

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Meghan G. Ludtke, FTA Office of Chief Counsel, Room 9316, (202) 366-1936 (telephone) or (202) 366-3809 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See waiver below.

Issued: August 26, 2002.

Robert D. Jamison,
Deputy Administrator.

August 9, 2002.

Mr. Christopher Crassweller,
*Manager, Corporate and Legal Affairs, Orion
Bus Industries, 350 Hazelhurst Road,
Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4T8.*

Re: Application for Extension of Buy
America Waiver for Orion II Component

Dear Mr. Crassweller: This letter responds to your correspondence of July 17, 2002, in which you request an extension of a Buy America waiver granted for the procurement of the GNX axle for use in your Orion II paratransit vehicle.

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) requirements concerning domestic preference for federally funded transit projects are set forth in 49 U.S.C. § 5323(j). Section 5323(j)(2)(C) addresses the general requirements for the procurement of rolling stock. This section provides that all rolling stock procured with FTA funds must have a domestic content of at least 60 percent and must undergo final assembly in the U.S.

This waiver would allow Orion to count the axle as domestic for the purposes of calculating overall domestic content of the vehicle. You request a waiver under 49 U.S.C. § 5323(j)(2)(B), which states those requirements shall not apply if the item or items being procured are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality. The implementing regulation provides that "[these] waivers * * * may be granted for a component or subcomponent in the case of procurement of the items governed by section 165(b)(3) of the Act (requirements for rolling stock). If a waiver is granted for a component or subcomponent, that component or subcomponent will be considered to be of domestic origin for the purposes of Section 661.11 of this part." 49 C.F.R. § 661.7(f). The regulations allow a bidder or supplier to request a non-availability waiver for a component or subcomponent in the procurement of rolling stock. See 49 C.F.R. 661.7(f) and 49 C.F.R. 661.9(d).

You claim that the type of axle necessary for the production of the Orion II is not available from a domestic source. In addition to the representations in your correspondence, you have also provided me with letters from two U.S. manufacturers of heavy-duty axles, Spicer Heavy Axle and Arvin Meritor. You represent that these are the only two such manufacturers, and their correspondence confirms that they have no plans to manufacture an axle for your paratransit vehicle in the U.S. FTA also posted a request for comments on this matter on our website and we received no comments from domestic manufacturers of this product.

Based on the information you have provided, I have determined that the grounds for a "non-availability" waiver exist.

Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 5323(j)(2)(B), the waiver is hereby extended for the procurement of heavy-duty axles for the Orion II for the period of two years. In order to insure that the public is aware of this waiver, particularly potential manufacturers, this waiver will be published in the **Federal Register**.

If you have any questions, please contact Meghan G. Ludtke at (202) 366-1936.

Very truly yours,

Gregory B. McBride,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 02-22264 Filed 8-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the North Eugene Bus Rapid Transit Corridor in the Eugene-Springfield Oregon Metropolitan Area

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration and Lane Transit District (LTD) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for transit improvements in the North Eugene Bus Rapid Transit Corridor of the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan region. The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to notify interested parties of the intent to prepare an EIS and invite participation in the study. The Eugene-Springfield metropolitan region has adopted a long-range transportation plan, TransPlan, which identifies Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the preferred transit strategy for the twenty-year plan. BRT was adopted as a comprehensive system plan, which includes full build-out of five corridors. The general alignments of the five corridors have been identified in the approved plan. Phase 1, the initial 4 mile east-west corridor alignment is the first of the corridors to be implemented, and is currently in final design. The remaining four corridors will be implemented in priority order as determined by local elected officials through a corridor selection process. The North Eugene BRT Corridor has been identified as the next priority corridor to pursue in Eugene.

The BRT project proposes to implement a major high capacity transit improvement in the North Eugene corridor that maintains livability in the

metropolitan region, supports land use goals, optimizes the transportation system, increases overall corridor capacity, is environmentally sensitive, reflects community values, and is fiscally responsive.

Meeting Dates: Agency Coordination Meeting: An agency coordination meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday September 17, 2002 at the Lane Transit District, 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Public Information Meeting: A public information meeting will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday September 19th, 2002 at the Lane Transit District, 1700 East 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon. The Lane Transit District is accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual with a disability who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, should contact Lane Transit District at (541) 682-6100 at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting in order for LTD to make necessary arrangements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Agency Coordination should contact Lisa Gardner, LTD EIS Manager at (541) 682-6135 or (e-mail)

lisa.gardner@ltd.lane.or.us. Public Information contact Sue Aufort, LTD Public Involvement Coordinator at (541) 682-6144 or (e-mail)

sue.aufort@ltd.lane.or.us. Written comments should be sent to Lisa Gardner, North Springfield Corridor Project, Lane Transit District, 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97403. Additional information on the North Springfield Corridor Project can also be found on the LTD Web site at: www.ltd.org. Additional information can be obtained from Rebecca Reyes-Alicea, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, at (206) 220-4464.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

I. Notice of Intent

This Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is being published at this time to inform interested parties. The North Eugene Corridor Project is examining BRT alternatives in the North Eugene Corridor. FTA regulations and guidance will be used for the analysis and preparation of the north Eugene Corridor EIS.

II. Study Area

The North Eugene corridor encompasses a general alignment heading north from the downtown Eugene Transit Station at West 11th Avenue and Willamette Street in Eugene to the Gateway area in Springfield. The

exact alignment will be determined as part of the EIS process.

III. Alternatives

All reasonable alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS including a No-Build Alternative, which will provide the basis for comparison of the build alternatives. The No-Build Alternative includes the existing transportation system plus improvements to the fixed-route transit system included in the Regional Transportation Plan Financially Constrained Transportation Network, excluding the implementation of BRT.

IV. Probable Effects

FTA and LTD will evaluate all significant transportation, environmental, social and economic impacts of the alternatives. Primary issues include support of state, regional and local land use and transportation plans and policies, neighborhood impacts, and environmental sensitivity. The impacts will be evaluated for both the construction period and for the long-term period of operation. Measures to mitigate any significant impact will be developed.

Issued on: August 28, 2002.

R.F. Krochalis,

FTA Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-22370 Filed 8-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the North Springfield Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Extension in the Eugene-Springfield Oregon Metropolitan Area

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration and Lane Transit District (LTD) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for transit improvements in the North Springfield Bus Rapid Transit Corridor of the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan region. The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to notify interested parties of

the intent to prepare an EIS and invite participation in the study. The Eugene-Springfield metropolitan region has adopted a long-range transportation plan, TransPlan, which identifies Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the preferred transit strategy for the twenty-year plan. BRT was adopted as a comprehensive system plan, which includes full build-out of five corridors. The general alignments of the five corridors have been identified in the approved plan. Phase 1, the initial 4 mile east-west corridor alignment is the first of the corridors to be implemented, and is currently in final design. The remaining four corridors will be implemented in priority order as determined by local elected officials through a corridor selection process. The North Springfield BRT Corridor has been identified as the next priority corridor to pursue in Springfield.

The BRT project proposes to implement a major high capacity transit improvement in the North Springfield Corridor that maintains livability in the metropolitan region, supports land use goals, optimizes the transportation system, increases overall corridor capacity, is environmentally sensitive, reflects community values, and is fiscally responsive.

Meeting Dates: Agency Coordination Meeting: An agency coordination meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2002 at the Lane Transit District, 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Public Information Meeting: A public information meeting will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, September 19th, 2002 at the Lane Transit District, 1700 East 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon. The Lane Transit District is accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual with a disability who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, should contact Lane Transit District at (541) 682-6100 at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting in order for LTD to make necessary arrangements.

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17th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97403. Additional information on the North Springfield Corridor Project can also be found on the LTD Web site at: <http://www.ltd.org>. Additional information can be obtained from Rebecca Reyes-Alicea, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, at (206) 220-4464.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

I. Notice of Intent

This Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is being published at this time to inform interested parties. The North Springfield Corridor Project is examining BRT alternatives in the north Springfield corridor. FTA regulations and guidance will be used for the analysis and preparation of the North Springfield Corridor EIS.

II. Study Area

The North Springfield Corridor encompasses a general alignment heading north from South "A" Street in Springfield to the Gateway area in Springfield. The exact alignment will be determined as part of the EIS process.

III. Alternatives

All reasonable alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS including a No-Build Alternative, which will provide the basis for comparison of the build alternatives. The No-Build Alternative includes the existing transportation system plus improvements to the fixed-route transit system included in the Regional Transportation Plan Financially Constrained Transportation Network, excluding the implementation of BRT.

IV. Probable Effects

FTA and LTD will evaluate all significant transportation, environmental, social and economic impacts of the alternatives. Primary issues include support of state, regional and local land use and transportation plans and policies, neighborhood impacts, and environmental sensitivity. The impacts will be evaluated for both the construction period and for the long-term period of operation. Measures to mitigate any significant impact will be developed.

Issued On: August 28, 2002.

R.F. Krochalis,

FTA Regional Administrator.

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