

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954—1958 Comp., P.218.

Office of Personnel Management.

Lorraine A. Green,

Deputy Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties, Illinois

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a project in Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties, Illinois. The proposed project will extend from the northwestern terminus of the proposed Jacksonville Bypass, in Morgan County to US Route 136, in McDonough County. The proposed project will be designated Federal Air Primary Route 310 (FAP Route 310).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Walter C. Waidelich, Jr., Design Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division, 3520 Executive Park Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703, Telephone: (217) 492-4622.

Mr. James L. Easterly, district Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), 126 East Ash Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, Telephone: (217) 782-7301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to improve US Route 67 with Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties. The proposed action involves upgrading approximately 88.5 km (55 miles) of US Route 67 to a four lane, partial access-controlled facility, utilizing both the existing alignment and new alignment, depending on the determination of the best combination to meet project goals. The proposed project will extend from the proposed Jacksonville Bypass in Morgan County on the south to US Route 136 near Macomb in McDonough County on the north.

The need of improving US Route 67 is based on improving access to existing/potential development in the region, transportation demands, safety

considerations, and system continuity for the route. Future economic development in the area is tied to improving transportation networks to major urban areas. Upgrading US Route 67 from Jacksonville to Macomb would provide the opportunity for growth. The proposed action would not only connect major urban areas of St. Louis and the Quad Cities, but would also tie together the population centers within the immediate project area.

Alternatives under consideration include no action and a new four lane, partial access-controlled expressway facility. Several alignment alternatives will be evaluated for the proposed project, including bypasses of Beardstown, Rushville, and Industry. Additionally, studies will evaluate the use of the existing US Route 67 alignment south of Beardstown versus alternative alignments in that area. The proposed expressway would be grade separated at all active railroad tracks and interchanges would be constructed at most marked routes along the way. A new Illinois River crossing would also be required in the Beardstown vicinity.

The scoping process for this project will include meetings, review sessions as appropriate, and coordination with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies. An initial scoping meeting to discuss the project's impacts and determine the extent of additional agency involvement will be held on June 22, 1995 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Elks Club in Beardstown (205 East 2nd Street). Initial areas of environmental concern identified as being potentially impacted by project alternatives include conversion of agricultural land, cultural resources, wetlands, threatened and endangered species (Federal and State), floodplains, and water quality. Further details and a scoping information packet may be obtained from one of the contact persons listed above.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed project are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or suggestions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or IDOT contact persons at the addresses provided above.

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

Issued on: June 12, 1995.

Walter C. Waidelich, Jr.,

Design Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division, Springfield, Illinois.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

International Educational and Cultural Activities Discretionary Grant Program

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public or private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop projects that link their international exchange interests with counterpart institutions/groups in ways supportive of the aims of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256, also known as the Fulbright Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries . . . ; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations . . . and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Application Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau program and project review process has been completed.

ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER: All communications concerning this announcement should refer to the Annual Discretionary Grant Program. The announcement number is E/P-96-