

transportation planning, and Traffic monitoring systems.

(Authority: 23 U.S.C. 134, 135, 204, and 315; sec. 1115, Pub.L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 107 (1998); 49 CFR 1.48.)

Issued on: August 25, 1999.

Gloria J. Jeff,

Federal Highway Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

23 CFR Chapter I

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-99-4967]

RIN 2125-AE52

Federal Lands Highway Program; Transportation Planning Procedures and Management Systems Pertaining to the National Park Service and the Park Roads and Parkways Program

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM); request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA seeks public comment concerning the development of transportation planning procedures affecting Federal land management agencies and management systems pertaining to pavement, bridge, safety and congestion for roads funded under the Federal lands highway program (FLHP). This ANPRM requests comments on the advisability of the FHWA, in consultation with the National Park Service (NPS), to develop a rule to meet the transportation planning and management systems requirements of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) pertaining to the NPS and the park roads and parkways program. This ANPRM also requests comments on a number of specific issues concerning transportation planning procedures and management systems pertaining to the NPS and the park roads and parkways program. Section 1115(d) of the TEA-21 requires the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with appropriate Federal land management agencies, to develop transportation planning procedures that are consistent with the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes required under 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135. The TEA-21 also requires the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of each appropriate Federal land management agency to develop, to the extent appropriate, safety, bridge,

pavement, and congestion management systems for roads funded under the FLHP. The roads funded under the FLHP include park roads and parkways, forest highways, refuge roads, and Indian reservation roads. The FHWA was delegated the authority by the Secretary to serve as the lead agency within the DOT to implement the FLHP. **DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Your signed, written comments must refer to the docket number appearing at the top of this document and you must submit the comments 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. Paul Schneider, Federal Lands Highway, HFPD-2, (202) 366-6799; or Ms. Grace Reidy, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCC-32, (202) 366-6226, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. 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>.

Background

Section 1115(d) of TEA-21 (Pub. L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 107, 156 (1998)) amended 23 U.S.C. 204. Section 204 now requires the development of uniform transportation planning procedures affecting Federal land management agencies and management systems pertaining to roads funded under the FLHP. Section 1115(d)(1) of

TEA-21 requires the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of each appropriate Federal land management agency, to develop transportation planning procedures that are consistent with the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes required under 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135. Section 1115(d)(1) of TEA-21 also requires the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of each appropriate Federal land management agency, to the extent appropriate, to develop safety, bridge, pavement and congestion management systems for roads funded under the FLHP. The roads funded under the FLHP include park roads and parkways, forest highways, refuge roads and Indian reservation roads. The FHWA has the lead for the Department of Transportation in these efforts.

The FHWA is contemplating developing four rules to meet the requirements of TEA-21. Under this approach, separate rules would be developed pertaining to the National Park Service and the park roads and parkways program; the FWS and the refuge roads program; the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian reservations roads program; and the Forest Service and the forest highway program. The FHWA would consider developing a "separate rule" pertaining to each agency and program area because the ownership, jurisdictional, and maintenance responsibilities for the roads in each program area are significantly different; therefore, we anticipate that each rule would be moderately different. The variances between the rules would allow for the significant differences in the ownership, jurisdictional, and maintenance responsibilities that the agencies exercise over the subject roadways to be addressed in the rules. To ensure uniformity between the four separate rules, however, the FHWA would coordinate the development of each rule, ensuring that similar text and format is contained in each of the rules. This ANPRM requests comments on the proposal for the FHWA, in consultation with the NPS, to develop a "separate rule" to meet the transportation planning and management systems requirements of TEA-21 pertaining to the NPS and the park roads and parkways program. Additionally, this ANPRM requests comments on the alternative of developing "one rule" that would apply to all four agencies and programs. Finally, this ANPRM also requests comments on a number of other specific issues concerning transportation planning procedures and

management systems pertaining to the NPS and the park roads and parkways program. The specific issues are listed, as follows:

- What types of institutions or coordination efforts are needed to coordinate an NPS unit's transportation planning with State, local and tribal governments?
- What kinds of institutions or links are needed to coordinate park transportation circulation planning and access with adjacent affected communities?
- How should an NPS unit's transportation planning and development be coordinated with the metropolitan and statewide planning processes?
- How should the transportation planning process address the need to minimize transportation's adverse impacts on the national parks and surrounding areas?
- How can we minimize adverse community and environmental impacts associated with park transportation circulation systems and access to parks?
- How should the transportation planning procedures address the accommodation of various modes of transportation in NPS units?
- How can other modes of transport, such as transit, biking and walking, be better accommodated?
- How can transportation be planned that allows for the conversion to or integration of multiple occupant vehicles, such as vans, buses or rail as demand for services increases?
- What is the role of peripheral parking?
- How should the management systems requirements be addressed?

Park roads are public roads that are located within, or provide access to, an area in the national park system with title and maintenance responsibilities vested in the United States. Parkways are authorized by an Act of Congress on lands to which title is vested in the United States. A vast majority of park roads and parkways are owned and maintained by the NPS. Many of the NPS field units generate large traffic volumes. Changes to the park units transportation system may significantly affect the surrounding transportation network; and changes to the surrounding transportation network may significantly affect the park units transportation system. Therefore, transportation planning procedures would be developed that provide guidance for systematizing transportation planning within the park units and for coordinating their transportation planning efforts with other agencies and organizations.

Management systems would be developed that support the transportation planning efforts.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this anticipated rulemaking process are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above. Likewise, in separate advance notices of proposed rulemaking published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**, FHWA Docket No. FHWA-99-4968, *Federal Lands Highway Program; Transportation Planning Procedures and Management Systems Pertaining to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Reservation Roads Program*, FHWA Docket No. FHWA-99-4969, *Federal Lands Highway Program; Transportation Planning Procedures and Management Systems Pertaining to the Forest Service and the Forest Highways Program*, FHWA Docket No. FHWA-99-4970, *Federal Lands Highway Program; Transportation Planning Procedures and Management Systems Pertaining to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Refuge Roads Program*, the FHWA is seeking public comment on the propriety of developing transportation planning procedures affecting other Federal land management agencies and management systems pertaining to other roads funded under the FLHP.

Rulemaking Analyses and Notices

All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above will be considered and will be available for examination using the docket number appearing at the top of this document in the docket room at the above address. The FHWA will file comments received after the comment closing date in the docket and will consider late comments to the extent practicable. In addition to late comments, the FHWA will also continue to file, in the docket, relevant information becoming available after the comment closing date, and interested persons should continue to examine the docket for new material.

Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

The FHWA has determined preliminarily that the contemplated rule would be a significant regulatory action within the meaning of Executive Order 12866 and under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation because of the

substantial public interest anticipated in the transportation facilities of the national park units. There is also substantial interest by Federal, State, regional, local and tribal governments, and private groups due to the necessary coordination with these organizations when transportation planning is being performed for transportation facilities within and approaching the national park units.

It is anticipated that the economic impact of any action taken in this rulemaking process will be minimal. Any changes are not anticipated to adversely affect, in a material way, any sector of the economy. In addition, any changes are not likely to interfere with any action taken or planned by another agency or to materially alter the budgetary impact of any entitlement, grants, user fees, or loan programs.

Based upon the information received in response to this action, the FHWA intends to carefully consider the costs and benefits associated with this rulemaking. Accordingly, comments, information, and data are solicited on the economic impact of the changes described in this document or any alternative proposal submitted.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

In compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612), and based upon the information received in response to this ANPRM, the FHWA will evaluate the effects of any action proposed on small entities. This ANPRM will only generate comments and discussions on transportation planning procedures and management systems pertaining to pavement, bridge, safety, and congestion for FLHP-funded roads in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and guidance. If the final rule contemplated in this ANPRM is promulgated, States may be affected by the rule due to the possibility of expending additional resources during the transportation planning process, although it is anticipated that any additional expenditures would be minor. Because the States are not included in the definition of "small entity" set forth in 5 U.S.C. 601, we do not anticipate that any transportation planning procedures or management systems requirements would have substantial economic impact on small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. We encourage commenters to evaluate any options addressed here with regard to the potential for impact, however, and to formulate their comments accordingly.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This ANPRM would not impose a Federal mandate resulting in the expenditure by State, local and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year (2 U.S.C. 1532). Further, in compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, the FHWA will evaluate any regulatory action that might be proposed in subsequent stages of the proceeding to assess the effects on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector.

Executive Order 12612 (Federalism Assessment)

Any action that might be proposed in subsequent stages of this proceeding will be analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612. Given the nature of the issues involved in this proceeding, the FHWA anticipates that any action contemplated will not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism assessment. Nor does the FHWA anticipate that any action taken would preempt any State law or State regulation or affect the States' ability to discharge traditional State governmental functions. We encourage commenters to consider these issues, however, as well as matters concerning any costs or burdens that might be imposed on the States as a result of actions considered here.

Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review)

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. Accordingly, the FHWA solicits comment on this issue.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Any action that might be contemplated in subsequent phases of this proceeding is not likely to involve a collection of information requirement for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, or information collection requirements not already approved for transportation planning and management systems. The FHWA, however, will evaluate any actions that might be considered in accordance with the terms of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

National Environmental Policy Act

The agency also will analyze any action that might be proposed for the purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) to assess whether there would be any affect on the quality of the environment.

Regulation Identification Number

A regulation identification number (RIN) is assigned to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda in April and October of each year. The RIN contained in the heading of this document can be used to cross reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

List of Subjects in 23 CFR Chapter I

Bridge and congestion management systems, Bridges, Defense access roads, Forest highways, Highways and roads, Metropolitan transportation planning, Pavement, Safety, Statewide transportation planning, and Traffic monitoring systems.

(Authority: 23 U.S.C. 134, 135, 204, and 315; sec. 1115, Pub. L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 107 (1998); 49 CFR 1.48.)

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Gloria J. Jeff,

Federal Highway Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD01-99-075]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Navesink River, NJ

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to change the operating regulations which govern the Oceanic Bridge, at mile 4.5, across the Navesink River at Locust Point, New Jersey. The bridge owner has asked the Coast Guard to change the regulations to require a twenty-four hour advance notice for bridge openings from December through March because there have been few requests to open the bridge during the winter months. This rulemaking is expected to relieve the bridge owner of the burden of crewing the bridge at all times and still meet the needs of navigation.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to Commander (obr), First Coast Guard District, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110-3350, or deliver them at the same address between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (617) 223-8364. The First Coast Guard District Bridge Branch maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and documents as indicated in this preamble will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the above address 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John W. McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Request for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking (CGD01-99-075) and the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit two copies of all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this proposed rule in view of the comments.

The Coast Guard plans no public hearing. Persons may request a public hearing by writing to the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include the reasons why a hearing would be beneficial. If it determines that the opportunity for oral presentations will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold a public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background

The Oceanic Bridge at mile 4.5 across the Navesink River at Locust Point, New Jersey, has a vertical clearance of 22 feet at mean high water and 25 feet at mean low water. The existing operating regulations for the Oceanic Bridge requires the bridge to open on signal at all times.

The bridge owner, the County of Monmouth, asked the Coast Guard to