

environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for proposed highway improvements to Trunk Highway 53 (TH 53) in St. Louis County, Minnesota.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Martin, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, Box 75, 175 East Fifth Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2904, Telephone (651) 291-6120; or Brian Larson, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation—District 1, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota 55811, Telephone (218) 723-4960 ext. 3322; (651) 296-9930 TTY.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will prepare an EIS on a proposal to improve TH 53 between County Road 307 north of Virginia to the south city limit of Cook in St. Louis County, Minnesota, a distance of approximately 30.7 kilometers.

The proposed action is being considered to address future transportation demand, safety problems, access management, international and interregional trade corridor status, and pavement condition. Alternatives under consideration include (1) No build; and (2) four variations of "Build" alternatives involving reconstruction and/or realignment and new construction of TH 53 into a four-lane divided expressway. All four-lane alternatives utilize the existing TH 53 alignment from the Rice River (approximately 0.8 kilometer north of County Road 688) to the northern terminus of the project area (the south city limits of Cook). The southern portion (County Road 307 to the Rice River) contains three alternatives for realignment and one alternative which utilizes the existing TH 53 alignment. The "Trunk Highway 53 Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document" will be published in February or March 2000. A press release will be published to inform the public of the document's availability. Copies of the scoping document will be distributed to agencies, interested persons and libraries for review to aid in identifying issues and analyses to be contained in the EIS. A 30-day comment period for review of the document will be provided to afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action. A public scoping meeting will also be held during the comment period. Public notice will be given for the time and place of the meeting. Coordination has been initiated and will continue with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations

and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in the proposed action. 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 at the address 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 on: February 9, 2000.

Stanley M. Graczyk,

Project Development Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement Withdrawal: Wexford, Grand Traverse, and Kalkaska Counties: MI

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent withdrawal.

SUMMARY: On April 14, 1995, the Federal Highway Administration issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed construction of a new US-131 freeway from north of Manton to north of Kalkaska in Kalkaska County. The proposed project involved study of corridors for a new freeway to replace the existing roadway. The Federal Highway Administration is issuing this Notice to withdraw its original Notice Of Intent dated April 14, 1995.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Preliminary scoping studies were undertaken which resulted in several alternative alignments. Public meetings were held to garner information and help shape the alternatives. An economic study was prepared. This study concluded that while the region could benefit from the proposed new highway, the state as a whole would not. It was, therefore, determined that the proposed highway project would not be an efficient statewide economic expenditure. This study in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation's increased emphasis on

system preservation rather than expansion had caused a change in priorities. As a result, the Federal Highway Administration has determined that an environmental impact statement is no longer needed. In lieu of an EIS, the Federal Highway Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation are undertaking preservation projects coupled with spot improvements to existing roadways in the area. Should it be determined during this process that an EIS is needed for a proposed project, one will be prepared following a new Notice Of Intent.

Issued on: February 1, 2000.

Norman R. Stoner,

Asst. Division Administrator Lansing, Michigan.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement on Transportation Improvements Within the Blue Line Extension Corridor in Suburban Cleveland, Ohio

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing this notice to advise interested agencies and the public that an environmental impact statement is being prepared for transportation improvements in the Blue Line Extension Corridor in suburban Cleveland, Ohio.

DATES: *Comment Due Date:* Written comments on the scope of the alternatives and impacts to be considered should be sent to Richard Enty, Team Leader, by April 10, 2000.

Scoping Meetings: A public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2000, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and an interagency scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2000, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. See **ADDRESSES** below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope should be sent to Richard Enty, Team Leader, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), 1240 West 6th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1331. Phone: (216) 566-5260. Fax (216) 781-4726. Scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:
Public Scoping: Thursday, March 9, 2000, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,