

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement;
Manatee County, FL**

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 highway project in Manatee County, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald Davis, Program Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 2015, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, Telephone: (850) 942-9650, Extension 3031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation will prepare an EIS for a proposal to improve the north-south circulation between I-75 and Rye Road (CR 675). Part of this proposal is to evaluate increased vehicular capacity crossing the Manatee River. Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for projected traffic demand.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) widening mainline I-75 and the I-75 crossing of the River; (3) widening Rye Road; and (4) a new crossing of the Manatee River connecting a widened Fort Hamer Road to the north with a widened Upper Manatee River Road to the south.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have expressed interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in Manatee County, Florida between October 2000 and September 2001. In addition a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The Draft EIS (DEIS) will be made available for public and organizations reviews and comments prior to the public hearing. Per 40 CFR 1507.1, a scoping process will be developed as part of the project and a formal scoping meeting will be held.

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 Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding inter-governmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: November 1, 2000.

Donald Davis,

Program Operations Engineer, Tallahassee, Florida.

[FR Doc. 00-28872 Filed 11-9-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, FL**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donald Davis, Programs Operation Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 227 N. Bronough Street, Suite Room 2015, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2015, Telephone: (850) 942-9650, Extension 3031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in consultation with the Florida Department of Transportation, will prepare an EIS for a proposal to develop a north-south arterial linking S.R. 776 in the Englewood area of Charlotte County, Florida to I-75 in Sarasota County, Florida. The project area is approximately 48 square miles, which is four miles wide by 12 miles in length. The project limits are from the vicinity of the S.R. 776/Pine Street intersection to the I-75 interchange at River Road. This project is commonly referred to as the Englewood Interstate Connector. This project has been identified as a high priority by both the Sarasota/Manatee and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organizations and is needed to accommodate future growth and to serve as an additional hurricane evacuation route. Alternatives to be considered for this arterial will include a new roadway alignment(s), utilizing the existing River Road alignment and a combination of each. A no-build alternative will also be considered.

Letters describing the appropriate action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have expressed an interest in this proposal. Public meetings will be held in the study area until June 2001. In addition, a Public Hearing will be held in the study area. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearings. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public and organizations for their review and comments. The formal scoping meeting date is not available at this time.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the 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 Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding inter-governmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued On: November 1, 2000.

Donald Davis,

Program Operations Engineer, Tallahassee, Florida.

[FR Doc. 00-28871 Filed 11-9-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement: St.
Mary Parish, Louisiana**

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 will be prepared for a proposed road project in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William C. Farr, Program Operations Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70808, Telephone: (225) 757-7615, Facsimile: (225) 757-7601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to

upgrade a portion of US 90 to a full "Control of Access" highway meeting current interstate standards. US 90 will become an extension of Interstate 49 (I-49). The proposed project passes through the municipalities of Patterson and Berwick as well as the unincorporated community of Bayou Vista, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. The approximate distance of the project is 9 miles.

The proposed improvements would provide sufficient capacity for hurricane evacuation routes, maintain access to abutting properties, and minimize adverse environmental and community impacts.

This portion of US 90 begins east of the Wax Lake Outlet Bridge and extends to the interchange with LA 182 in Berwick, St. Mary Parish.

Alternatives to be considered include: (1) Utilization of the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent practicable to incorporate a controlled access roadway with a one-way frontage road system; and (2) Utilization of the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent practicable to incorporate a controlled access roadway with a two-way frontage road system.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies and to private organizations, including groups of individuals who have expressed interest in the project in the past. There are no plans to hold a formal scoping meeting for the proposed action. At least one public informational meeting will be held in the project area that will be affected. In addition, a Public Hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public informational meeting(s) and the Public Hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the Public Hearing.

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: October 31, 2000.

William A. Sussmann,

Division Administrator, FHWA, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

[FR Doc. 00-28869 Filed 11-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-2000-6944 (Notice No. 00-12)]

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collections Requests (ICRs) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. The ICRs describe the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collections of information was published on August 21, 2000, (65 FR 50741). One comment was received regarding OMB Control No. 2137-0034, Hazardous Materials Shipping Papers & Emergency Response Information.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 13, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Boothe, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (DHM-10), Research and Special Programs Administration, Room 8422, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone (202) 366-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Hazardous Materials Shipping Papers & Emergency Response Information.

OMB Control Number: 2137-0034.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: This information collection consolidates and describes the information collection provisions in parts 172, 174, 175, 176, and 177 of the HMR on the shipping paper and emergency response requirements for the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce. Shipping papers and emergency response information are

a basic communication tool used in the safe transportation of hazardous materials. They serve as a principal means of identifying hazardous materials during transportation, including emergencies, by providing the proper shipping name, hazard class, UN or NA identification number, packing group and quantity of each hazardous material being transported. Shipping papers also provide emergency response information for use in the mitigation of an incident, and an emergency response telephone number for use in the event of an emergency. The telephone number must be monitored at all times the hazardous material is in transportation, by a person who is either knowledgeable of the hazardous material being shipped and has comprehensive emergency response and incident mitigation information for that material, or has immediate access to a person who possesses such knowledge and information. Shipping papers also serve as a means of notifying transport workers that hazardous materials are present, so that the proper loading, unloading, handling and safety procedures may be followed.

One comment was received from the Hazardous Materials Advisory Council (HMAC) requesting clarification on the basis of the 6,500,000 burden hours for the preparation of shipping papers. HMAC cited a recent RSPA study completed in August 1998 that estimated there are 800,000 daily shipments of hazardous materials in commerce, most requiring the preparation of shipping papers. According to the August 1998 RSPA study, shipments are defined as equivalent to deliveries, and in most instances may be distinguished from the number of movements, trip segments, or other measures. The estimated number of movements associated with these shipments exceeds 1.2 million per day. Because most of the 800,000 daily shipments are accomplished with one shipping paper and some require multiple shipping papers, RSPA has estimated the annual number of shipments for shipping paper calculation purposes to be approximately 1 million shipments per day. The information collection estimates used by RSPA average out to 1 million/day x 5 days/week x 52 weeks or 260 million shipments per year. These estimates are averages based on the average time it takes all shippers to complete shipping paper. This includes shippers who prepare shipping papers once a year manually, as well as those shippers who ship hundreds of material daily using a permanent reusable