**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**Shipping Coordinating Committee; Subcommittee for the Prevention of Marine Pollution; Notice of Meeting**

The Subcommittee for the Prevention of Marine Pollution (SPMP), a subcommittee of the Shipping Coordinating Committee, will conduct an open meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 1998, at 9:30 AM in Room 2415, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review the agenda items to be considered at the forty first session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 41) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). MEPC 41 will be held from March 30-April 3, 1998. Proposed U.S. positions on the agenda items for MEPC 41 will be discussed.

The major items for discussion for MEPC 41 will begin at 9:30 AM and include the following:

- Prevention of pollution from offshore oil and gas activities;
- Identification and protection of Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas;
- Interpretation and amendments of MARPOL 73/78 and related Codes;
- Follow-up to the Conference on prevention of air pollution from ships;
- Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water;
- Harmful effects of the use of antifouling paints for ships;
- Promotion of implementation and enforcement of MARPOL and related codes, including the development of an IMO manual on MARPOL. How to enforce it;
- Implementation of the Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Convention (OPRC), and;

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. For further information or documentation pertaining to the SPMP meeting, contact Lieutenant Commander Ray Perry, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters (G-MSO-4), 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001; Telephone: (202) 267-2714.


**Stephen M. Miller,**
Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Environmental Impact Statement:**

**Montgomery County, Maryland**

**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 will be prepared for a proposed project in Montgomery County, Maryland.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**
Ms. Renee Sigel, Planning, Research, and Environment Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration, The Rotunda Suite 220, 711 West 40th Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21211. Telephone: (410) 962-4440.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve MD 97 in Montgomery County, Maryland. Proposed alternates will address congestion and safety problems on existing MD 97 in the historic Town of Brookeville. The project limits are from Gold Mine Road to north of Holiday Drive, a distance of approximately two miles.

Alternatives under consideration include taking no action and constructing bypasses around Brookeville. Five bypass alternatives, proposing a two lane access controlled roadway on new location, have been retained for detailed study. Four alternatives would bypass Brookeville to the west and one would bypass Brookeville to the east.

Alternatives to improve the existing alignment through Brookeville were initially considered but were eliminated due to the resulting adverse effects on the historic district.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens and citizen groups who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. It is anticipated that a Public Hearing will be held in 1998. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a Public Hearing. Public notice will be given of the availability of the Draft EIS for review and of the time and place of this hearing. An Alternate Project Public Meeting was held in May 1996. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.