

LACMTA may seek New Starts funding for the proposed project under 49 U.S.C. 5309 and will, therefore, be subject to New Starts regulation (49 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 611). The New Starts regulation requires a planning Alternatives Analysis that leads to the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative by LACMTA and the inclusion of the locally preferred alternative in the long-range transportation plan adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments. The planning Alternatives Analysis will examine alignments, technologies, station locations, costs, funding, ridership, economic development, land use, engineering feasibility, and environmental factors in the corridor. The New Starts regulation also requires the submission of certain project-justification information in support of a request to initiate preliminary engineering. After the identification of a proposed action at the conclusion of the planning Alternatives Analysis, if preparation of an environmental impact statement is warranted, a Notice of Intent (NOI) will be published in the **Federal Register** and the scoping of the EIS/EIR will be continued by soliciting and considering comments on the results of the planning Alternatives Analysis, the purpose and need for the proposed action, the range of alternatives to be considered in the EIS/EIR, and the potentially significant environmental and community impacts to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR.

Concurrent with publication of the NOI pursuant to NEPA, an NOP will be distributed pursuant to CEQA. In conjunction with this final scoping of the EIS/EIR and consistent with provisions of 23 U.S.C. 139 and CEQA, invitations will be extended to other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in this matter to be participating agencies. A plan for coordinating public and agency participation in the environmental review process and for commenting on the issues under consideration at various milestones of the process will be prepared and posted on the LACMTA Web site at <http://www.metro.net/eastsidephase2>.

Issued on: October 25, 2007.

**Leslie T. Rogers,**

*Regional Administrator, Region IX, Federal Transit Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-57-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Transit Administration

#### Proposed Program Guidance Circulars

[Docket Nos. FTA-2007-29126, FTA-2007-29122, FTA-2007-29123, FTA-2007-29125]

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Proposed Program Guidance Circulars; Extension of Comment Periods.

**SUMMARY:** On September 28, 2007, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published notices seeking comment on four program guidance circulars—the Metropolitan Planning Program and State Planning and Research Program Grants; the Capital Investment Program; the Grant Management Requirements; and Third Party Contracting. This document extends the comment periods of each of these notices. The reasons for extending the comment period are three-fold. First, the FTA wants to stagger the comment period so the public has more time to provide meaningful comments, which in turn will result in better guidance for our customers. Second, FTA currently has a major rulemaking out for comment, which may create hardship on those wishing to comment on circulars as well as the rulemaking. Finally, DOT had some difficulty migrating from the USDOT docket system to the Federal Government's new E-rulemaking portal, which has caused some confusion among commenters.

**DATES:** The new comment periods are as follows:

- Metropolitan Planning Program and State Planning and Research Program Grants (Docket No. FTA-2007-29126)—the comment period ends November 30, 2007.
- Grant Management Requirements (Docket No. FTA-2007-29122)—the comment period ends January 4, 2008.
- Capital Investment Program (Docket No. FTA-2007-29123)—the comment period ends January 25, 2008.
- Third Party Contracting (Docket No. FTA-2007-29125)—the comment period ends February 15, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** To ensure your comments are not entered more than once into the docket, submit comments identified by the appropriate docket number by only one of the following methods:

1. *Web site:* [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the U.S. Government electronic docket site. All electronic submissions must be made to the U.S. Government electronic site at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Commenters

should follow the instructions below for mailed and hand-delivered comments.

2. *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

3. *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

4. *Hand-Delivery:* To the Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Fridays, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For the Metropolitan Planning Docket contact Victor Austin at 202-366-2996 or e-mail at [victor.austin@dot.gov](mailto:victor.austin@dot.gov), or Christopher VanWyk by phone at 202-366-1733 or e-mail at [christopher.vanwyk@dot.gov](mailto:christopher.vanwyk@dot.gov). For the Grant Management Requirements Docket contact Jamie Pfister at 404-865-5632 or e-mail at [jamie.pfister@dot.gov](mailto:jamie.pfister@dot.gov), or Jayme Blakesley at 202-366-0304 or e-mail at [jayme.blakesley@dot.gov](mailto:jayme.blakesley@dot.gov). For the Capital Investment Program Docket contact Kimberly Sledge at 202-366-2053 or e-mail at [kimberly.sledge@dot.gov](mailto:kimberly.sledge@dot.gov), or Bonnie Graves at 202-366-0944 or e-mail at [bonnie.graves@dot.gov](mailto:bonnie.graves@dot.gov). For the Third Party Contracting Docket contact James Harper at 202-366-1127 or e-mail at [james.harper@dot.gov](mailto:james.harper@dot.gov), or Kerry Miller at 202-366-1936 or e-mail at [kerry.miller@dot.gov](mailto:kerry.miller@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 28, 2007, FTA published four separate notices (72 FR 55624 @ Part III) seeking public comment on proposed guidance relating to the Metropolitan Planning Program and State Planning and Research Program Grants (8100.1B); the Capital Investment Program (9300.1A); the Grant Management Requirements (5010.1D); and Third Party Contracting (4220.1E). The proposed guidance or circular revisions are a product of changes made by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, Pub. L. 109-59), signed into law on August 10, 2005. The circulars themselves are not contained in the notices but rather in the docket(s) @ [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under the specific docket numbers indicated above.

FTA has determined that there is good cause to extend the comment periods to allow for more time to provide meaningful comments on the proposed

circulars, which will result in better guidance for our customers.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 26th day of October, 2007.

**James S. Simpson,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E7-21462 Filed 10-30-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Discussion Outline for Consideration by the Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury's Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession is soliciting public comment on the discussion outline prepared at the direction of and in consultation with the Advisory Committee's Co-Chairs, Arthur Levitt, Jr. and Donald T. Nicolaisen. The discussion outline includes a list of issues and potential consideration points that the Advisory Committee may evaluate.

**DATES:** Comments should be received by November 30, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The public is invited to submit comments with the Advisory Committee by any of the following methods:

#### *Electronic Comments*

- Use the Department's Internet submission form (<http://www.treas.gov/offices/domestic-finance/acap/comments>); or

#### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession, Office of Financial Institutions Policy, Room 1418, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

In general, the Department will post all comments on its Web site (<http://www.treas.gov/offices/domestic-finance/acap/comments>) without change, including any business or personal information provided such as names, addresses, e-mail addresses, or telephone numbers. The Department will also make such comments available for public inspection and copying in the Department's Library, Room 1428, Main Department Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220, on official business days between the hours of 10

a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time. You can make an appointment to inspect comments by telephoning (202) 622-0990. All comments, including attachments and other supporting materials, received are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kristen E. Jaconi, Senior Policy Advisor to the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, Department of the Treasury, Main Department Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220, at (202) 927-6618.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the request of the Co-Chairs of the Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession, the Department is publishing this release soliciting public comments on the issues that the Advisory Committee proposes to consider.

The Advisory Committee was officially established on July 3, 2007 with the filing of its Charter with Congress. The Charter provides that the Advisory Committee's objective is to provide informed advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Department on the sustainability of a strong and vibrant auditing profession. The Advisory Committee adopted By-Laws and Operating Procedures on October 15, 2007. The Charter and By-Laws and Operating Procedures direct the Advisory Committee to consider the following areas of inquiry:

- The auditing profession's ability to cultivate, attract, and retain the human capital necessary to meet developments in the business and financial reporting environment and ensure audit quality for investors;
- Audit market competition and concentration and the impact of the independence and other professional standards on this market and investor confidence; and
- The organizational structure, financial resources, and communication of the auditing profession.

The Charter also directs the Advisory Committee to work with a view to furthering the mission of the Department, as the steward of the economic and financial systems of the United States, to promote and encourage the conditions for prosperity and stability in the United States and the rest of the world and to predict and prevent, to the extent possible, economic and financial crises.

The Advisory Committee considered the discussion outline at its first public

meeting held on October 15, 2007. The Co-Chairs of the Advisory Committee have asked the Department to publish the discussion outline for public comment. The full text of the discussion outline is attached as an Appendix and also may be found on the Web page of the Advisory Committee at <http://www.treas.gov/offices/domestic-finance/acap/index.shtml>. The discussion outline identifies in general terms the issues and consideration points that the Advisory Committee may evaluate. All interested parties are invited to submit their views in writing, on any or all of the subjects identified, whether some subjects identified should not be considered for any reason (such as to conserve resources on other, more critical subjects, or because of the limited length of the Advisory Committee's term) or on any other matter relating to the current sustainability of a strong and vibrant auditing profession that the Advisory Committee should consider addressing.

*General Request for Comment:* Any interested person wishing to submit written comments on any aspect of the discussion outline, as well as on other matters relating to the Advisory Committee's work, is requested to do so. This notice is published at the request of the Co-Chairs of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will consider all comments received.

Dated: October 24, 2007.

**Taiya Smith,**  
*Executive Secretary.*

### Appendix—Discussion Outline for Consideration by the Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession Over-Arching Principles

- The work and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession should be designed to further the mission of the Department of the Treasury to promote and encourage prosperity and stability by both improving the quality of the audit process and audits and ensuring the viability and resilience of the public company auditing profession.

- Enhancing the quality of the audit process and audits should contribute to the viability and resilience of the public company auditing profession.

- Confidence in the public company auditing profession is enhanced and strengthened when the profession operates in a manner transparent to investors and market participants, and adopts governance best practices.

- The quality of the audit process and audits is accomplished when the credibility of the audit meets the needs