

Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Design/Build Research Study.
Background: The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), section 1307, prescribes the interim provisions under which projects can be advanced utilizing design/build contracting procedures. TEA-21 mandates that regulations will be developed to carry out the amendments made by section 1307. The regulations will identify the criteria to be used by the Secretary of Transportation in approving the use of and establishing the procedures for design/build contracting by a State transportation department or a local transportation agency. With the increased funding available under TEA-21, States are expected to increase their use of design/build contracting to advance projects. One unique aspect of design/build contracting is that it authorizes construction at the time the project agreement is signed. This allows the contractor to begin construction on a parcel of land as soon as it is acquired. This process could lead to safety concerns and possible coercive actions for vacant landowners, homeowners and/or businesses that await acquisition of, or relocation from, their property for right-of-way purposes. Several design/build projects that included right-of-way acquisition activities have been identified. These projects are located in California, South Carolina and Virginia. The FHWA's Office of Real Estate Services in conjunction with South Carolina State University will conduct a survey of approximately 100 property owners, residents, business owners and various contractors involved in a design/build project to ascertain their perceptions of possible safety related issues or coercive actions that may have affected them. The information will be collected by telephone/written surveys, personal interviews and/or site visits. The information gathered from the survey will be used by the Office of Real Estate Services to assist in the drafting of the regulations as prescribed in TEA-21.

Respondents: The respondents to the survey will be approximately 100 property owners, residents, business owners and various design/build and right-of-way contractors located in California, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: The estimated average burden per response is 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden for all respondents is 50 hours.

Frequency: This is a one-time survey.

Public Comments Invited: Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including, but not limited to: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FHWA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

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 Electronic Bulletin Board Service at telephone number 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 database at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Authority: The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, (Pub. L. 105-178), section 1307 and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: July 10, 2000.

James R. Kabel,

Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 00-17867 Filed 7-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

**Environmental Impact Statement;
Yellowstone and Carbon Counties,
Montana**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA hereby gives notice that it intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed reconstruction of US 212 between Rockvale and Laurel in

Yellowstone and Carbon County, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Paulson, Program Development Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602; Telephone: (406) 449-5303 ext. 239; or Joel Marshik, P.E., Environmental Services and Tribal Liaison Manager, Montana Department of Transportation, PO Box 201001, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT 59602-1001; Telephone: (406) 444-7632.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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Background

The FHWA in cooperation with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), will prepare an EIS to determine the appropriate location, design and alternatives for the proposed future reconstruction of US 212 from Rockvale, Montana [Reference, or "Mile" Post (RP) 42.640±] to just south of Laurel, Montana (RP 53.841±). The EIS will examine the short and long-term impacts on the natural, physical, and human environments. The impact assessment will include, but not be limited to, impacts on wetlands, wildlife, and fisheries; social environment; changes in land use; aesthetics; changes in traffic; and economic impacts. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and Environmental Justice (as outlined in Executive Order 12898) will also be addressed as part of the impact assessment. The EIS will also examine measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts resulting from the proposed action.

Comments are being solicited from appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and from private organizations and citizens who have interest in this proposal. Public information meetings will be held in the project area to discuss the potential alternatives. A draft of the EIS will be available for public and agency review, and a public hearing will be held to receive comments. Public notice will be given of the time and place of all meetings and hearings.

Comments and/or suggestions from all interested parties are requested to ensure that the full range of all issues and significant environmental issues, in particular, are identified and reviewed. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and/or its EIS should be directed to the FHWA or the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) at the addresses listed previously.

(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 proposed action.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: July 10, 2000.

Dale Paulson,

Program Development Engineer, FHWA.

[FR Doc. 00-17840 Filed 7-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Federal Highway Administration

[FRA Docket No. FRA-1998-4759]

Financial Assistance To Eliminate Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Hazards on Designated High-Speed Rail Corridors

AGENCIES: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of modified and new applications for the designation of additional high-speed corridors.

SUMMARY: On December 11, 1998, pursuant to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the FRA and FHWA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (at 63 FR 68499-68501) soliciting applications from States for the designation of up to three additional high-speed rail corridors. Applications were received on behalf of three corridors by the March 11, 1999 deadline, namely, from the States of Maine and New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: (1) Boston, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine; and from the State of Ohio: (2) Chicago, Illinois and Cleveland, Ohio (via Toledo, Ohio); and (3) Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio (via Columbus and Dayton).

Since receiving these applications, the FRA has been reviewing them carefully

and seeking supplemental information from the States in order to assure that the statutory considerations pertaining to designation are properly addressed.

Circumstances have altered with respect to certain of the pending applications since their receipt by the FRA.

In collaboration with the prior applicant States for the Boston-Portland route, the State of Vermont has requested an expansion of the proposed designation for Northern New England, to include a route from Boston through Nashua, Manchester, and Concord, New Hampshire, thence to Montpelier and Burlington, Vermont, and potentially to St. Albans, Vermont and Montreal, P.Q., Canada.

The Midwestern States and Amtrak have continued to develop their plans for the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MRRI), of which the Chicago-Cleveland corridor would form an integral part. In recognition of the MRRI's progress and in response to the State of Ohio's request that Chicago-Cleveland be considered as an extension of the existing designated Chicago Hub Network, the FRA has elected to evaluate that route as an extension, rather than as an independent corridor. Since there are now two pending applications (Boston-Portland and Cleveland-Cincinnati) for three potential designations, the FRA can entertain additional applications with the certainty that at least one opportunity exists for a new designation.

Accordingly, in this notice, the FRA is (1) soliciting additional applications from States for designation of a high-speed rail corridor, and is (2) allowing applicant States additional time to modify (and include additional States in) their pending applications.

The FRA and the FHWA are jointly administering this program.

DATES: Signed, written comments on this notice must be received by the FRA on or before August 4, 2000. Completed applications for an additional corridor designation, or for modification of pending applications for designation submitted under the predecessor notice, at 63 FR 68499, must be received by the FRA on or before August 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public is invited to submit written comments on this notice. Written comments should refer to the docket number appearing at the top of this notice and be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address. Docket hours at the Nassif Building are

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

Applications for corridor designation and requests for modifications of pending applications should be submitted to: The Honorable Jolene M. Molitoris, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, ATTN: HSR Designations, RDV-11, Mail Stop 20, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Neil E. Moyer, Chief, Program Development Division, Office of Railroad Development, (telephone: 202-493-6365; E-mail address: Neil.Moyer@fra.dot.gov), or Mr. Gareth Rosenau, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 10, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202-493-6054; E-mail address: Gareth.Rosenau@fra.dot.gov).

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Background

Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to afford States the opportunity (1) to submit applications for additional corridor designations under the 23 U.S.C. 104(d)(2) program to eliminate highway-railroad grade crossing hazards in designated high-speed rail corridors (Section 104(d)(2) Program), and (2) to submit requests to modify pending applications submitted under the previous notice at 63 FR 68499. The public is invited to submit comments on this notice.

Rules for Application Submissions

Applications for the designation of new high-speed rail corridors under the Section 104(d)(2) Program, and requests