

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Interstate 55/U.S. 64 (Crump
Boulevard), Shelby County, TN**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for potential interchange improvements to the Interstate 55/U.S. 64 interchange at Crump Boulevard in the western portion of Memphis, from McLemore Avenue to just west of Metal Museum Drive in Shelby County. This project is intended to improve regional and national transportation needs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Scott McGuire, Field Operations Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration—Tennessee Division Office, 640 Grassmere Park Road, Suite 112, Nashville, TN 37211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Interstate 55 (I-55) at Crump Boulevard (U.S. 64) Interchange currently handles most north and southbound I-55 traffic through Memphis, Tennessee. Interstate 55 is one of the major transit corridors of the United States, linking New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, and Chicago. It accommodates large amounts of personal automobile and commercial truck traffic. The current configuration of the I-55 at Crump Boulevard Interchange in Memphis, Tennessee is antiquated and creates multiple safety and efficiency problems.

With this notice of intent, FHWA and TDOT are initiating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Interstate 55/U.S. 64 (Crump Boulevard) project to study potential transportation improvements to the interchange. As part of the NEPA process, the purpose and need will be modified as necessary to account for any changes in regional or national needs or goals.

The alternatives development and screening process for the I-55/U.S. 64 project will be used as a starting point for the NEPA process. Recognizing that NEPA requires the consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives that will address the purpose and need, the Environmental Impact Statement will include a range of alternatives for detailed study consisting of a no-build

alternative, three build alternatives, as well as alternatives consisting of transportation system management strategies, mass transit, improvements to existing roadways, and/or new alignment facilities. These alternatives will be developed, screened, and carried forward for detailed analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement based on their ability to address the purpose and need that will be developed while avoiding known and sensitive resources. Letters describing the proposed NEPA study and soliciting input will be sent to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies who have expressed or are known to have an interest or legal role in this proposal. It is anticipated that one formal agency scoping meeting will be held as part of the NEPA process, in the vicinity of the project, to facilitate local, State, and Federal agency involvement and input into the project in an effort to identify all of the issues that need to be addressed in developing the Environmental Impact Statement. Private organizations, citizens, and interest groups will also have an opportunity to provide input into the development of the Environmental Impact Statement and identify issues that should be addressed. A Public Involvement Plan will be developed to involve the public in the project development process. This plan will utilize the following outreach efforts to provide information and solicit input: newsletters, the Internet, e-mail, informal meetings, public information meetings, public hearings and other efforts as necessary and appropriate. Notices of public meetings or public hearings will be given through various forums providing the time and place of the meeting along with other relevant information. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearings.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are identified and taken into account, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning the proposed action and Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be directed to 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 proposed action)

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

Issued on: September 17, 2004.

Scott A. McGuire,

Field Operations Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration, Nashville, Tennessee.

[FR Doc. 04-21925 Filed 9-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration****Petition for Exemption From the
Federal Motor Vehicle Motor Theft
Prevention Standard; Mazda**

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Grant of petition for exemption.

SUMMARY: This document grants in full the petition of Mazda Motor Corporation (Mazda), for an exemption of a high-theft line, the Mazda MX-5 Miata, from the parts-marking requirements of the Federal motor vehicle theft prevention standard. This petition is granted because the agency has determined that the antitheft device to be placed on the line as standard equipment is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard.

DATES: The exemption granted by this notice is effective beginning with model year (MY) 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosalind Proctor, Office of International Policy, Fuel Economy and Consumer Programs, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Proctor's phone number is (202) 366-0846. Her fax number is (202) 493-2290.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a petition dated June 2, 2004, Mazda Motor Corporation (Mazda), requested exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the theft prevention standard (49 CFR Part 541) for the Mazda MX-5 Miata vehicle line beginning with MY 2005. The petition requested an exemption from parts-marking pursuant to 49 CFR 543, *Exemption from Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard*, based on the installation of an antitheft device as standard equipment for the entire vehicle line.

Section 33106(b)(2)(D) of Title 49, United States Code, gave the Secretary of Transportation the authority to grant a manufacturer one parts-marking exemption per model year for vehicle lines produced MYs' 1997-2000. However, it does not address the