DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Harris County, Texas

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.22 and 43 TAC § 2.5(e)(2), the FHWA and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) are issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed North Houston Highway Improvement Project, in Harris County, Texas. The proposed project and study limits begin at interchange of United States Highway (US) 59 and State Highway (SH) 288 and follow northward along IH 45 to the interchange of IH 45 and Beltway 8 North, a distance of approximately 16 miles. The proposed project area also includes portions of IH 10, IH 610, US 59, SH 288 near the downtown area, and the Hardy Toll Road located north of downtown Houston. The proposed project will be developed in compliance with Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Punske, P.E., District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration—Texas Division, 300 East 8th Street, Room 826, Austin, Texas 78701. Telephone: 512–536–5960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North-Hardy Planning Studies: Alternative Analysis Report (Highway Component) was completed in November 2005. The report evaluated the alternatives for transportation improvements within the study corridor and recommended a locally preferred alternative to meet the corridor’s highway transportation needs, while minimizing impacts to the surrounding environment. Projected increases in population and employment in the Houston metropolitan area will contribute to additional IH 45 congestion, which is already serious to severe. The proposed project is needed to address the serious to severe congestion and to accommodate existing and anticipated future traffic. Additionally the project is needed to bring the roadway up to current design standards, which would improve safety and provide for more efficient movement of people and goods. Additional efficiency is also needed to aid in evacuation events. The purpose of the proposed project is to manage the traffic congestion in the IH 45 corridor, improve mobility, provide expanded transit and carpool opportunities, bring the roadway facility up to current design standards to improve safety and operations, and expand capacity for emergency evacuations.

The EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction as well as routine operations of the proposed project, including, but not limited to the following: Impacts or potential displacements to residents and businesses; impacts to air and noise; impacts to water quality; impacts to waters of the United States; impacts to historic and archeological resources; impacts to hazardous materials; impacts to floodplains; impacts to socio-economic resources (including environmental justice and limited English proficiency populations); indirect impacts; cumulative impacts; impacts to land use; impacts to vegetation; and impacts to wildlife.

A Project Coordination Plan will be provided in accordance with Public Law 109–59, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU), Title VI, Subsection 6002, Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision Making, August 10, 2005, to facilitate and document the lead agencies, structure interaction with the public and other agencies, and to inform the public and other agencies of how the coordination will be accomplished. The Project Coordination Plan will promote early and continuous involvement from stakeholders, agencies, and the public as well as describe the proposed project, the roles of the agencies and the public, the project need and purpose, schedule, level of detail for alternatives analysis, methods to be used in the environmental analysis, and the proposed process for coordination and communication.

The Project Coordination Plan is designed to be part of a flexible and adaptable process. The Project Coordination Plan will be available for public review, input, and comment at public meetings, including scoping meetings and hearings, held in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through the evaluation process. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. Chapter 1, Subchapter 1. Section 139 of SAFETEA–LU, cooperating agencies, participating agencies and the public will be given an opportunity for input in the development of the project. The first of a series of public scoping meetings, conducted in an open house format, is planned to be held in the fall of 2011. As part of the NEPA process, this meeting will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments throughout the planning process.

A scoping meeting is an opportunity for participating agencies, cooperating agencies and the public to be involved.

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in defining the need for and purpose of the proposed project, to assist in determining the range of alternatives considered in the draft EIS, and to comment on methods to evaluate alternatives. Public scoping meetings and a public hearing will be held during appropriate phases of the project development process. Public notices will be published in general circulation newspapers in the project area at least 30 days prior to the meeting, and again approximately 10 days prior to the meeting. The notices will be published in English and Spanish stating the date, time, and location of each. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a public hearing.

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 FHWA at the address provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning, and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372, regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities, apply to this program.)

Issued on: October 13, 2011.
Gregory S. Punske,
District Engineer, Austin, Texas.
[FR Doc. 2011–27359 Filed 10–21–11; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on Proposed Highway Project in Wisconsin

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Limitation on Claims for Judicial Review of Actions by FHWA, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Other Federal Agencies.

SUMMARY: This notice announces actions taken by the FHWA that are final within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). The actions relate to a proposed highway project, US 41 (Memorial Drive to County M) in Brown County, Wisconsin. Those actions grant approvals for the project. The project will widen the US 41 freeway mainline from 4 to 6 lanes at certain locations along US 41 northbound and southbound from Memorial Drive to County M. The project will also reconstruct I–43 from US 41 to Atkinson Drive and reconstruct the Velp Avenue, I–43, and County M interchanges. The I–43/US 41 interchange will be reconstructed as a System Interchange with directional ramps and will include a realignment of the US 41 mainline, raising of the northbound gradeline, and elimination of existing access between Velp Avenue and I–43 via US 41. The project limits on US 41 extend from Memorial Drive to County M, a distance of approximately 3.5 miles and the project limits on I–43 extend from US 41 to Atkinson Drive, a distance of approximately 2 miles. The project also includes construction of roundabouts, construction of new bridges and replacement of existing bridges.

DATES: By this notice, the FHWA is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed within 180 days of publication of this Federal Register notice. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 180 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Blankenship, Major Projects Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 525 Junction Road Suite 8000, Madison, Wisconsin 53717; telephone: (608) 829–7510 or, e-mail: Tracey.Blankenship@dot.gov. The FHWA Wisconsin Division’s normal office hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. central time. For the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT): Danielle Block, PE, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, US 41 Brown County Project Office, 1940 West Mason Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303; telephone: (920) 492–2212; e-mail: Danielle.Block@dot.wi.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that FHWA has taken final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1) by issuing approvals for the following highway project: US 41 (Memorial Drive to County M), Brown County, Wisconsin, Project I.D. 1133–10–01. The project involves providing additional capacity on approximately 3.5 miles of US 41 from Memorial Drive to County M, reconstructing approximately 2 miles of I–43 from US 41 to Atkinson Drive, and reconstructing the Velp Avenue, I–43, and County M interchanges on US 41. The actions taken by FHWA, and laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project, approved on July 7, 2011 (FHWA—WI–EIS–11–01–F), in the Record of Decision (ROD) issued on October 4, 2011, and in other documents in the FHWA/WisDOT administrative record for the project. The FEIS, ROD, and other project records are available by contacting FHWA or WisDOT at the addresses provided above.

The FEIS can also be viewed on the project Web site: http://www.wis.dot.wi.gov/overview/special-project-features/envdocsmemorialdrivetocountyM.

This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to:

2. Air: Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. 7401–7671(q)].