

A preliminary study of the project alignments completed in 2003 attempted to establish if the local community and MPO could support the originally selected project alternative. The public involvement process associated with this reevaluation indicated public opposition for the originally selected alignment alternative. The City of Sherwood and Metroplan, citing the project's incompatibility with local and regional plans, refused to endorse the originally selected alignment alternative as the locally preferred route. Therefore, an SDEIS will be conducted to evaluate all feasible alternatives, possibly including alignments not evaluated in the project's original DEIS and FEIS. The original NOI for the SDEIS is being rescinded because it limited the area of study. A notice of intent to announce an SDEIS with an expanded study area for this project will be published subsequent to this NOI.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties regarding this action to rescind the NOI published on February 18, 1999, for the proposed North Belt Freeway. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to the FHWA Arkansas Division 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 of Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: March 2, 2004.

Sandra L. Otto,

Division Administrator, FHWA, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petitions for Waivers of Compliance

In accordance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 211.41, and 49 U.S.C. 20103, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a request for waiver of compliance with certain requirements of the Federal railroad safety regulations. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the

regulatory provisions involved, and the nature of the relief being sought.

Mississippi Lime Company

FRA Waiver Petition No. FRA-2003-16130

Mississippi Lime Company located in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, is seeking a "Waiver from all applicable provisions of 49 CFR Sec. 200, *et. seq.*, and any and all other applicable statutes, rules, and regulations enforced by the Federal Railroad Administration." The Mississippi Lime Company anticipates entering into a nonexclusive agreement to operate on approximately two miles of trackage owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) from Milepost 87.0 to Milepost 89.0 on the Mosher Lead. The applicant states, "The Mosher Lead is only used by the UP when (i) UP makes deliveries to the Company, (ii) UP's main line track that runs adjacent to the Mississippi River is inaccessible due to elevated water levels of the Mississippi River, and (iii) UP delivers one to three cars annually to MFA Co-Op Exchange, the only other industry located on the Mosher Lead."

Since FRA has not yet completed its investigation of the Mississippi Lime Company petition, the agency takes no position at this time on the merits of stated justifications.

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proceeding by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with the request for a waiver of certain regulatory provisions. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, he or she should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for his or her request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (Docket Number FRA FRA-2003-16130) and must be submitted to the DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza level) 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All documents in the public docket, including Mississippi Lime Company's detailed waiver request, are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Communications received within 30 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning this proceeding are available for examination during regular business

hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 5, 2004.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 04-5492 Filed 3-10-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Discretionary Cooperative Agreements To Assist in the Development of Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability—discretionary cooperative agreements to assist in the development and use of Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System.

SUMMARY: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announces a discretionary cooperative agreement program to assist states in the development and use of Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) and solicits applications for projects under this program from states that have not previously been funded to develop CODES. Under this program, states will link their existing statewide traffic records with injury outcome and charge data. The linked data will be used to support highway safety decision-making at the local, regional, and State levels to reduce deaths, non-fatal injuries, and health care costs resulting from motor vehicle crashes.

DATES: Applications must be received at the office designated below on or before April 26, 2004, at 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to DOT/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Contracts and Procurement (NPO-220), ATTN: Maxine D. Edwards, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 5301, Washington, DC 20590. All applications submitted must include a reference to NHTSA