

commercial space transportation legislation, and an activities report from FAA's Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation. An agenda will be posted on the FAA Web site at <http://ast.faa.gov>. Meetings of the COMSTAC Working Groups (Technology and Innovation, Reusable Launch Vehicle, Risk Management, and Launch Operations and Support) will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2004. For specific information concerning the times and locations of the working group meetings, contact the Contact Group 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 28, 2004.

**Patricia G. Smith,**

*Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Etowah County, AL

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation.

**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 Etowah County, Alabama. This Notice of Intent (NOI) supersedes a NOI for this proposed project that was issued by the FHWA in the **Federal Register** dated May 29, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 103) Public involvement and coordination activities on the original proposal have resulted in a change in the scope of the project that should better meet the needs of local community and impacted neighborhoods.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Joe D. Wilkerson, Division Administrator, Federal Highway

Administration, 500 Eastern Boulevard, Suite 200, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, Telephone: (334) 223-7370.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the State of Alabama Department of Transportation, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Alabama Project HPP-1602 (539), old project number NHF-PE 94 (2). The proposal is to construct a limited access facility from the eastern terminus of Interstate Highway 759 (I-759) near George Wallace Drive to an interchange with U.S. Highway 431 and U.S. Highway 278 in the city of Gadsden, Alabama. The project will be a multi-lane roadway on new location. The proposal will allow traffic from I-759 to flow through the city of Gadsden.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) alternate route locations, (2) a no-action alternative, and (3) postponing the action.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations and citizens that have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A public involvement meeting and a public hearing will be held in the city of Gadsden. Public notice with be given of the time and place for the meeting and hearing. A formal scoping meeting will not be held.

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.)

Issued on: September 21, 2004.

**Joe D. Wilkerson,**

*Division Administrator, Montgomery, Alabama.*

[FR Doc. 04-22181 Filed 10-1-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

#### Petition for Exemption from the Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Nissan North America, Inc.

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

**ACTION:** Grant of petition for exemption.

**SUMMARY:** This notice grants in full the petition of Nissan North America, Inc., (Nissan) for an exemption of a high-theft vehicle line, [whose nameplate is confidential], 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. Nissan requested confidential treatment for the information and attachments it submitted in support of its petition. In a letter dated July 23, 2004, the agency granted the petitioner's request for confidential treatment of most aspects of its petition.

**DATES:** The exemption granted by this notice is effective beginning with the [confidential] model year.

**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 telephone number is (202) 366-0846. Her fax number is (202) 493-2290.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In a petition dated June 23, 2004, Nissan North America, Inc. (Nissan), requested exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the theft prevention standard (49 CFR Part 541) for a vehicle line. The nameplate of the line and the model year of introduction are confidential. The petition has been filed pursuant to 49 CFR Part 543, *Exemption from Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard*, based on the installation of an antitheft device as standard equipment for an entire vehicle line. Based on the evidence submitted by Nissan, the agency believes that the antitheft device for the vehicle line 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 (49 CFR Part 541).