

Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Advisor or by other offices of the U.S. Department of State. In addition, U.S. Embassy officers may provide advisory comment. Funding decisions will be made at the discretion of the Department of State's Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) will reside with the Bureau's grants officer.

#### Review Criteria

All reviewers will use the criteria below to reach funding recommendations and decisions. Technically eligible applications will be reviewed competitively according to these criteria, which are not rank-ordered or weighted.

(1) *Broad and Enduring Significance of Institutional Objectives*: Project objectives should have significant and ongoing results for the participating institutions and for their surrounding societies or communities by providing a deepened understanding of critical issues in one or more of the eligible fields. Project objectives should relate clearly to institutional and societal needs, including the transition of the New Independent States to democratic systems based on market economies.

(2) *Creativity and Feasibility of Strategy to Achieve Project Objectives*: Strategies to achieve project objectives should be feasible and realistic within the projected budget and timeframe. These strategies should utilize and reinforce exchange activities creatively to ensure an efficient use of program resources.

(3) *Institutional Commitment to Cooperation*: Proposals should demonstrate significant understanding by each institution of its own needs and capacities and of the needs and capacities of its proposed partner(s), together with a strong commitment by the partner institutions, during and after the period of grant activity, to cooperate with one another in the mutual pursuit of institutional objectives.

(4) *Project Evaluation*: Proposals should outline a methodology for determining the degree to which a project meets its objectives, both while the project is underway and at its conclusion. The final project evaluation should include an external component and should provide observations about the project's influence within the participating institutions as well as their surrounding communities or societies.

(5) *Cost-effectiveness*: Administrative and program costs should be reasonable and appropriate with cost-sharing

provided by all participating institutions within the context of their respective capacities. We view cost-sharing as a reflection of institutional commitment to the project. Although indirect costs are eligible for inclusion as cost-sharing by the applicant, contributions should not be limited to indirect costs.

(6) *Support of Diversity*: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity by explaining how issues of diversity are included in project objectives for all institutional partners. Issues resulting from differences of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, geography, socio-economic status, or physical challenge should be addressed during project implementation. In addition, project participants and administrators should reflect the diversity within the societies which they represent (see the section of this document on "Diversity, Freedom, and Democracy Guidelines"). Proposals should also discuss how the various institutional partners approach diversity issues in their respective communities or societies.

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any State Department representative. Explanatory information provided by the Department of State that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

#### Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: August 31, 2001.

**Helena Kane Finn,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 01-22766 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-05-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Office of the Secretary

##### Application of Biz Jet Services, Inc. for Certificate Authority

**AGENCY:** Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of order to show cause (Order 2001-9-4) Dockets OST-01-9880 and OST-01-9881.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Transportation is directing all interested persons to show cause why it should not issue an order finding Biz Jet Services, Inc., fit, willing, and able, and awarding it certificates of public convenience and necessity to engage in interstate and foreign charter air transportation of persons, property and mail.

**DATES:** Persons wishing to file objections should do so no later than September 24, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Objections and answers to objections should be filed in Dockets OST-01-9880 and OST-01-9881 and addressed to the Department of Transportation Dockets (SVC-124.1, Room PL-401), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, and should be served upon the parties listed in Attachment A to the order.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Delores King, Air Carrier Fitness Division (X-56, Room 6401), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-2343.

Dated: September 7, 2001.

**Robert S. Goldner,**

*Special Assistant for Aviation and International Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 01-23032 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-61-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Federal Aviation Administration

##### Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee—Open Meeting

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. App. 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC). The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 18, 2001, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Federal Aviation Administration Headquarters Building, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, in the Bessie Coleman Conference Center (second floor). This will be the thirty-fourth meeting of the COMSTAC.

The agenda for the meeting will include a legislative update on Congressional activities involving commercial space transportation; an activities report from FAA's Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (formerly the Office of Commercial Space Transportation [60 FR 62762, December 7, 1995]); and a status report on the FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Licensing and Safety Requirements for Launch.

Meetings of the Technology and Innovation, Reusable Launch Vehicle, Risk Management, and Launch Operations and Support Working Groups will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2001. For specific information concerning the times and locations of these meetings, contact the Contact Person listed below.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Parker (AST-200), Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST), 800 Independence Avenue SW, Room 331, Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 385-4713; E-mail [brenda.parker@faa.dot.gov](mailto:brenda.parker@faa.dot.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC, September 4, 2001.

**Patricia G. Smith,**

*Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 01-23035 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement; Chatham County, NC

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (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 highway project in Chatham County, North Carolina.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Emily Lawton, Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, Telephone: (919) 856-4350.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the North

Carolina Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct the Pittsboro Bypass. The Pittsboro North-South Bypass is a proposed multi-lane, controlled access freeway on new location that begins at US 15-501 south of Pittsboro and ends at the US 64 Bypass. The proposed improvements are expected to be implemented in multiple stages. The project would begin with the construction of a two-lane shoulder section for the entire project length, an interchange at US 64 Bypass, acquisition of right-of-way to accommodate an ultimate four-lane divided facility with full control of access, and acquisition of right-of-way for three future interchanges. The final stages of the project would include the remaining construction to provide a four-lane, median-divided section with additional interchanges at locations to be determined.

Construction of the proposed freeway is considered necessary to accommodate the existing and projected traffic demand through the Town of Pittsboro, in Chatham County. The preliminary study area encompasses the entire Town of Pittsboro, as well as outlying rural areas. The study area is bounded by the Haw River to the east, Rocky River and Deep River to the south, Harlands Creek to the west, and Russell Chapel Road (SR 1520) to the north. Study alternatives will be chosen that best suit the Purpose and Need for the Project. Potential alternatives to be considered include (1) taking no action; (2) using alternative travel modes; (3) improving the existing facilities through the Town of Pittsboro (US 15-501 and US 64); and, (4) construction of a multi-lane, controlled access facility on new location. Design variations of alignment and grade will be incorporated into the study of each of the build alternatives.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. Citizen informational workshops will be held in the project area throughout the study process. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the workshops and 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 are 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 provide 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.)

**Emily Lawton,**

*Operations Engineer, Raleigh, NC.*

[FR Doc. 01-23026 Filed 9-12-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Erie County, NY

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the Southtowns Connector/Bufalo Outer Harbor scoping process has resulted in a major revision to the project's alternatives. Previously, the range of 'Build Alternatives' included new freeway extensions, added freeway capacity or a new transit way. The environmental impact statement will now be progressed with a combination of a new arterial, existing local street/arterial improvements and improved transit/pedestrian/bicyclist facilities.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert E. Arnold, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Leo O'Brien Federal Building—7th Floor, Albany, New York 12207, Telephone (518) 431-4127 or Brian O. Rowback, Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation, 125 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14203, Telephone: (716) 847-3238.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Administration, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Southtowns Connector/Bufalo Outer Harbor Project in Erie County, New York. The proposed improvements could include existing street and arterial road system consolidation, additional arterial street capacity and improved transit/pedestrian/bicyclist facilities. These