

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Office of the Secretary****[Docket No. OST-95-246]****North American Free Trade Agreement's Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee and Transportation Consultative Group: Annual Plenary Session****AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice (1) announces the seventh joint annual plenary session of the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee (LTSS) and the Transportation Consultative Group (TCG) and other related meetings; and (2) invites representatives of non-governmental entities with an interest in land transportation issues to participate in a listening session immediately preceding the plenary meeting and to attend a briefing at a later date. Only U.S., Canadian, and Mexican government officials may attend the plenary and working group meetings.

Background

The Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee (LTSS) was established by the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Committee on Standards-Related Measures to examine the land transportation regulatory regimes in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and to seek to make certain standards more compatible. The Transportation Consultative Group (TCG) was formed by the three countries' departments of transportation to address non-standards-related issues that affect cross-border movements among the countries, but that are not included in the NAFTA's LTSS work program (Annex 913.5-1).

Meetings and Deadlines

The seventh joint annual LTSS/TCG plenary session will be held from October 23 to 27, 2000, at the Mansion Galindo Fiesta Americana Hotel, in the municipality of San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico. The following LTSS working groups are expected to meet during the same week and at the same location: (1) Compliance and Driver and Vehicle Standards; (2) Vehicle Weights and Dimensions; (3) Hazardous Materials Transportation Standards; and (4) Traffic Control Devices. Similarly, the following TCG working groups are expected to meet: (1) Cross-Border Operations and Facilitation; (2) Rail Safety and Economic Issues; (3)

Automated Data Exchange; (4) Science and Technology; and (5) Maritime and Ports Policy

Also at the same San Juan del Rio site, on October 23, 2000, a listening session will be held for representatives of the truck, bus, and rail industries, transportation labor unions, brokers and shippers, chemical manufacturers, insurance industry, public safety advocates, and others who have notified us of their interest to attend and have submitted copies of their presentations, in English and Spanish, to the address below by October 10, 2000. This is an opportunity for presenters to voice their concerns, provide technical information, and offer suggestions relevant to achieving greater standards compatibility and improving cross-border trade. While written statements may be of any length, oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes per presenter. After October 10, statements may be submitted for the record, and requests to present oral comments at the listening session will be accommodated only on a time-available basis.

Although participation in the LTSS and TCG plenary and working group meetings is limited to government officials only, representatives of non-governmental entities also are invited to take part in parallel topical discussions, visits to transport facilities, and a final briefing by the heads of the U.S., Canadian, and Mexican delegations to be held on October 27.

Hotel reservations may be arranged through Ms. Isabel Ramirez Samperio at Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT). Participants are requested to obtain a registration form from DOT staff contact, Allen Wiener at (202) 366-2892. The registration form should be sent by fax to Ms. Ramirez at 011-525-684-1252. The Mansion Galindo Fiesta Americana Hotel is located at: Carretera Amealco, KM. 5, San Juan Del Rio, Queretaro. The hotel telephone number is 427-5-0250 and the fax number is 427-5-0299.

A briefing to report on the outcome of the San Juan del Rio, Queretaro meetings will be conducted at DOT at the address below, on November 28, 2000, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Interested parties may notify DOT of their interest to attend this briefing by calling (202) 366-2892 by November 20.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: LTSS-related documents, including past working group reports and statements received by DOT from industry associations, transportation labor unions, public safety advocates, and others are available for review in Docket No. OST-95-246, at the address below,

Room PL-401, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., e.s.t., Monday through Friday, except national holidays. The Docket, which is updated periodically, may also be accessed electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Address and Phone Numbers

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in the listening session on October 23, 2000 must send notice of their interest and copies of their presentations by October 10 to Allen Wiener, U.S. Department of Transportation, OST/X-20, Room 10300, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Respondents may also send information by fax at (202) 366-7417. For additional information, call (202) 366-2892.

Dated: August 21, 2000.

Bernestine Allen,*Director, Office of International Transportation and Trade.*

[FR Doc. 00-21847 Filed 8-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement; Nobles County, Minnesota****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 the proposed reconstruction of Trunk Highway 60 (TH 60) in Nobles County, Minnesota.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara Cameron, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, Box 75, 175 East Fifth Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2904, Telephone (651) 291-6121; or Lisa Bigham, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation—District 7, 501 Victory Drive, P.O. Box 4039, Mankato, Minnesota 56001, Telephone (507) 389-6877 V, (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 60 from approximately 2.9 kilometers (1.8 miles) south of the Minnesota/Iowa border to the junction of Interstate 90 at Worthington, Minnesota. This segment of TH 60 under study is a two-lane roadway with the exception of 1.9 kilometers (1.2 miles) of four-lane

roadway within the city of Worthington. Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for existing and projected traffic demands, correct existing operational safety problems, and improve mobility and access to the interstate and trunk highway systems.

Alternatives under consideration include:

- No Build.
- Reconstruct TH 60 as a four lane highway on the existing alignment.
- Reconstruct TH 60 as a four lane highway on the existing alignment except with an easterly Bigelow bypass.
- Reconstruct TH 60 with the existing number of lanes on the existing alignment.
- Reconstruct TH 60 with two or four lanes with a west Worthington bypass, with or without an easterly Bigelow bypass.

The "Trunk Highway 60—Reconstruction, Scoping Document/ Draft Scoping Decision Document" was published on March 20, 2000. Copies of this document were distributed to agencies, interested persons and libraries and a 30-day comment period was provided for review of the document. A public scoping meeting was held on April 13, 2000 in Worthington, MN to provide an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action. Public and agency interest resulted in modification of the project alternatives that will be carried forward in the EIS. These alternatives are addressed in the June, 2000 Scoping Decision Document. This scoping effort resulted in a decision to prepare an EIS for this action.

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: August 17, 2000.

Stanley M. Graczyk,

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

[FR Doc. 00-21837 Filed 8-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2000-7841]

Marine Transport Corporation; Notice of Application for Written Permission for Temporary Transfer to the Coastwise Trade

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 506 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (Act), Marine Transport Corporation (MTC), by letter dated August 2, 2000, requests approval of the temporary transfer of the integrated tug barge, *SMT Chemical Trader*, Official Numbers 631332 and 631333, to the coastwise trade for a period of approximately four months beginning between November 1, 2000, and November 18, 2000. (MTC advises that because *SMT Chemical Trader* will be undergoing a required drydocking in early November, it is impossible at this time to know precisely when it will leave the yard and when the approximately four-month waiver period, if granted, will begin.)

DATES: You should submit your comments early enough to ensure that Docket Management receives them not later than close of business (5 p.m. edt) September 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Your comments should refer to docket number MARAD 2000-7841. You may submit your comments in writing to: Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. You may also submit them electronically via the internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>.

You may call Docket Management at (202) 366-9324 and visit the Docket Room from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may call Gregory V. Sparkman, Chief Division of Maritime Assistance Analysis, (202) 366-2400. You may send mail to Gregory V. Sparkman, Chief, Division of Maritime Assistance Analysis, Room 8117, Maritime

Administration, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments

How Do I Prepare and Submit Comments? Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the docket number of this document in your comments. We encourage you to write your primary comments in a concise fashion. However, you may attach necessary additional documents to your comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments. Please submit two copies of your comments, including the attachments, to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**.

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How do I submit confidential business information? If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, Maritime Administration, at the address given above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. You should mark "CONFIDENTIAL" on each page of the original document that you would like to keep confidential. In addition, you should submit two copies, from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information, to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. When you send comments containing information claimed to be confidential business information, you should include a cover letter setting forth with specificity the basis for any such claim.

Will the agency consider late comments? We will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date.

How can I read the comments submitted by other people? You may read the comments received by Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. The hours of the Docket Room are indicated above in the same location. You may also see the comments on the Internet. To read the