

Notification

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

Dated: December 18, 2002.

Patricia S. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 02-32599 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4196]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 9:30 a.m. on January 15, 2003, in Room 6319 of the United States Coast Guard Headquarters Building, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the 34th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW) to be held on February 24-28, 2003, at the IMO Headquarters in London, England.

The primary matters to be considered include:

1. Measures to enhance maritime security;
2. Unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency (*i.e.*, forged certificates);
3. Large passenger safety;
4. Training of crew in launching and recovery operations of fast rescue boats and the means of rescue in adverse weather conditions;
5. Mandatory education and training requirements for fatigue prevention, mitigation, and management;
6. Preparation of procedures for regular updating of the so-called "white list" and consideration of the need for amending the STCW Convention and Code;
7. Consider the requirements and procedures related to the recognition of certificates under STCW regulation I/10; and
8. Consider the navigational requirements for Watchkeeping at anchor.

Members of the public may attend the meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: LCDR Luke Harden, U.S. Coast Guard (G-MSO-1), Room 1210, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling (202) 267-0229.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

Frederick J. Kenney,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-32597 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4197]

Shipping Coordinating Committee, Facilitation Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, in Room 1303 at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20593-0001.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the agenda items to be considered at the thirtieth session of the Facilitation Committee (FAL 30) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which is scheduled for January 27 to 31, 2003, at the IMO headquarters in London. Proposed U.S. positions on the agenda items for FAL 30 will be discussed.

The major items for discussion for FAL 30 will include the following:

- Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic
- Consideration and adoption of proposed amendments to the Annex to the Convention
- Electronic means for the clearance of ships
- Application of the Committee's Guidelines
- General review of the Convention including harmonization with other international instruments
- Prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism against shipping—Facilitation aspects
- Measures and procedures for the treatment of people rescued at sea—Facilitation aspects
- Formalities connected with the arrival, stay and departure of ships
- Formalities connected with the arrival, stay and departure of persons—Stowaways
- Ship/port interface
- Facilitation aspects of other IMO forms and certificates
- Technical co-operation sub-programme for facilitation

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Chief, Office of Standards Evaluation and Development, U.S. Coast Guard

Headquarters, Commandant (G-MSR), Room 1400, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20593-0001 or by calling Mr. David A. Du Pont at: (202) 267-0971.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

Frederick J. Kenney,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-32598 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Proposed Endangered Species Habitat Bank for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, Douglas County, CO**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is proposing to sign an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) which designates 25 acres of property owned by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) as a habitat conservation bank for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*). The bank will be used to compensate for impacts to the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse as a result of highway improvements. The FHWA, the Service, and CDOT are considering entering an agreement, which outlines the banking procedures. Interested parties are invited to review and provide comment on the proposed agreement to the address listed below.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edrie Vinson, Environmental Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 555 Zang Street, Room 250, Lakewood, CO 80228. Telephone (303) 969-6730, ext. 378.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Electronic Access**

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's Home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's Web site at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Availability of Document

Individuals interested in reviewing a copy of the Plan are asked to contact the Colorado Division of the Federal Highway Administration by telephone at (303) 969-6730, or by submitting a written request for a copy of the document to the Environmental Program Manager at the address listed above in section **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Background

One of the FHWA's strategic goals is to protect and enhance the natural environment and communities affected by highway transportation. The FHWA and DCOT are bound under Federal environmental regulations to evaluate, consider, and mitigate significant environmental impacts of its projects.

The Service has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, restoration, enhancement, and management of native fish, wildlife, plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustaining populations of those species pursuant to the provisions of various Federal laws including the Endangered Species Act.

The CDOT's mission is to provide the best multi-modal transportation system for Colorado that most effectively moves people, goods, and information, while at the same time adhering to CDOT's values, which include working in partnership with all, using resources wisely, and making decisions that are compatible with Colorado's quality of life, including environmental and economic goals.

The Colorado Division of the FHWA provides financial assistance to the State of Colorado through the Federal-aid highway program to create the best transportation system in the world for the American people through proactive leadership, innovation, and excellence in service.

Establishment of the East Plum Creek Conservation Bank Agreement represents an excellent opportunity to support and enhance the ongoing habitat conservation planning efforts in the regions by conserving highly valuable resources at the site. Within its boundaries, the East Plum Creek Conservation Bank will provide for the permanent protection of the preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) through the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of off-site lands that possess comparable or greater habitat values.

The property supports aquatic, riparian, upland and wetland habitat for the PMJM. Native vegetation communities occur on the site such as willow shrub lands and herbaceous wet meadows.

The Service has determined that the East Plum Creek Conservation Bank lands, as they have been and are being improved and restored through the conservation actions described in Exhibit F (Habitat Management Plan) of the Agreement, are suitable to mitigate for impacts to habitat for PMJM within the Service area.

The parties desire to establish a Conservation Bank in order to provide for the permanent conservation of the property, the use of the land as mitigation and the use of Conservation Bank credits by CDOT to offset unavoidable temporary and permanent impacts associated with its projects in need of such mitigation.

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

Issued on: December 18, 2002.

William C. Jones,

Division Administrator, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 02-32464 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Sherburne and Stearns Counties, MN

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Tier I environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed east/west minor arterial connection between Trunk Highway (TH) 15 and TH 10, including a crossing of the Mississippi River, in an area south of 10th Street South and north of Interstate 94 in the St. Cloud Metropolitan Area, Sherburne and Stearns Counties, Minnesota. The Tier I EIS will include the analysis needed for a location decision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Martin, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, 380 Jackson Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, Telephone (651) 291-6120; or Scott Mareck, Transportation Planner/GIS Coordinator, St. Cloud Area Planning Organization, 1040 County Road 4, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303, Telephone (320) 252-7568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, will prepare a Tier I EIS on a proposal to construct an east/west minor arterial connection between TH 15 and TH 10, in an area south of 10th Street South and north of Interstate 94 in the St. Cloud

Metropolitan Area, in Sherburne and Stearns Counties, Minnesota. The proposed action is being considered to preserve an alignment for the construction of a future highway, including a river crossing, to address the need for improved east/west minor arterial continuity, land use and trip generation growth, and forecasted 2025 congestion on existing bridges.

The Tier I EIS will evaluate the social, economic, transportation and environmental impacts of alternatives, including: (1) No-Build, (2) Transportation Demand Management, and (3) Three alignment alternatives identified within the 33rd Street Corridor.

The Tier II EIS will be prepared in fifteen to twenty years. At that time, design alternatives for the preferred alignment will be considered and environmental impacts and mitigation will be studied in greater detail. It is anticipated that the "St. Cloud Metropolitan Area Mississippi River Crossing Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document" will be published early in 2003. A press release will be published to inform the public of the document's availability. Copies of the scoping document will be distributed to agencies, interested persons and libraries for review to aid in identifying issues and analyses to be contained in the Tier I EIS. A thirty-day comment period for review of the document will be provided to afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action. A public scoping meeting will also be held during the comment period. Public notice will be given for the time and place of the meeting. A Tier I Draft EIS will be prepared based on the outcome of the scoping process.

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.)