

**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:  
Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, West  
Feliciana Parish, Louisiana**

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Withdrawal of Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for the proposed highway project, crossing the Mississippi River between Pointe Coupee and West Feliciana Parishes, Louisiana, has been withdrawn.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William C. Farr, Program Operations Manager, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 3929, 750 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-3929, or Vince Pizzolato, Environmental Engineer Administrator, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A DEIS was being prepared on a proposal to build a new bridge and associated approaches and roadway across the Mississippi River between Pointe Coupee Parish and West Feliciana Parish. Work on the DEIS has been suspended due to funding availability and will be resumed when appropriate funding is identified.

Issued on: August 13, 1996.  
William A. Sussmann,  
FHWA Division Administrator.  
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**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 the ITS Joint Program Office (JPO) of the Federal Highway Administration and the Office of Crash Avoidance Research, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), plan to conduct a dialogue primarily with industry to discuss the crash avoidance research program. Topics of interest will include the value and direction of the crash avoidance program and methods for improving the cooperation between DOT and industry

on this program. Further, the notice requests suggestions for topics to be presented by the ITS JPO and NHTSA involved in the ITS crash avoidance research program.

**DATES AND TIMES:** The ITS Joint Program Office of the Federal Highway Administration and NHTSA will hold jointly a public meeting devoted primarily to establish a two-way dialogue on topics of mutual interest with the automotive industry on September 12, 1996, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 4 p.m. Interested parties are encouraged to suggest agenda topics prior to 4:15 p.m. on September 6, 1996. Questions may be submitted in advance regarding the ITS/JPO Programs, NHTSA's ITS research and development projects, and other topics. They should be submitted in writing by August 29, 1996, to the address given below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after the August 29 date will be answered at the meeting in the discussion period. Topics and questions may also be provided at the meeting. The individual, group, or company asking a question does not have to be present for the question to be answered. A consolidated list of the questions submitted by August 29 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, Virginia 22101. Suggestions for specific topics for the September 12, 1996, meeting relating to the research and development programs should be submitted to the Office of the Director, Office of Crash Avoidance Research NRD-50, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6220, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590, telephone 202-366-5662, fax number 202-366-7237, or Program Coordinator, ITS/JPO, HVH-1, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590, telephone 202-366-2182, fax number 202-366-8712.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ITS JPO and NHTSA intend to provide an overview about their research and development programs in this public meeting. The purpose is to make available information regarding the ITS research and development programs related to crash avoidance research and establish a channel for sharing information which is of interest to all parties concerned.

The primary goal of the ITS crash avoidance research program is to facilitate the introduction of collision avoidance products into the motor

vehicle fleet. Towards achieving this, NHTSA has undertaken research to analyze accident data, identify crash avoidance opportunities, develop countermeasure concepts and establish performance specifications for crash avoidance, and develop research tools to evaluate technical performance of the countermeasures and their effectiveness. In the next phase of our research program, while continuing our efforts to understand the system capabilities of crash avoidance products, the agency also plans to pursue research to fully understand the products' potential for user acceptance, considering factors such as system performance, usability, product cost, and overall safety benefits. Involvement of automobile manufacturers and suppliers are critical to the success of meeting this objective. The development and deployment of crash avoidance products will be facilitated by increased cooperation between JPO, NHTSA, and the automobile industry, and other innovators and suppliers of safety-related products. With this in mind, we seek your response to questions such as:

- Are there other research areas beyond what is currently being done for crash avoidance that NHTSA should pursue?
- How can JPO and NHTSA accelerate/facilitate the deployment of crash avoidance countermeasures?
- How can we best transfer our knowledge and technologies to you to meet your needs?
- How could the products and countermeasures identified thus far become affordable to the consumer?
- Would any mechanism for standardization of performance requirements of safety systems be helpful? If so, what vehicle could be used for the purpose?

ITS/JPO and NHTSA also request suggestions from interested parties on the specific agenda topics and questions to be discussed. The ITS/JPO and NHTSA will base its decision about the final agenda, in part, on the suggestions it receives by close of business at 4:15 p.m. on September 6, 1996.

Questions regarding research projects that have been submitted in writing not later than close of business on August 29, 1996, will be answered. A transcript of the meeting, copies of materials handed out at the meeting, if any, and copies of the suggestions offered by commenters will be available for public inspection in the NHTSA's Technical Reference Division, Room 5108, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590, or the ITS Joint Program Office, Room 3422, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Copies of the