

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise
Counties, Virginia**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that a draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed transportation corridor between Route 23 in Pound, Virginia and the West Virginia State Line, including the Virginia Counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Turner, Planning and Environment Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, The Dale Building, Suite 205, 1504 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229, Telephone 804-281-5111.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), will prepare an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposed highway from Route 23 in Pound, Virginia to the West Virginia State Line. The National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 extended the Coalfields Expressway from West Virginia into Virginia and defined the roadway as going to Pound, Virginia generally following State route 83 through Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise Counties. The proposed project involves a location study for the Coalfields Expressway in Virginia. The corridor will be developed as a two lane facility on an ultimate four lane design. Improvements could involve existing Route 83, a new highway on new location, or a combination of both. Access control will also be developed as part of this study.

Alternatives under consideration include: (1) taking no action (no build); (2) transportation system management (improvement to the existing roadway network); (3) mass transit; and (4) various build alternatives on both new location and combinations of existing and new location. The build alternatives will incorporate variations of vertical and horizontal grade alignments.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, private organizations, and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. The scoping process is

anticipated to begin in Fall of 1997. A series of public informational meetings and a public hearing will be held in the near future. Public notice will be given indicating the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

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

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

Issued on: December 5, 1997.

Bruce Turner,

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Richmond, Virginia.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Roanoke, Franklin and Henry Counties,
Virginia**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that a draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in the counties of Roanoke, Franklin and Henry in Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Turner, Planning and Environment Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, The Dale Building, Suite 205, 1504 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229, Telephone 804-281-5111.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), will prepare an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) to identify a location for a future Interstate (I-73) in Roanoke, Franklin and Henry counties, Virginia. The project would involve the location an construction of a new four-lane interstate facility, interchanges, and

redesign and construction of local access roads and roadway systems between Roanoke, Virginia to a point south of Martinsville, Virginia in the vicinity of the Virginia/North Carolina border for a total distance of approximately 70 miles.

Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for existing and future traffic demand, to reduce accidents and improve safety in the existing U.S. Route 220 corridor, and to provide a portion of new interstate in accordance with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) passed by the United States Congress in 1991. ISTEA identified I-73 as a highway corridor of national significance and directed the corridor be included on the National Highway System. Congress defined I-73 as a north-south corridor from Charleston, South Carolina to Detroit, Michigan that would pass through Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Portsmouth, Ohio, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Also included in the this proposal is the redesign and reconstruction of affected service roads and local access, including the identification of potential interchange locations along the corridor. Alternatives under consideration include: (1) taking no action (no build); (2) transportation system management (improvement to the existing roadway network) and/or intelligent transportation system methods and techniques; (3) widening the existing U.S. 220 highway to a four-lane, limited access highway; and (4) construction of a new four-lane, limited access highway on new location.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, private organizations, and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held between now and December 1999. In addition, public hearings will be held. Public notices will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearings. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearings.

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

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning