

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3071]

Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Meeting Notice

The Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP) will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 1999, in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520. The meeting will be hosted by Committee Chairman R. Michael Gadbow and by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Alan P. Larson.

The ACIEP serves the U.S. Government in a solely advisory capacity concerning issues and problems in international economic policy. The objective of the ACIEP is to provide expertise and insight on these issues that are not available within the U.S. Government. Topics for the July 14 meeting will be: Next Steps in on the Anti-Corruption Agenda; Biotechnology: Fostering a Science-based, Rules-based Approach; Upcoming Review of the U.S. Bilateral Investment Treaty Program; and Developments in Kosovo and South East Europe.

Members of the public may attend these meetings as seating capacity allows. Members of the media are welcome but discussions are off the record. Admittance to the Department of State Building is by means of a pre-arranged clearance list. In order to be placed on this list, please provide your name, title, company or other affiliation if appropriate, social security number, date of birth, and citizenship to the ACIEP Executive Secretariat by phone at (202) 647-5968 or fax (202) 647-5713 (Attention: Sharon Rogers) by Friday, July 9, 1999. On the date of the meeting, persons who have registered should come to the "C" Street entrance. One of the following valid means of identification will be required for admittance: A U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or a U.S. Government ID.

For further information, contact Sharon Rogers, ACIEP Secretariat, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Room 6828, Main State, Washington, DC 20520.

Dated: June 25, 1999.

William J. McGlynn,*Executive Secretary.*

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BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement: Pierce County, Washington****AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the proposed extension of the SR 167 freeway in Pierce County, Washington from SR 161 (Meridian Street North) in the city of Puyallup to the SR 509 freeway (east west road alignment) in the city of Tacoma.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gene Fong, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 711 South Capitol Way, Suite 501, Olympia, WA 98501, telephone: (360) 753-9413; Don Nelson, Assistant Secretary, Environmental and Engineering Service Center, PO Box, 47323, Olympia, WA 98504, telephone: (360) 705-7101; and/or Gary Demich, P.E., Region Administrator, Olympic Region, Washington State Department of Transportation, 5720 Capitol Boulevard, PO Box 47440, Olympia, WA 98504, telephone: (360) 357-2605; and/or Dennis Engel, P.E., Project Engineer, Consultant Design Office, 6639 Capitol Boulevard, P.O. Box 47443, Olympia, WA 98504, telephone: (360) 570-6640.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will prepare a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine the most feasible alignment alternative of the SR 167 freeway which will meet purpose and need of the proposed project, while balancing environmental needs. The freeway extension will be approximately 9.7 kilometers (6.0 mile) in length. The freeway is expected to require six lanes including HOV lanes. The HOV lanes will be constructed when warranted.

The purpose of the project is to improve regional mobility of the transportation system to better serve multi-modal freight and passenger movement between SR 167, SR 410, and SR 512 and the Interstate 5 corridor and the new SR 509 freeway; reduce congestion and improve safety on the arterials and intersections in the study area. The proposed segment will provide system continuity between the SR 167 corridor and Interstate 5; and maintain or improve air quality in the corridor to ensure compliance with the

current State Implementation Plan and requirements of the Clean Air Act.

There are a number of problems associated with the non-freeway segment of SR 167 through Puyallup and Fife to the Interstate 5 corridor/Port of Tacoma/Fife area. The non-freeway segment, which is an incomplete part of the north Pierce County freeway system as planned, is on the existing surface street system and includes a circuitous route through Puyallup on the existing inadequate SR 167, and Fife via Valley Avenue and 54th Avenue East. These existing, highly congested facilities serve as a major truck route for the Port of Tacoma. Several intersections along these routes operate at over capacity conditions during peak hours resulting in traffic backups and delays. The heavy truck traffic on the non-freeway segment also exacerbate the safety problem. Accident ratios, on the non-freeway segment of SR 167, are 20 to 70 percent higher than statewide averages for similar highways due to high level of congestion at intersections and intersecting driveways.

Tier I FEIS was completed in April 1999. The FHWA concurred with WSDOT in the selection of corridor Alternative 2 for completing State Route 167 from State Route 161 to State Route 509 and signed a Record of Decision in June 1999. A complete description of all alternative studied, including general design elements sufficient to compare alternatives and environmental impacts, is included in the Tier I FEIS (FHWA-WA-EIS-1993-2-F). This document is available for review at local libraries.

The Tier II EIS process will consist of performing engineering analyses on alternative alignments within the selected corridor to determine the negative environmental consequences and evaluate ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate for those consequences at the conclusion of the Tier II process. The do-nothing alternative will also be evaluated. Ultimately, the overall, environmentally preferred alternative will be identified and adopted as appropriate.

Two scoping meetings are planned on July 13, 1999, for agencies, organizations and the public. Time and location for the meetings will be announced by letters, local newspaper and/or through news letters. Subsequent to the scoping meetings, continued public involvement opportunities are included in the EIS public involvement plan. These include newsletters, community workshops, a project web site, bulletins, stakeholder interviews, paid media advertisements, and formation of Citizen Advisory Committee to ensure public information