ADDRESSES**.

II. Description of the Project Area and Transportation Need

MARTA has identified an expansion of the West Line Transit Service as a top priority for meeting the travel needs within the Atlanta area. MARTA's long-range planning efforts identified resources to begin the required planning, environmental and design activities. MARTA has recently conducted preliminary activities to develop an aggressive, yet realistic plan for completing the required activities leading to the project's implementation. The current project, as included in the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), includes transit services beyond the MARTA West Line from the Hamilton E. Holmes Station to Fulton Industrial Boulevard. A new station is proposed near I-20 at Fulton Industrial Boulevard and a potential second station may be considered in the vicinity of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Fairburn Road. MARTA has previously completed preliminary studies on the project.

In MARTA's previous work, several alignment options, technologies and station locations were identified and will be the subject of continued study. The West Line corridor parallels I-20, which is an identified congested facility in ARC's Congestion Management System (CMS). The CMS identifies I-20 as congested from I-285 to SR 5, serving approximately 140,000 vehicles per day. The primary congestion occurs eastbound during the morning peak period and westbound during the afternoon peak period.

MARTA's Three Corridors Feasibility Study demonstrated substantial mobility benefits of the proposed West Line extension. This previous evaluation demonstrated significant new transit trips as a result of the build

alternative. Trips from outside the I-285 perimeter destined to Atlanta would be particularly well served by the project. The travel forecasts predicted over 13,800 daily transit boardings at the proposed Fulton Industrial station. ARC's Regional Transportation Plan, 2025 (RTP) also documents the existing and future travel patterns and levels of congestion within the corridor. The RTP lists planned transportation improvements including widening and addition of HOV lanes on I-20 and numerous surface street improvements. Even with those improvements, the RTP sites the expected continued increase in levels of congestion. The RTP also forecasts that substantial ridership can be attributed to extended transit service beyond the existing West Line terminus at Hamilton E. Holmes Station.

The Fulton Industrial Boulevard area is also developing into a major employment center for many MARTA service area residents, which requires a commute from the central area of Atlanta, South Fulton County and DeKalb County. A reduction in travel time to the Fulton Industrial Area could encourage a substantial increase in reverse commutes on the MARTA System.

III. Alternatives To Be Studied

An Alternatives Analysis will identify the transit service options for reconsideration, in detail, during the NEPA process. The alternatives expected to be considered in detail in the EIS include:

A no-build or no-action alternative that includes only those projects already committed as defined in the current Regional Long Range Transportation Plan.

A TSM Alternative that represents low cost infrastructure improvements and bus transit enhancements to the service already provided in the study area, including projects already committed as defined in the current Regional Long Range Transportation Plan.

A number of fixed guideway improvements along multiple alignments including, but not limited to, a heavy rail extension of the current MARTA West Line, bus rapid transit and light rail transit facilities. These alternatives would also include all facilities associated with the construction and operation of transit systems including right of way, structures, track (if necessary), stations, park and ride lots, storage and maintenance facilities and respective bus and rail operating plans.

IV. Probable Effects

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the FTA regulation on environmental procedures shared with the Federal Highway Administration (23 CFR part 771). The EIS will evaluate the social (including environmental justice benefits and burdens analysis), economic, and environmental impacts of the alternatives. Primary concerns to be addressed include: safety at grade crossings, site contamination in railroad rights-of-way, property effects including business disruptions and relocation, impacts on local traffic and travel patterns, noise and vibration impacts, land use impacts, wetland impacts, and aesthetic/visual impacts. The cumulative impacts of the project together with other reasonably foreseeable actions and activities will be addressed.

V. FTA New Starts Procedures

Following public review of the Draft EIS, MARTA will request FTA approval to initiate Preliminary Engineering, in accordance with the FTA New Starts regulation (49 CFR part 611). FTA will consider the merits of the project in comparison with other projects across the nation competing for New Starts funding. FTA will either recommend or not recommend the preferred alternative's advancement into Preliminary Engineering.

Issued on: October 31, 2002.

Jerry Franklin,

Regional Administrator, Atlanta, Georgia.

[FR Doc. 02-28244 Filed 11-5-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the Salt Lake City—Weber County Regional Transportation Corridor Project

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), is issuing this notice to advise interested agencies and the public that, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed Salt

Lake City—Weber County Regional Transportation Corridor project located in Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake Counties, Utah. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared to evaluate transportation improvements, including a potential commuter rail line, in the Salt Lake City-Weber County Regional Transportation Corridor.

A commuter rail transit alternative (*i.e.*, the Build Alternative), a No-Build Alternative, and any additional alternatives emerging from the Scoping Process will be evaluated. The EIS will consider any reasonable alternatives identified during scoping that provide similar transportation benefits while reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. Scoping will be accomplished through coordination with interested persons, organizations, and federal, state and local agencies. Three (3) public scoping meetings, one meeting in each of the three counties, and one (1) interagency scoping meeting are currently planned.

Based on the results of the Scoping Process, FTA will make the following determinations regarding the environmental review under NEPA:

1. Identification of environmental issues to be addressed;
2. Refinement of the alternatives for evaluation.

DATES: Public and agency scoping meetings will be held November 15 to 22, 2002.

Agency Scoping Meeting: November 15, 2002.

Public Scoping Meeting: November 19, 2002.

Public Scoping Meeting: November 20, 2002.

Public Scoping Meeting: November 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the project should be sent to Michelle Rust, Strategic Planner, Utah Transit Authority, 3600 South 700 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84130 (801) 262-5626, ext. 3255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Don Cover, Federal Transit Administration, 216-16th Street, Suite 650, Denver, Colorado 80202. Phone: (303)844-2174.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping

UTA will hold the Interagency Scoping meeting November 15, 2002 from 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. at UTA's Meadowbrook Offices, in the Board Room, located at 3600 South 700 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84130. This location is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with special needs should contact Sherry L. Repscher, ADA Compliance Officer,