

international secured finance interests in mobile equipment, including, at this stage, aircraft, to be followed by rail equipment and space and satellite equipment. A Rail Working Group authorized by UNIDROIT has undertaken work on the current draft protocol on provisions specific to rail equipment financing. Provision may be made at a future date for protocols on other categories of equipment, such as containers, construction and agricultural equipment, certain types of vessels, etc. Other international bodies participate as appropriate. Completion of the basic Convention and aircraft protocol is expected by mid-2001. Completion of the protocol on rail equipment is expected to follow.

The proposed Convention and equipment specific protocols together are intended to provide comprehensive international rules on financing interests in such equipment and could thus stimulate the development of these industries in many countries as well as increase the capacity of many countries to finance such equipment through private sector capital markets. This can enhance infrastructure growth, as well as reduce reliance on direct government funding or use of sovereign debt, which in turn would facilitate privatization and market development.

Key features of the draft Convention include the creation of internationally enforceable interests pursuant to the Convention; providing for regional or international computer-based registry systems for notice of finance interests; provisions on assignments of such interests; priorities based on filing; and optional provisions on key finance issues such as default remedies, insolvency, etc. Proposed new registration systems for rail finance authorized under the protocol are intended to facilitate processes, equivalent to that utilized in North America, to support asset-based finance in other regions, and may provide for linkage between registration systems to facilitate cross-border finance and the export of such equipment.

#### Attendance

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the offices of the Association of American Railroads (AAR), Conference Center (4th floor) 50 "F" Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. The meeting is open to the public. Persons wishing to attend should contact Peter Bloch, Department of Transportation, Office of General Counsel, (202) 366-9183, fax 366-9188; Louis P. Warchot at AAR at 202-639-2500, fax 639-2868; or Harold Burman, Department of State, Office of

Legal Adviser (L/PIL), at 202-776-8421, fax 776-8482, email pildb@his.com, not later than Friday, November 10.

#### Documents

Basic Convention drafts on mobile equipment and the aircraft protocol are available at [www.UNIDROIT.org](http://www.UNIDROIT.org), scroll to "news". Revised versions will be available shortly which reflect recent changes; the changes do not affect the basic structure or the purpose of the operative provisions. The draft Rail Equipment Protocol is available from the AAR or the Office of Legal Adviser, or may be provided to attendees by fax on request.

#### Harold S. Burman,

*Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, United States Department of State.*

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### OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

#### Notice of Meeting of the Committee of Chairs of the Industry Sector and Functional Advisory Committees

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Administrative

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee of Chairs of the Industry Sector and Functional Advisory Committees will hold a meeting on November 28, 2000, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and opened to the public from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss the review of the Trade Advisory Committee System.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2000, unless otherwise notified.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Conference Room 1, located at 1724 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., unless otherwise notified.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia Prosak, (202) 482-3268, Department of Commerce, 14th St. and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, or Dominic Bianchi, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F. St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508, (202) 395-6120.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** During the opened portion of the meeting the Committee of Chairs will present their

report on recommendations for reform of the Trade Advisory System.

#### Dominic Bianchi,

*Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Southcentral, Alaska

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Amended Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this amended notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for the proposed Copper River Highway project in Southcentral, Alaska.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division, 709 West 9th Street, Room 851, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1648.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Haugh, Environmental/Right-of-Way Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division Office, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska, 99802-1648.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) have agreed to terminate the preparation of the Copper River Highway Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS was to study a proposed highway route, along the old Copper River and Northwest Railroad right-of-way, which would connect the City of Cordova to the Alaskan highway system. In September 2000, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities made a decision to not pursue the proposed highway project, thus this notice is to rescind the earlier notice, which was published in the **Federal Register** on February 27, 1992. Letters describing the termination of the Copper River Highway Environmental Impact Statement will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed an interest in or are known to have an interest in this action. This information will be published in various newspapers throughout the State of