

and the actual NBBO, the proposal would revise the definition of the term "Theoretical Price" to mean the midpoint of the NBBO just prior to the transaction. The Exchange believes that this new definition should provide Exchange Floor Officials with a more accurate measure of the price on which to base their determination that a transaction resulted from an obvious error. The Exchange also proposes to delete Commentary .02 to Phlx Rule 1092 from the Rule.⁸ This Commentary sets forth how Theoretical Price would be determined under current Phlx Rule 1092(c).

III. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange⁹ and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁰ and the rules and regulations thereunder. Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹¹ in that the proposal promotes just and equitable principles of trade, removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and protects investors and the public interest.

The Commission considers that in most circumstances trades that are executed between parties should be honored. On rare occasions, the price of the executed trade indicates an "obvious error" may exist, suggesting that it is unrealistic to expect that the parties to the trade had come to a meeting of the minds regarding the terms of the transaction. In the Commission's view, the determination of whether an "obvious error" has occurred should be based on specific and objective criteria and subject to specific and objective procedures. The Phlx's proposal would provide specific and objective numerical criteria to be used by Floor Officials to determine whether a particular transaction involved an obvious error. In addition, the Exchange's proposal to base the definition of Theoretical Price on the midpoint of the NBBO would ensure

that the Phlx's obvious error rule is consistent with the Options Intermarket Linkage Plan, which requires exchanges to avoid trade-throughs. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the Exchange's proposal is consistent with the Act.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹² that the proposed rule change (SR-Phlx-2005-73), as amended, is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Nancy M. Morris,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-10532 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 5462]

Memorandum of Agreement Between the U.S. Department of State and the Colorado Department of Human Services Regarding Performance of Duties as an Accrediting Entity Under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State (the Department) is the lead Federal agency for implementation of the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Convention) and the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA). Among other things, the IAA gives the Secretary of State responsibility for the accreditation of agencies and approval of persons to provide adoption services under the Convention. The IAA requires the Department to enter into agreements with one or more qualified entities under which such entities will perform the tasks of accrediting agencies and approving persons, monitoring compliance of such agencies and persons with applicable requirements, and other related duties set forth in section 202(b) of the IAA. This notice is to inform the public that on June 29, 2006, the Department exercised its authority under the IAA and entered into an agreement with the Colorado Department of Human Services under which the Department designated the Colorado Department of Human Services as an accrediting entity. In its

role as an accrediting entity, the Colorado Department of Human Services will be accrediting or approving qualified adoption service providers located in and licensed by the State of Colorado to enable them to provide adoption services in cases subject to the Convention once the Convention enters into force for the United States. As the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention, the Department will monitor the performance of the Colorado Department of Human Services and approve fees charged by it as an accrediting entity. The text of the Memorandum of Agreement, signed on June 29, 2006 by Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State and signed on June 13, 2006 by Marva Livingston Hammons, Executive Director, Department of Human Services, State of Colorado, is included at the end of this Notice. Also included at the end of the Memorandum of Agreement is its Attachment 1, Colorado Revised Statutes § 26-6-104(6.5).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mikiko Stebbing at 202-736-9086. Hearing or speech-impaired persons may use the Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD) by contacting the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, pursuant to section 202(a) of the IAA, must enter into an agreement with at least one qualified entity and designate it as an accrediting entity. Accrediting entities may be (1) nonprofit private entities with expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services; or (2) State adoption licensing bodies that have expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services and that accredit only agencies located in that State. Colorado's Department of Human Services is a State adoption licensing body with expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services and only accredits agencies located in the State of Colorado. The final rule on accreditation of agencies and approval of persons (22 CFR Part 96) was published in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 8064-8066, February 15, 2006) and became effective on March 17, 2006. The final rule establishes the regulatory framework for the accreditation and approval function and provides the standards that the designated accrediting entities will follow in

⁸ Phlx Rule 1092(b) would retain the provision that if there are no quotes for comparison purposes, two Floor Officials and designated personnel in the Exchange's Market Surveillance Department would determine Theoretical Price.

⁹ In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(2).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

accrediting or approving adoption service providers.

Memorandum of Agreement Between the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Colorado Department of Human Services

Parties & Purpose of the Agreement

The Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (Department) and the Colorado Department of Human Services (Colorado), with its principal office located at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203-1714, hereinafter the "Parties", are entering into this agreement for the purpose of designating Colorado as an accrediting entity under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA), Public Law 106-279 and 22 CFR Part 96.

Authorities

The Department enters into this agreement pursuant to Sections 202 and 204 of the IAA, 22 CFR Part 96, and Delegation of Authority 261. Colorado has full authority to enter into this MOA pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 26-6-104(6.5), a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment 1. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services is authorized to sign on Colorado's behalf.

Definitions

For purposes of this memorandum of agreement, terms used here that are defined in 22 CFR 96.2 shall have the same meaning as they have in 22 CFR 96.2. In addition, the terms "transitional application deadline" (TAD) and "deadline for initial accreditation or approval" (DIAA) shall have the meaning given them in 22 CFR 96.19 and "uniform notification date" (UND) shall have the meaning given it in 22 CFR 96.58.

The Parties agree as follows:

Article 1—Designation and Jurisdiction of the Accrediting Entity

The Department hereby designates Colorado as an accrediting entity and thereby authorizes it to accredit (including temporarily accredit) agencies and approve persons that are located in Colorado and that are licensed as a child placement agency in the State of Colorado, in accordance with the procedures and standards set forth in 22 CFR Part 96, and to perform all of the accrediting entity functions set forth in 22 CFR 96.7.

Article 2—Accreditation Responsibilities and Duties of the Accrediting Entity

(1) Colorado agrees to perform all accrediting entity functions set forth in

22 CFR 96.7(a) and to perform its functions in accordance with the Convention, the IAA, Part 96 of 22 CFR and any other applicable regulations, and as additionally specified in this agreement. In performing these functions, Colorado will operate under policy direction from the Department regarding U.S. obligations under the Convention and regarding the functions and responsibilities of an accrediting entity.

(2) Colorado will take appropriate staffing, funding, and other measures to allow it to carry out all of its functions and fulfill all of its responsibilities, and will use the Adoptions Tracking System and the Hague complaint registry (ATS/HCR) as directed by the Department, including by updating required data fields in a timely fashion.

(3) In carrying out its accrediting entity functions Colorado will:

(a) Prepare to accept applications by the TAD by expending its own funds and other resources for materials development, staff training, travel and meeting attendance in advance of receiving any fees for its services as an accrediting entity;

(b) Make decisions on accreditation and approval in accordance with the procedures set forth in 22 CFR Part 96 and using only the standards in subpart F of 22 CFR Part 96 and the substantial compliance weighting system approved by the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 5, below;

(c) Make decisions on temporary accreditation in accordance with the procedures and standards in subpart N of 22 CFR Part 96 and the procedures presented to the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 3, subsection (a), below;

(d) Charge applicants for accreditation, approval, or temporary accreditation only fees approved by the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 4 below;

(e) Consistent with 22 CFR 96.19 and 96.97, use its best efforts to evaluate and decide by the DIAA all applications for accreditation, temporary accreditation, or approval that were submitted by the TAD;

(f) Review complaints, including complaints regarding conduct alleged to have occurred abroad, in accordance with subpart J of 22 CFR Part 96 and the additional procedures approved by the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 3, subsections (c) and (d) below. Colorado will exercise its discretion in determining which methods are most appropriate to review complaints regarding conduct alleged to have occurred abroad.

(g) Take adverse actions against accredited agencies, temporarily accredited agencies, and approved persons in accordance with subparts K and N of 22 CFR Part 96, and cooperate with the Department in any case in which the Department considers exercising its adverse action authorities because the accrediting entity has failed or refused after consultation with the Department to take what the Department considers to be appropriate enforcement action;

(h) Assume full responsibility for defending adverse actions in court proceedings, if challenged by the adoption service provider or the adoption service provider's board or officers;

(i) Refer an adoption service provider to the Department for debarment if, but only if, it concludes after investigation that the adoption service provider's conduct meets the standards for action by the Secretary set out in 22 CFR 96.85;

(j) Promptly report any change in the accreditation (including temporary accreditation) or approval status of an adoption service provider to the relevant state licensing authority.

(k) Maintain and use only the required procedures approved by the Department and those procedures presented to the Department pursuant to Article 3 of this agreement whenever they apply.

Article 3—Preparatory Tasks

(Tasks Preceding the Transitional Application Deadline)

(1) *Accreditation Materials and Training:* In coordination with any other designated accrediting entities, by a date agreed upon by the Parties, Colorado will:

(a) Develop forms, training materials, and evaluation practices;

(b) Determine whether joint training of evaluators or other personnel is practical, and, if so, assist in conducting or participate in any joint training sessions;

(c) Develop explanatory guidance to assist applicants for accreditation, temporary accreditation, and approval in achieving substantial compliance with the applicable standards.

(2) *Development of Internal Review Procedure:* Colorado will develop and present to the Department for approval, by a date agreed upon by the Parties, procedures that it will maintain and use to determine whether to terminate adverse actions against an accredited agency or approved person on the grounds that the deficiencies necessitating the adverse action have been corrected.

(3) *Development of Other Procedures:* Colorado will develop and present to the Department, by a date agreed upon by the Parties, procedures that it will maintain and use:

(a) To evaluate whether a candidate for temporary accreditation meets the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in 22 CFR 96.96;

(b) To carry out its annual monitoring duties;

(c) To review thoroughly complaints or information referred to it through the Hague Complaint Registry or from the Department directly, including procedures for obtaining complete and accurate information about conduct alleged to have occurred abroad;

(d) To review complaints that it receives about its own actions as an accrediting entity for Hague adoption service providers;

(e) To make the public disclosures required by 22 CFR 96.91; and

(f) To ensure the reasonableness of charges for the travel and maintenance of its site evaluators, such as for travel, meals and accommodations.

(4) *Fee Schedule Development:*

(a) Colorado will develop a fee schedule for accreditation, temporary accreditation, and approval services that meets the requirements of 22 CFR 96.8. Fees will be set based on the principle of recovering no more than the full cost, as defined in OMB Circular A-25 paragraph 6(d)(1), of accreditation, temporary accreditation, and approval services. Colorado will submit a fee schedule developed using this methodology together with comprehensive documentation justifying the proposed fees to the Department for approval by a date agreed upon by the Parties.

(b) The approved fee schedule can be amended with the approval of the Department.

(5) *Substantial Compliance Weighting Systems Development:*

(a) Colorado will develop a substantial compliance weighting system as described in 22 CFR 96.27, and will submit it to the Department for approval by a date agreed upon by the Parties.

(b) Colorado will develop a separate substantial compliance weighting system to be used in evaluating temporarily accredited agencies that incorporates the performance standards in 22 CFR 96.104 and will submit it to the Department for approval by a date agreed upon by the Parties.

(c) In developing the systems described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, Colorado will coordinate with any other accrediting entities, and consult with the Department to ensure

consistency between the systems used by accrediting entities. These systems can be amended with the approval of the Department.

Article 4—Initial Accreditation (Including Temporary Accreditation) and Approval Tasks

(1) The Department will consult with Colorado and all other accrediting entities before establishing the transitional application deadline (TAD), the uniform notification date (UND), and the deadline for initial accreditation or approval (DIAA).

(2) Within an agreed number of days following the TAD, Colorado will make public the names and addresses of agencies and persons that have applied to be accredited (including temporarily accredited) or approved, provide a mechanism for the public to comment on applicants, and consider comments received from the public in its decisions on applicants. With respect to additional applications received prior to entry into force of the Convention, Colorado will make the names of such applicants public within an agreed number of days following receipt. Colorado will consider any public comments in its decisions on the additional applicants.

(3) In conformity with 22 CFR 96.58, Colorado will not release its accreditation (including temporary accreditation) and approval decisions prior to the UND.

Colorado will prepare the list of decisions to be announced on the UND and transmit the information as directed by the Department. Colorado will immediately notify the Department of any corrections, so that the Department may rely upon this list in compiling the list of initially accredited and approved adoption service providers that it will deposit with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Article 5—Data Collection, Reporting and Records

(1) *Adoptions Tracking System/Hague Complaint Registry (ATS/HCR):*

(a) Colorado will maintain and fund a computer and internet connection for use with the ATS/HCR that meets system requirements set by the Department;

(b) The Department will provide software or access tokens needed by individuals for secure access to the ATS/HCR and facilitate any necessary training in use of the ATS/HCR;

(c) Colorado will ensure that only individuals that the Department has approved for access have access to the

ATS/HCR and to any secure access tokens or passwords.

(2) *Annual Report:* Colorado will report on dates agreed upon by the Parties, in the format specified by the Department, the information required in 22 CFR 96.93 as provided in that section through ATS/HCR.

(3) *Additional Reporting:* Colorado will provide any additional status reports or data as required by the Department, and in the format required by the Department.

(4) *Accrediting Entity Records:* Colorado will retain all records related to its accreditation functions and responsibilities for a minimum of six years after their creation, or until any litigation, claim or audit related to the records filed or noticed within the six year period is finally terminated, whichever is longer.

Article 6—Department Oversight and Monitoring

(1) *Accrediting Entity Obligations:* To facilitate oversight and monitoring by the Department, Colorado will:

(a) Provide copies of its forms and other materials to the Department and give Department personnel the opportunity to participate in any training sessions for its evaluators or other personnel;

(b) Allow the Department to inspect all records relating to its accreditation functions and responsibilities and provide to the Department copies of such records as requested or required for oversight, including to evaluate renewal or maintenance of the accrediting entity's designation, and for purposes of transferring adoption service providers to another accrediting entity;

(c) Submit to the Department by a date agreed upon by the Parties an annual declaration signed by the Licensing Administrator confirming that Colorado is complying with the IAA, 22 CFR Part 96, any other applicable regulations, and this agreement in carrying out its functions and responsibilities;

(d) Make appropriate senior-level officials available to attend a yearly performance review meeting with the Department;

(e) Immediately report to the Department events which have a significant impact on its ability to perform its functions and responsibilities as an accrediting entity, including financial difficulties, changes in key personnel or other staffing issues, State legislative or regulatory changes; legal or disciplinary actions against Colorado and conflicts of interest;

(f) Notify the Department of any requests for information that it receives from Central Authorities of other Hague signatories, or any other foreign government authorities (except for routine requests concerning accreditation, temporary accreditation, or approval status or other information publicly available under subpart M of Part 96), and consult with the Department before releasing information;

(g) Consult immediately with the Department about any issue or event that may affect compliance with the IAA or U.S. compliance with obligations under the Convention.

(2) *Departmental Approval Procedures*: In all instances in which the Department must approve a policy, system, fee schedule, or procedure before Colorado can bring it into effect or amend it, Colorado will submit the policy, system, fee schedule, or procedure or amendment in writing to the Department's AE Liaison via email where possible. The AE Liaison will be responsible for coordinating the Department's approval process and arranging any necessary meetings or telephone conferences with Colorado. Formal approval by the Department will be conveyed in writing by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services or her or his designee.

(3) *Suspension or Cancellation*: When the Department is considering suspension or cancellation of Colorado's designation:

(a) The Department will notify Colorado in writing of the identified deficiencies in its performance and the time period in which the Department expects correction of the deficiencies;

(b) Colorado will respond in writing to either explain the actions that it has taken or plans to take to correct the deficiencies or to demonstrate that the Department's concerns are unfounded within 10 business days;

(c) Upon request, the Department will also meet with the accrediting entity by teleconference or in person;

(d) If the Department, in its sole discretion, is not satisfied with the actions or explanation of Colorado, it will notify Colorado in writing of its decision to suspend or cancel Colorado's designation and this agreement;

(e) Colorado will stop or suspend its actions as an accrediting entity as directed by the Department in the notice of suspension or cancellation, and cooperate with any Departmental instructions in order to transfer adoption service providers it accredits (including temporarily accredits) or approves to another accrediting entity,

including by transferring a reasonable allocation of collected fees for the remainder of the accreditation or approval period of such adoption service providers.

(4) *Complaint Procedures*: By a date agreed upon by the Parties, the Parties will agree upon procedures for handling complaints against the accrediting entity received by the Department or referred to the Department because the complainant was not satisfied with the accrediting entity's resolution of the complaint. These complaint procedures may be incorporated into the Department's general procedures for handling instances in which the Department is considering whether a deficiency in the accrediting entity's performance may warrant suspension or cancellation of its designation.

Article 7—Other Issues Agreed by the Parties

(1) *Conflict of interest*: Colorado shall disclose to the Department the name of any organization of which it is a member that also has as members intercountry adoption service providers. Colorado shall demonstrate to the Department that it has procedures in place to prevent any such membership from influencing its actions as an accrediting entity and shall maintain and use these procedures.

(2) *Liability*: Colorado agrees to maintain sufficient resources to defend challenges to its actions as an accrediting entity, and to inform the Department immediately of any events that may affect its ability to defend itself. Colorado agrees that it will consult with the Department immediately if it becomes aware of any legal proceedings related to its acts as an accrediting entity, or of any legal proceedings not related to its acts as an accrediting entity that may threaten its ability to continue to function as an accrediting entity.

Article 8—Liaison Between the Department and the Accrediting Entity

(1) Colorado's principal point of contact for communications relating to its functions and duties as an accrediting entity will be the Licensing Administrator in the Department of Human Services. The Department's principal point of contact for communication is the Accrediting Entity Liaison officer in the Office of Children's Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

(2) The parties will keep each other currently informed in writing of the names and contact information for their principal points of contact. As of the signing of this Agreement, the

respective principal points of contact are as set forth in Attachment 2.

Article 9—Certifications and Assurances

(1) Colorado certifies that it will comply with all requirements of applicable State and Federal law.

(2) Colorado certifies that it satisfies all of the accrediting entity performance criteria set forth in 22 CFR 96.6 and agrees to continue to do so throughout the duration of its designation.

(3) Colorado agrees to indemnify the Department and any persons acting on its behalf and to hold them harmless from any claim, loss or other liability that is caused by Colorado's fault or negligence in connection with performing duties under this Agreement. Any negligence or alleged negligence by the Department or persons acting on its behalf shall not preclude a claim for indemnification.

Article 10—Agreement, Scope, and Period of Performance

(1) *Scope*:

(a) This agreement is not intended to have any effect on any activities of Colorado that are not related to its functions as an accrediting entity for adoption service providers providing adoption services in intercountry adoptions under the Hague Convention.

(b) Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed to be a commitment or obligation to provide any Federal funds. The Department, consistent with the IAA, may not provide any funds to the accrediting entity for the performance of accreditation and approval functions.

(c) All accrediting entity functions and responsibilities authorized by this agreement are to occur only during the duration of this agreement.

(d) Nothing in this agreement shall release Colorado from any legal requirements or responsibilities imposed on the accrediting entity by the IAA, 22 CFR Part 96, or any other applicable laws or regulations.

(2) *Duration*: Colorado's designation as an accrediting entity and this agreement shall remain in effect for five years from signature, unless terminated earlier by the Department in conjunction with the suspension or cancellation of the designation of Colorado. The Parties may mutually agree in writing to extend the designation of the accrediting entity and the duration of this agreement. If either Party does not wish to renew the agreement, it must provide written notice no less than one year prior to the termination date, and the Parties will consult to establish a mutually agreed schedule to transfer adoption service

providers to another accrediting entity, including by transferring a reasonable allocation of collected fees for the remainder of the accreditation or approval period of such adoption service providers.

(3) *Severability*: To the extent that the Department determines, within its reasonable discretion, that any provision of this agreement is inconsistent with the Convention, the IAA, the regulations implementing the IAA or any other provision of law, that provision of the agreement shall be considered null and void and the remainder of the agreement shall continue in full force and effect as if the offending portion had not been a part of it.

(4) *Entirety of Agreement*: This agreement is the entire agreement of the Parties and may be modified only upon written agreement of the Parties.

Attachment 1—Colorado Revised Statutes: Title 26 Human Services Code: Article 6 Child Care Centers: Part 1 Child Care Licensing

26–6–104. Licenses—Out-of-State Notices and Consent

(6.5) On and after July 1, 2005, and subject to designation as a qualified accrediting entity as required by the “Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000”, 42 U.S.C. 14901 *et seq.*, the state department may license and accredit a child placement agency for purposes of providing adoption services for convention adoptions pursuant to the “Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000”, 42 U.S.C. 14901 *et seq.* The state board of human services may adopt rules consistent with federal law governing the procedures for adverse actions regarding accreditation, which procedures may vary from the procedures set forth in the “State Administrative Procedure Act”, article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

Dated: June 29, 2006.

Maura Harty,

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6–10573 Filed 7–5–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5454]

Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Notice of Open Meeting

The Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP) will meet from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2006, in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will be hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs

Daniel S. Sullivan and Committee Chairman R. Michael Gadbaw. The ACIEP serves the U.S. Government in a solely advisory capacity concerning issues and problems in international economic policy. Items on the agenda for this meeting include: (1) International Energy Issues and (2) Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement.

This meeting is open to the public as seating capacity allows. Entry to the building is controlled; to obtain pre-clearance for entry, members of the public planning to attend should provide, by July 20, 2006, their name, professional affiliation, valid government-issued ID number (*i.e.*, U.S. government ID (agency), U.S. military ID (branch), passport (country), or drivers license (state)), date of birth, and citizenship to La Keisha Barner by fax (202) 647–5936, e-mail (BarnerLR@state.gov), or telephone (202) 647–0847. One of the following forms of valid photo identification will be required for admission to the State Department building: U.S. driver's license, passport, or U.S. Government identification card. Enter the Department of State from the C Street lobby. In view of escorting requirements, non-Government attendees should plan to arrive not less than 15 minutes before the meeting begins.

For additional information, contact David Freudenwald, Office of Economic Policy and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, at (202) 647–2231 or FreudenwaldDJ@state.gov.

Dated: June 29, 2006.

Laura Faux-Gable,

Office Director, Office of Economic Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6–10553 Filed 7–5–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket Number FHWA–2005–22986]

Notice of Public Meetings on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Requirements

AGENCIES: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the dates, times, and locations of six public

meetings and a national Webcast to be held in July and August 2006 concerning a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Requirements. Presentations delivered at these meetings will describe the provisions of the NPRM jointly issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on June 9, 2006 to provide guidance on implementing the planning provisions of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU), the Federal surface transportation law.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For FTA, Effie S. Stallsmith, Office of Planning and Environment, at Effie.Stallsmith@dot.gov or 202–366–5653, or Christopher Van Wyk, Office of Chief Counsel, 202–366–1733. For FHWA, Robert Ritter, Office of Planning, 202–493–2139. Both agencies are located at 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours for FTA are from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Office hours for FHWA are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meetings listed below will provide a forum for FTA and FHWA staffs to make oral presentations on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning. Additionally, the sessions are intended to encourage interested parties and stakeholders to submit their comments directly to the official docket by the close of the public comment period on September 7, 2006, per the instructions found in the NPRM at 71 FR 33510 (June 9, 2006).

I. Meetings

The following are the 2006 Statewide and Metropolitan Planning NPRM public outreach session meeting dates and addresses:

1. Wednesday, July 19, 2006, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. eastern standard time, Atlanta, GA—Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center (auditorium), 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303.

2. Friday, July 21, 2006, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. eastern standard time, New York, NY—Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House (auditorium), One Bowling Green, New York City, NY 10004.

3. Monday, July 24, 2006, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. central standard time, Kansas City,