

freeway network. Commuters desiring to park-and-ride at the Warrensville—Van Aken Blue Line terminus must first deal with navigating the local street network, and then must park over ¼-mile from the station.

- Travelers who do use the existing roadway system experience significant congestion. Congestion occurs on all local freeways, with I-480 experiencing a LOS of F during both AM and PM peak periods. This congestion results in a loss of time and productivity for those traveling to and from the study area. Many of the arterials also experience LOS of D or worse.

- Outbound commuters who live along the existing Blue Line corridor in both Cleveland and Shaker Heights have connectivity issues using transit to connect to jobs and retail located within the study area.

III. Alternatives

The scoping meetings, other community meetings, and written comments will be a major source of alternatives for consideration in the Alternatives Analysis. Transportation alternatives proposed for consideration in the Blue Line Extension will include:

1. *No Action Alternative*—Existing and planned transit service and programmed new transportation facilities to the year 2030 with no new change to transportation services or facilities in the area beyond already committed projects.

2. *Light Rail Build Alternative*—Extension of the Blue Line south and west of the existing Warrensville—Van Aken Station site at the northwest corner to the southeast corner of Chagrin Avenue and Warrensville-Center Road; from the existing location south to the area of Interstate 480; or from the existing location east to south east to the area of Interstate 271.

3. *Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative*—Other technology alternatives: TSM will include signal prioritization of bus transit corridor(s) through the use of GPS chips and signal controller upgrades.

Based on public and agency input received during scoping, variations of the above alternatives and other transportation-related improvement options, both transit and non-transit, will be considered for the Blue Line Extension project.

IV. Probable Effects/Potential Impacts for Analysis

The FTA and RTA will consider probable effects and potentially significant impacts to social, economic and environmental factors associated

with the alternatives under evaluation in the EIS. Potential environmental issues to be addressed will include: land use, historic and archaeological resources, traffic and parking, noise and vibration, environmental justice, regulatory floodway/floodplain encroachments, coordination with transportation and economic development projects, and construction impacts. Other issues to be addressed in the EIS include: natural areas, ecosystems, rare and endangered species, water resources, air/surface water and groundwater quality, energy, potentially contaminated sites, displacements and relocations, and parklands. The potential impacts will be evaluated for both the construction period and the long-term operations period of each alternative considered. In addition, the cumulative effects of the proposed project alternatives will be identified. Measures to avoid or mitigate any significant adverse impacts will be developed.

Evaluation criteria will include consideration of the local goals and objectives established for the study, measures of effectiveness identified during scoping, and criteria established by FTA for “New Start” transit projects.

V. FTA Procedures

In accordance with the regulations and guidance established by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as well as the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Part 771 (23 CFR 771) of the FHWA/FTA environmental regulations and policies, the EIS will include an analysis of the social, economic and environmental impacts of each of the alternatives selected for evaluation. The EIS will also comply with the requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) and with Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice. After its approval, the DEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment. Public hearings will be held on the DEIS. The DEIS will also constitute the Alternative Analysis required by the New Starts regulations.

The Final EIS will consider comments received during the DEIS public review and will identify the preferred alternative. Opportunity for additional public comment will be provided throughout all phases of project development.

Issued on: January 20, 2010.

Marisol Simón,
Regional Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of a Public Meeting on the Draft Solicitation for a Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation will hold a public meeting to discuss the FAA Centers of Excellence Program and the technical requirements for the proposed Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation (COE CST). A Draft Solicitation for the COE CST is available for public review. For a copy of the Draft Solicitation, contact Dr. Patricia Watts (the Contact Person listed below).

DATES: The meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, Telephone: (703) 920-3230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Patricia Watts, National Program Director, FAA Centers of Excellence Program Office, FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center, Atlantic City International Airport, NJ 08405; Telephone: (609) 485-5043; E-mail: patricia.watts@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. The agenda will include an overview of the FAA Centers of Excellence Program, discussions on the proposed COE CST and the Draft Solicitation, and open discussion and Q & A period on the Draft Solicitation.

Issued in Washington, DC, January 22, 2010.

George C. Nield,
Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2000-7363; FMCSA-2001-10578; FMCSA-2003-16241]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Renewals; Vision

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.