

facilities. The railroad companies must have a system for recording labor, materials, supplies, and equipment costs incurred when undertaking the necessary railroad work. This record of costs forms the basis for payment by the State highway agency to the railroad company, and in turn FHWA reimburses the State for its payment to the railroad company.

Estimated Annual Burden: The FHWA estimates that the total annual burden imposed on the public by this collection is 18,400 hours; *i.e.*, nearly 115 railroad companies are involved in an average of 10 railroad/highway projects per year, and the average number of hours required to calculate the railroad adjustment costs and maintain the required records is 16 hours.

Number of Respondents: 115.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Winans, (202) 366-4656, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Safety Core Business Unit, 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.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 140(a); 23 CFR 635.126; 29 U.S.C. 2; 23 U.S.C. 123; 23 U.S.C. 116; 23 U.S.C. 130; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: May 2, 2000.

James R. Kabel,

Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 00-11310 Filed 5-4-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Valencia County, NM

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 (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed new east-west highway and Rio Grande river crossing in Valencia County, New Mexico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory D. Rawlings, Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, 604 W. San Mateo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, telephone: (505) 820-2027; or F. Craig Conley, Environmental Program Manager, New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, P.O.

Box 1149, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504, telephone: (505) 827-5233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, will prepare an EIS for a proposed new highway that would link Interstate 25 (I-25) and New Mexico Highway 47 (NM 47) in Valencia County, NM. The study area encompasses a corridor approximately 4 miles wide and between I-25 and NM 47. The southern boundary of the corridor lies approximately 5 miles north of Reinken Road (NM Highway 309) through the City of Belen. The northern boundary of the corridor lies approximately 1.5 miles south of Main Street (NM Highway 6) through the Village of Los Lunas.

The need for a new east-west highway and river crossing that would connect I-25 and NM 47 is founded in several factors including rapid population growth, employment growth and congested roadways. Continuing population and employment growth is projected to occur on both sides of the Rio Grande in the project corridor, necessitating additional east to west travel. The current highway system to serve this growth is limited to two 4-lane highways spaced over 10 miles apart, and is projected to become severely congested. Alternatives to be considered by the EIS will include the No Action alternative and various route alternative(s) developed during the initial corridor study phase and scoping process. Alternatives are being developed with input from stakeholder jurisdictions, agencies, landowners, and the general public. The alternatives will also consider different lane configurations, access management concepts, roadway profiles, and system and demand management measures. Preliminary scoping for the project has included: (1) Introductory information sent to federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals identified as potentially-interested or affected parties; (2) public information meetings conducted in the study area to solicit preliminary issues and concerns regarding the proposed action; (3) briefings to local jurisdictions; and, (4) meetings with various neighborhood groups, Native American groups and other stakeholder groups. A scoping letter describing the proposed action will be sent to interested agencies followed by a formal agency scoping meeting planned for Summer 2000. Additional public meetings will be held to discuss FHWA's intention to prepare an EIS. These meetings will provide an

opportunity for additional public and agency input.

A public hearing will be held to present the findings of the Draft EIS (DEIS) during the public review period. The DEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to the FHWA or NMSHTD at the addresses provided above.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities and 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48 apply to this program.)

Issued on April 26, 2000.

Gregory D. Rawlings,

Environmental Specialist, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-11221 Filed 5-4-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2000-7329]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel TROPICAL ATTITUDES.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S. build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a description of the proposed service, is listed below. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines that in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (65 FR 6905; February 11, 2000) that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels, a waiver will not be granted.