

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation will be hosting a public forum on risk assessment in rulemaking. Expert panelists for this forum will include representatives from business, labor and government. The moderator of the forum will present a series of issues to the panel for discussion; the audience will also be encouraged to ask questions or make comments. The forum will address various issues such as problems with adequately describing the hazard or risk a regulation is trying to avoid; properly using and describing the evidence of the risk, the uncertainties involved; and the value and cost of peer review. This forum is the second of three planned public forums this year. In May, the Department hosted a forum on economic analysis, and later on this year we are planning a forum on small entities.

REGISTRATION: Participants are requested to register their intent to attend this forum meeting by sending e-mail to bob.klothe@ost.dot.gov. Put the words "Risk Assessment Registration" in the Subject line and the participant's name, address, phone number, and affiliation in the body of the message. If you do not have Internet access, you can register by calling 202-366-4723 or by writing to the contact person below. Please include your name, address, and phone number in your letter/postcard. Also, remember that space is limited and registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Klothe, Office of General Counsel (C-50), Department of Transportation, Room 10424, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Phone: (202) 366-4723 (voice), (202) 755-7687 (TDD); Email: bob.klothe@ost.dot.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 28th day of May, 1999.

Neil Eisner,
Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Chemung County, New York

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The action to be evaluated by this Environmental Impact Statement is the reconstruction of the U.S. Route 17

through the Town and Village of Horseheads (the Southern Tier Expressway) in Chemung County, New York. This proposed action would improve capacity of Route 17 by bringing it up to Interstate highway design standards and provide for the separation of local and regional traffic.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter White, Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation, Region 6, 107 Broadway, Hornell, New York 14843, (607) 324-8404 or Harold J. Brown, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 9th Floor, Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12207, (518) 431-4127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will evaluate various alternatives which will consider the upgrading of U.S. Route 17 from Exit 52 to Exit 54 in the Town and Village of Horseheads, Chemung County, New York to Interstate standards. Each build option would include the reconfiguration/reconstruction of the existing roadway to meet Interstate standards while accommodating local high volume traffic flows and local access. Additionally, there would be new expressway and ramp construction, pavement rehabilitation/reconstruction, bridge and culvert rehabilitation/replacement, drainage, lighting and signalization. The proposed project limits extend along NYS Route 17 from Exit 52 (NYS Route 14) easterly to Exit 54 (NYS Route 13) approximately one mile.

The Proposed Action is anticipated to result in a balanced transportation system that will supply sufficient capacity, improved mobility and access, meet current/future traffic demand, eliminate current bridge deficiencies, reduce or eliminate vehicular conflicts/accidents, separate local and regional traffic flows, as well as provide improved local service through the Town and Village of Horseheads.

Alternatives under consideration include:

- No build or the null alternative;
- Separation of local and expressway traffic through the Village of Horseheads and the upgrade of Route 17 to a limited access expressway;
- Development of a half or full diamond interchange at Route 13, and
- The development of collector-distributor roads along Route 17 between Exit 52 and Exit 54.

The environmental, socio-economic, and engineering viability implications of each alternative will be examined. The NO Action alternative will also be analyzed as a base line for gauging the impacts of the build alternates.

Input from Federal, State and local Governments, local agencies, private organizations, and the community will be solicited during the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A public Environmental Scoping meeting and a formal public hearing will be scheduled. The Environmental Scoping, meeting will be held on June 30, 1999 at the Horseheads High School from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a presentation at 7 p.m. Public notice will be given to identify the time and place for the public hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

Comments, questions and suggestions pertaining to the proposed action are invited from interested parties to ensure that all significant issues are identified and addressed. Comments should be directed to the FHWA or the NYSDOT at the addresses provided above.

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

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 23 CFR 771.123.

Issued on May 24, 1999.

Douglas P. Conlan,

District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[Docket No. FTA-99-5750]

Notice of Request for the Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the following currently approved information collection:

Rail Fixed Guideway Systems; State Safety Oversight.