

Transportation, State Campus, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12232, Telephone: (518) 457-6452. or

Duane L. Dodds, Director, Office of Facilities Design, New York State Thruway Authority, 200 Southern Boulevard, Albany, New York 12209, Telephone: (518) 436-2916.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed intermodal project in the Towns of New Windsor, Montgomery and Newburgh, Orange County, New York. The project will involve the construction of an interchange on Interstate 84 with Drury Lane, the construction of an east/west connector road between Drury Lane and the Stewart Airport and the widening and reconstruction of Drury Lane between Route 207 and Route 17K. Improvements are necessary to develop a more direct access between Stewart Airport and the regional highway system and to stimulate the local and regional economy through the development of the Stewart Airport Properties in the vicinity of Drury Lane and the development of the airport in accordance with the Stewart Airport Master Plan.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) construction of an interchange on Interstate 84 with Drury Lane, construction of a four lane connector road between Drury Lane and the Stewart Airport and the widening and reconstruction of Drury Lane between its intersections with Route 207 and Route 17K, including the widening of Drury Lane to four lanes between the Stewart Airport connector road and I84. Incorporated into and studied with the build alternative will be variations of grade and alignment.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed interest in this proposal. A formal NEPA scoping meeting will be held for federal, state and local officials on January 14, 1998 at 2:00 P.M. at the New Windsor Town Hall and for the public on January 14, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. at the Little Britain Elementary School Auditorium in the Town of New Windsor. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The

draft EIS, when prepared, will be available for public and agency review and comment.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA, NYSDOT, or NYSTA 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 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: December 10, 1997.

Harold J. Brown,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for a Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 211.9 and 211.41, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of the Federal railroad safety regulations. The individuals petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being sought and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation

[FRA Waiver Petition No. WPS 97-10]

Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation, ("Metra,") seeks a permanent waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal Roadway Worker Protection Standards, Subpart C of 49 CFR, part 214.

Metra requests relief of 49 CFR 214.337 to the extent that lone workers would be permitted to use individual train detection as a method of on-track safety while operating powered snow blowers on and near the tracks at station platforms and related crosswalks.

In support of the petition, Metra states that:

"Snowfalls which begin prior to or during the rush hours require extensive lone worker participation utilizing powered snow blowers to make the

platforms and crosswalks safe for our customers * * *

During the times when lone workers utilize I.T.D. (Individual train detection) as their form of protection with powers tools being used the following procedure is required:

1. Will conduct a statement of on track safety. Will contact the train dispatcher and determine if any unscheduled trains are in the area.

2. Will determine that scheduled trains are on time.

3. When blowing snow from the platform within the 4 foot envelope will face the direction a train will approach from and keep a vigilant lookout for such trains.

4. Will blow snow from crosswalks only when safe to do so.

FRA should look at the safety risks to passengers as platforms where snow removal is not completed within the envelope of danger due to the constraints placed on lone workers when using power tools."

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with this proceeding since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number WPS-97-10) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 30 days of the date of this notice will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning this proceeding are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at FRA's temporary docket room located at 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Room 7051, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 15, 1997.

Grady C. Cothen,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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