

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:  
Ketchikan, Alaska**

**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 bridge project in Ketchikan, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James A. Bryson, Realty/Environmental Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division, 709 West 9th Street, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1648, Telephone: (907) 586-7430 or Al Steininger, Engineering Manager, State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Statewide Engineering and Design Services Division, Southeast Region, 6860 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801-7999, Telephone (907) 465-4411, EMAIL: Al\_Steininger@dot.state.ak.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA in cooperation with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a bridge or bridges between Gravina Island and Revillagigedo Island in Ketchikan, Alaska. This is a high priority project authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

The proposed action would improve access to the Ketchikan International Airport and developable lands on Gravina Island. Alternatives under consideration include taking no action; various bridge alternatives, and an underwater tunnel. Several crossing alignments are under consideration.

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 or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in Ketchikan between June and August 1999. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of 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.

This project will be developed in accordance with the Interagency Working Agreement to Integrate Section 404 and Related Permit Requirements

into the National Environmental Policy Act. This agreement integrates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 404 permit process with the FHWA NEPA process on highway projects in Alaska.

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 or the ADOT&PF at the addresses 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 program.)

Issued: February 11, 1999.

**Stephen A. Moreno,**  
*Division Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 99-4210 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Highway Administration**

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-1999-5093]

**Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program; Public Meeting and Request for Comments**

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

**ACTION:** Public meeting; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is announcing a public meeting to solicit information that will assist the agency in implementing section 5103 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) which established the innovative bridge research and construction program. The new statutory language requires the Secretary of Transportation, represented by the FHWA, to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with States and other Federal agencies, universities and colleges, private sector entities, and nonprofit organizations to pay the Federal share of the cost of research, development, and technology transfer concerning innovative materials; and States to pay the Federal share of the cost of repair, rehabilitation, replacement, and new construction of bridges or structures that demonstrate the application of innovative materials. The FHWA recognizes the public's interest in how the agency evaluates and selects projects to be funded. For this

reason, we are scheduling a public meeting to obtain comments and ideas from interested persons to assist the FHWA in implementing section 5103 expeditiously.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Friday, February 26, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., c.t. Comments to the docket must be received on or before March 12, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the O'Hare Marriott Hotel, 8535 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, Telephone: (773) 693-4444.

Comments to the docket must refer to the docket number appearing at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Hooks, Office of Bridge Technology, (202) 366-6712; or Mr. Wilbert Baccus, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1396; Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Electronic Access**

Internet users can access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help.

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's web page at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Further information on the Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program including project selections for FY 1998-99 will be found on the FHWA's web page at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge>.

## Background

On November 4, 1998, at 63 FR 59621, a notice was published on implementation information for Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program funds [Pub. L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 107, 428 (1998), codified at 23 U.S.C. 503(b)]. This notice described the legislative basis for the program and the process for application for program funds for the fiscal years of 1998 and 1999. The notice further advised that the Secretary will select and approve applications based on whether the project that is the subject of the grant meets the goals of the program. The notice also advised that the Federal share of the cost of a project under this program will be determined by the Secretary and may include funds for preliminary engineering and performance evaluation.

The FHWA recognizes the public's interest in how the agency evaluates and selects projects to be funded. For that reason, we are scheduling a public meeting to obtain comments and ideas from interested persons to assist the FHWA in implementing section 5103 expeditiously. Oral statements and comments made by the participants during the course of the meeting will be recorded and incorporated into the official proceedings. Written comments will be accepted and placed in the public docket along with a transcript of the meeting. All docket comments and meeting transcripts will subsequently be available for review in the DOT Docket room.

During the hearing we plan to discuss all relevant issues concerning the evaluation, selection and funding of projects which meet the goals of the innovative bridge research and construction program.

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 315 and 503(b); 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: February 16, 1999.

**Henry H. Rentz,**

*Director of Program Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-4314 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### 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 NHTSA will

describe and discuss specific research and development projects. Further, the notice requests suggestions for topics to be presented by the agency.

**DATES AND TIMES:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will hold a public meeting devoted primarily to presentations of specific research and development projects on March 18, 1999, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m. The deadline for interested parties to suggest agenda topics is 4:15 p.m. on March 3, 1999. Questions may be submitted in advance regarding the agency's research and development projects. They must be submitted in writing by March 5, 1999, to the address given below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after the March 5 date will be answered at the meeting during the discussion period. The individual, group, or company asking a question does not have to be present for the question to be answered. A consolidated list of answers to questions submitted by March 5 will be available at the meeting and will be mailed to requesters after the meeting.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus, MI. Suggestions for specific R&D topics as described below and questions for the March 18, 1999, meeting relating to the agency's research and development programs should be submitted to the Office of the Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6206, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590. The fax number is (202) 366-5930.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In recent years, since April 1993, NHTSA has provided detailed information about its research and development programs in presentations at a series of public meetings. The purpose is to make available more complete and timely information regarding the agency's research and development programs. This is the twenty-third meeting in that series, and it will be held on March 18, 1999, at the Clarion Hotel, 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus, MI.

NHTSA requests suggestions from interested parties on the specific agenda topics to be presented. NHTSA will base its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it receives by close of business at 4:15 p.m. on March 3, 1999. Before the meeting, it will publish a notice with an agenda listing the research and development topics to be discussed. The agenda can also be obtained by calling or faxing the information numbers or at the E-mail

address listed elsewhere in this notice, or from NHTSA's Web site under Announcements/Public Meetings at URL <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/meetings/>. NHTSA asks that the suggestions be limited to six, in priority order, so that the presentations at the March 18 R&D meeting can be most useful to the audience. Specific R&D topics are listed below. Many of these topics have been discussed at previous meetings. Suggestions for agenda topics are not restricted to this listing, and interested parties are invited to suggest other R&D topics of specific interest to their organizations. Additionally, if any interested parties would like to make a presentation regarding technical issues concerning any of NHTSA's research programs, information concerning the proposed topic and speaker should be submitted in writing by close of business March 3, 1999.

*Specific R&D topics are:* Fiscal Year 1999 R&D Research Efforts, International Harmonized Research Activities (IHRA), On-line tracking system for NHTSA's research projects, and Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN).

*Specific Crashworthiness R&D topics are:* Status of advanced air bag research, Demonstration of CD ROM for child restraint/vehicle compatibility, Preparation of new dummies for assessment of advanced air bag technology, Status of research on restraint systems for rollover protection, Improved frontal crash protection (program status, problem identification, offset testing), Advanced glazing research, Vehicle aggressivity and fleet compatibility, Upgrade side crash protection, Upgrade seat and occupant restraint systems, Child restraint/air bag interaction (CRABI) dummy testing, Truck crashworthiness/occupant protection, National Transportation Biomechanics Research Center (NTBRC), Head and neck injury research, Lower extremity injury research, Thorax injury research, Human injury simulation and analysis, Refinements to the Hybrid III dummy, and Advanced frontal test dummy.

*Specific Crash Avoidance R&D topics are:* National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS), Intelligent vehicle initiative, Status and plans for anti-lock brake system (ABS) research and testing, Human factors guidelines for crash avoidance warning devices, Drowsy driver monitoring, Driver workload assessment, Rear-end collision avoidance system guidelines, Road departure collision avoidance system guidelines, Intersection collision avoidance system