

agencies to improve accessibility and usability.

**Karen Palm,**

*Associate Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2011-3311 Filed 2-14-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 7336]

### 30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form DS-3097, Exchange Visitor Program Annual Report, OMB Control Number 1405-0151

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment and submission to OMB of proposed collection of information.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

- *Title of Information Collection:* Exchange Visitor Program Annual Report.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405-0151.
- *Type of Request:* Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Designation, ECA/EC/D/PS.
- *Form Number:* Form DS-3097.
- *Respondents:* designated J-1 program sponsors.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1460.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 1460 annually.
- *Average Hours per Response:* 2 hours.
- *Total Estimated Burden:* 2920 hours.
- *Frequency:* Annually.
- *Obligation to Respond:* Required to Retain a Benefit.

**DATES:** Submit comments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for up to 30 days from February 15, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct comments to the Department of State Desk Officer in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). You may submit comments by the following methods:

- *E-mail:* [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov). You must include the DS form number, information collection title, and OMB control number in the subject line of your message.
  - *Fax:* 202-395-5806. Attention: Desk Officer for Department of State.
- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may obtain copies of the proposed

information collection and supporting documents from Stanley S. Colvin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, Department of State, SA-5, Floor 5, 2200 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20522-0505, who may be reached at (202) 632-2805, fax at 202-632-2701 or e-mail at [JExchanges@state.gov](mailto:JExchanges@state.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary to properly perform our functions.
  - Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
  - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
  - Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond.
- Abstract of proposed collection:* Annual reports from designated program sponsors assist the Department in oversight and administration of the J-1 visa program. The reports provide statistical data on the number of exchange participants an organization sponsored per category. Program sponsors include government agencies, academic institutions, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations.

#### *Methodology:*

Annual reports are run through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and then printed and sent to the Department. The Department allows sponsors to submit annual reports by mail or fax at this time. There are measures being taken to allow sponsors to submit the reports electronically through SEVIS in the future.

Dated: February 4, 2011.

**Stanley S. Colvin,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2011-3384 Filed 2-14-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2011-0019]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Revision and Approval of Information Collection; Comments Requested

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary (OST), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Transportation (DOT) invites public comments on a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the revision and amendment of a previously approved Information Collection Request (OMB Control # 2105-0563) in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

The previous approval granted the Department of Transportation authority to collect information involving National Infrastructure Investments or "TIGER II" Discretionary Grants pursuant to Title I of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010 (the "FY 201 Appropriations Act"). The Office of the Secretary of Transportation ("OST") is referring to these grants as "TIGER II Discretionary Grants." The original collection of information was necessary in order to receive applications for grant funds pursuant to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010 ("FY 2010 Appropriations Act"), Title I—Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary, National Infrastructure Investments, Public Law 111-117, 123 Stat. 3034. The purpose of the TIGER II Discretionary Grants program is to advance projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, Metropolitan area or a region.

This revision revises the original request to include an additional information collection. The additional information to be collected will be used to, and is necessary to, evaluate the effectiveness of projects that have been awarded grant funds and to monitor project financial conditions and project progress in support of the Supplemental Discretionary Grants for Capital Investments in Surface Transportation Infrastructure, referred to by the Department as "Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery", or "TIGER" Discretionary Grants program authorized and implemented pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act") (OMB Control Number: 2105-0560) and the grants for National Infrastructure Investments under the FY 2010 Appropriations Act or TIGER II" Discretionary Grants. The purposes of the TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs include promoting economic recovery and supporting projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by April 18, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments [identified by Docket No. DOT-OST-2011-0019] through one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Mariner, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, at 202-366-8914 or [Robert.Mariner@dot.gov](mailto:Robert.Mariner@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* National Infrastructure Investments Grant Program or "TIGER II Discretionary Grants"

*OMB Control Number:* 2105-0563.

*Form Numbers:* None.

*Type of Review:* Revision of an information collection.

*Expected Number of Respondents:* 126.

*Frequency:* Quarterly, and Yearly.

*Estimated Average Burden per*

*Response:* 8 hours for each Quarterly Progress and Monitoring Report; 8 hours for each Annual Budget Review; 8 hours for each Quarterly Performance Measurement Report.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 9,072 hours.

*Abstract:* On February 17, 2009, the President of the United States signed the Recovery Act to, among other purposes, (1) preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery, (2) invest in transportation infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, and (3) assist those most affected by the current economic downturn. The Recovery Act appropriated \$1.5 billion of discretionary grant funds to be awarded by the Department of Transportation for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. The Department refers to these grants as "Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery" or "TIGER" Discretionary Grants. Funding for 51 projects totaling nearly \$1.5 billion under the TIGER program was announced on February 17, 2010. Projects were selected based on their alignment with the selection criteria specified in the **Federal Register** notice for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program. On December 16, 2009 the

President signed the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The FY 2010 Appropriations Act appropriated \$600 million for National Infrastructure Investments using language that is very similar, but not identical to the language in the Recovery Act authorizing the TIGER Discretionary Grants. The Department is referring to the grants for National Infrastructure Investments as TIGER II Discretionary Grants. Like the TIGER Discretionary Grants, TIGER II Discretionary Grants are for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Funding for 75 projects totaling nearly \$600 million under the TIGER II program was announced on October 20, 2010. Projects were selected based on their alignment with the selection criteria specified in the **Federal Register** notice for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant program. As announced in the **Federal Register** notices for each of the TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs, grantees are expected to provide information to the Government so that the Government may monitor the financial conditions and progress of projects, as well as the effectiveness of projects using performance measurement metrics negotiated between the grantees and the Government.

This request revises the existing PRA clearance to cover additional information from grantees that is necessary to negotiate the grant agreements and to cover the reporting requirements agreed to by the grant recipients of the TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs. The reporting requirements are as follows:

Grantees will submit reports on the financial condition of the project and the project's progress. Grantees will submit progress reports and the Federal Financial Report (SF-425) to the Government on a quarterly basis, beginning on the 20th of the first month of the calendar-year quarter following the execution of a grant agreement, and on the 20th of the first month of each calendar-year quarter thereafter until completion of the project. The initial quarterly report will include a detailed description, and, where appropriate, drawings, of the items funded.

Grantees will also submit an Annual Budget Review and Program Plan to the Government, via e-mail, 60 days prior to the end of each Agreement year that they are receiving grant funds. The Annual Budget Review and Program Plan will provide a detailed schedule of activities, estimate of specific

performance objectives, include forecasted expenditures, and a schedule of milestones for the upcoming year. If there is an actual or projected project cost increase, the Annual Budget Review and Program Plan will include a written plan for providing additional sources of funding to cover the project budget shortfall or supporting documentation of committed funds to cover the cost increase.

This information will be used to monitor grantees' use of Federal funds, ensuring accountability and financial transparency in the TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs.

Grantees will also submit reports on the performance (or projected performance) of the project using performance measures that the grantee and the Government selected through negotiations. The grantees will submit a Pre-project Report that will consist of current baseline data for each of the performance measures specified in the Performance Measurement Table in the grant agreement negotiated between the grantee and the Government. The Pre-project Report will include a detailed description of data sources, assumptions, variability, and the estimated level of precision for each measure. The grantees will submit quarterly Project Performance Measurement Reports to the Government for each of the performance measures specified in the Performance Measurement Table in the grant agreement negotiated between the grantee and the Government. Grantees will submit reports at each of the intervals identified for the duration of the time period specified in the Performance Measurement Table in the grant agreement negotiated between the grantee and the Government. The grantees will submit a Project Outcomes Report after the project is completed that will consist of a narrative discussion detailing project successes and/or the influence of external factors on project expectations.

Respondents will have the opportunity to submit the information either electronically or by using fillable PDF, word processing or spreadsheet files. This information will be used to evaluate and compare projects and to monitor results that grant funds achieve, ensuring that grant funds achieved the outcomes targeted by the TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs.

The following is detailed information and instructions regarding the specific reporting requirements for each report identified above:

TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant program grantees will submit a Project Progress and Monitoring Report

and the Federal Financial Report (SF-425) to the Government on a quarterly basis. Grantees should use the following structure when preparing the quarterly Project Progress and Monitoring Report.

- *Project Progress and Monitoring Report*

- *Frequency:* Quarterly (on the 20th of the first month of the calendar quarter)

- *Report covers:* Previous quarter, along with a two-quarter forecast.

- *Start:* Upon award of grant.

- *End:* Once construction is complete.

- *Format/Fields and accompanying instructions (beyond project ID information):*

1. Executive Summary.—A clear and concise summary of the current status of the project, including identification of any major issues that have an impact on the project's scope, budget, schedule, quality, or safety, including:

- Current total project cost (forecast) vs. latest budget vs. baseline budget. Include an explanation of the reasons for any deviations from the approved budget.

- Current overall project completion percentage vs. latest plan percentage.

- Any delays or exposures to milestone and final completion dates. Include an explanation of the reasons for the delays and exposures.

- A summary of the projected and actual dates for notices to proceed for significant contracts, start of construction, start of expenditure of TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant funds, and project completion date. Include an explanation of the reasons for any discrepancies from the corresponding project milestone dates included in the Agreement.

- Any Federal obligations and/or TIFIA disbursements occurring during the month versus planned obligations or disbursements.

- Any significant contracts advertised, awarded, or completed.

- Any significant scope of work changes.

- Any significant items identified as having deficient quality.

- Any significant safety issues.

- Any significant Federal issues such as environmental compliance, Buy America/Buy American (whichever is applicable to this Project), Davis Bacon Act Prevailing Wage requirements, etc.

2. Project Activities and Deliverables.—(1) Highlighting the project activities and deliverables occurring during the previous quarter (reporting period), and (2) define the activities and deliverables planned for the next two reporting periods. Activities and deliverables to be

reported on should include meetings, audits and other reviews, design packages submitted, advertisements, awards, construction submittals, construction completion milestones, submittals related to Recovery Act requirements, media or Congressional inquiries, value engineering/constructability reviews, and other items of significance. The two reporting period "look ahead schedule" will enable the Government to accommodate any activities requiring input or assistance.

3. Action Items/Outstanding Issues.—Drawing attention to, and tracking the progress of, highly significant or sensitive issues requiring action and direction in order to resolve. In general, issues and administrative requirements that could have a significant or adverse impact to the project's scope, budget, schedule, quality, safety, and/or compliance with Federal requirements should be included. Status, responsible person(s), and due dates should be included for each action item/outstanding issue. Action items requiring action or direction should be included in the quarterly status meeting agenda. The action items/outstanding issues may be dropped from this section upon full implementation of the remedial action, and upon no further monitoring anticipated.

4. Project Schedule.—An updated master program schedule reflecting the current status of the program activities should be included in this section. A Gantt (bar) type chart is probably the most appropriate for quarterly reporting purposes, with the ultimate format to be agreed upon between the grantee and the Government. It is imperative that the master program schedule be integrated, *i.e.*, the individual contract milestones tied to each other, such that any delays occurring in one activity will be reflected throughout the entire program schedule, with a realistic completion date being reported. Narratives, tables, and/or graphs should accompany the updated master program schedule, basically detailing the current schedule status, delays and potential exposures, and recovery efforts. The following information should also be included:

- Current overall project completion percentage vs. latest plan percentage.

- Completion percentages vs. latest plan percentages for major activities such as right-of-way, major or critical design contracts, major or critical construction contracts, and significant force accounts or task orders. A schedule status description should also be included for each of these major or critical elements.

- Any delays or potential exposures to milestone and final completion dates. The delays and exposures should be quantified and overall schedule impacts assessed. The reasons for the delays and exposures should be explained, and initiatives being analyzed or implemented in order to recover the schedule should be detailed.

5. Project Cost.—An updated cost spreadsheet reflecting the current forecasted cost vs. the latest approved budget vs. the baseline budget should be included in this section. One way to track project cost is to show: (1) Baseline Budget, (2) Latest Approved Budget, (3) Current Forecasted Cost Estimate, (4) Expenditures or Commitments To Date, and (5) Variance between Current Forecasted Cost and Latest Approved Budget. Line items should include all significant cost centers, such as prior costs, right-of-way, preliminary engineering, environmental mitigation, general engineering consultant, section design contracts, construction administration, utilities, construction packages; force accounts/task orders, wrap-up insurance, construction contingencies, management contingencies, and other contingencies. The line items can be broken-up in enough detail such that specific areas of cost change can be sufficiently tracked and future improvements made to the overall cost estimating methodology. A Program Total line should be included at the bottom of the spreadsheet. Narratives, tables, and/or graphs should accompany the updated cost spreadsheet, basically detailing the current cost status, reasons for cost deviations, impacts of cost overruns, and efforts to mitigate cost overruns. The following information should be provided:

- Reasons for each line item deviation from the approved budget, impacts resulting from the deviations, and initiatives being analyzed or implemented in order to recover any cost overruns.

- Transfer of costs to and from contingency line items, and reasons supporting the transfers.

- Speculative cost changes that potentially may develop in the future, a quantified dollar range for each potential cost change, and the current status of the speculative change. Also, a comparison analysis to the available contingency amounts should be included, showing that reasonable and sufficient amounts of contingency remain to keep the project within the latest approved budget.

- Detailed cost breakdown of the general engineering consultant (GEC) services (if applicable), including such

line items as contract amounts, task orders issued (amounts), balance remaining for tasks, and accrued (billable) costs.

- Federal obligations and/or TIFIA disbursements for the project, compared to planned obligations and disbursements.

6. **Project Funding Status.**—The purpose of this section is to provide a status report on the non-TIGER and non-TIGER II Discretionary Grant funds necessary to complete the project. This report section should include a status update of any legislative approvals or other actions necessary to provide the non-TIGER and non-TIGER II Discretionary Grant funds to the project. Such approvals might include legislative authority to charge user fees or set toll rates, or the commitment of local funding revenues to the project. In the event that there is an anticipated or actual project cost increase, the project funding status section should include a report on the anticipated or actual source of funds to cover the cost increase and any significant issues identified with obtaining additional funding.

7. **Project Quality.**—The purpose of this section is to: (1) Summarize the Quality Assurance/Quality Control activities during the previous month (reporting period), and (2) highlight any significant items identified as being deficient in quality. Deficient items noted should be accompanied by reasons and specifics concerning the deficiencies, and corrective actions taken or planned. In addition, the agency or firm responsible for the corrective action should be documented. Planned corrective actions should then be included as Action Items/Outstanding Issues.

8. **Federal Financial Report (SF-425).**—The Federal Financial Report (SF-425) (available at <http://www.forms.gov/bgfPortal/docDetails.do?dId=15149>) is a financial reporting form used throughout the Federal Government Grant system. Grantees should complete this form and attach it to each quarterly Project Progress and Monitoring Report.

TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant program grantees will submit an Annual Budget Review and Program Plan to the Government 60 days prior to the end of each Agreement year that they are receiving grant funds. Grantees should use the following structure when preparing the Annual Budget Review Report.

- **Annual Budget Review Report**
  - **Frequency:** Yearly (60 days before the end of the Agreement year).

- **Report covers:** Upcoming Agreement year.

- **Start:** 60 days before first anniversary of grant award.

- **End:** Once construction is complete.

- **Format/Fields and accompanying instructions (beyond project ID information):**

1. **Detailed Schedule of Activities.**—An updated master program schedule reflecting the current status of the program activities should be included in this section. A Gantt (bar) type chart is probably the most appropriate for annual reporting purposes.

2. **Estimate of Specific Performance Objectives.**—This section will discuss, what, if any performance objectives of the project will be achieved over the course of the upcoming Agreement Year and note any differences from the original project plan.

3. **Forecasted Expenditures.**—This section will discuss financial outlays that will occur in support of the project over the course of the upcoming Agreement Year and note any differences from the original project plan.

4. **Schedule of Milestones for the Upcoming Agreement Year.**—This section will discuss, what, if any project milestones will be achieved over the course of the upcoming Agreement Year and the obligations associated with each milestone, noting any differences from the original project plan. If there are no proposed deviations from the Approved Detailed Project Budget, the Annual Budget Review shall contain a statement stating such. The grantee will meet with the Government to discuss the Annual Budget Review and Program Plan. If there is an actual or projected project cost increase, the annual submittal should include a written plan for providing additional sources of funding to cover the project budget shortfall or supporting documentation of committed funds to cover the cost increase. To the extent the annual budget update deviates from the approved project budget by more than 10 percent, then work proposed under the Annual Budget Review and Program Plan shall not commence until written approval from the Government is received.

TIGER and TIGER II Discretionary Grant program grantees will submit Performance Measure Reports on the performance (or projected performance) of the project using the performance measures that the grantee and the Government selected through negotiations.

- **Performance Measurement Reports**
  - **Frequency:** Quarterly (on the 20th of the first month of the calendar quarter).

- **Report covers:** Previous quarter.
- **Start:** Once, upon award of grant; Quarterly, once construction complete.
- **End:** At the end of agreed upon performance measurement period.
- **Format/Fields and accompanying instructions (beyond project ID information):**

1. **Performance Measures Narrative.**—Including a detailed description of data sources, assumptions, variability, and the estimated level of precision for each measure.

2. **Performance Measures Spreadsheet.**—Government and grantee will agree on the format of the spreadsheet for each individual project. Measures (to be negotiated between grantees and the Government, individually) may include, but are not limited to: Average tons handled/day; average daily gross ton-miles (GTM); average container lifts per day (TEUs); containers transported on lines (TEUs); transit passenger miles and hours of travel; transit passenger & non-passenger counts; transit rider characteristics; average bike and or pedestrian users at key locations; average daily traffic (ADT) and average daily truck traffic (ADTT); average daily total train delay (minutes); average daily total (all vehicles) vehicle delay at crossings; transit service level; facility service level; average hourly (or peak & off-peak) vehicle travel time; average hourly (or peak & off-peak) buffer index; annual crash rates by type/severity; average slow order miles and average daily delay minutes due to slow orders; bridge condition (Sufficiency Rating); road closure/lost capacity time (lane-hours).

3. **[For final Report] Project Outcomes.**—Detailing Project successes and/or the influence of external factors on Project expectations. Including an *ex post* examination of project effectiveness in relation to the Pre-project Report baselines.

**Public Comments Invited:** You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Office of the Secretary's (OST) performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for OST to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1:48.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 9, 2011.

**Patricia Lawton,**

*DOT Paperwork Reduction Act Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2011-3353 Filed 2-14-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement: Clark County, Indiana, and Jefferson County, KY

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) will be prepared for the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges (Project) in Clark County, Indiana and Jefferson County, Kentucky.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Duane Thomas, Project Manager, Federal Highway Administration, John C. Watts Federal Building 330 West Broadway Frankfort, KY 40601, Telephone: (502) 223-6720, e-mail: [Duane.Thomas@dot.gov](mailto:Duane.Thomas@dot.gov) or Mr. Gary Valentine, Project Manager, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 8310 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40242, Telephone: (502) 210-5453, e-mail:

[Gary.Valentine@ky.gov](mailto:Gary.Valentine@ky.gov) or Mr. Paul Boone, Project Manager, Indiana Department of Transportation, 5701 Highway U.S. 31, Clarksville, IN 47129, Telephone: (812) 282-7493 ext.224, e-mail: [PBoone@indot.in.gov](mailto:PBoone@indot.in.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that FHWA, in cooperation with the Project Sponsors, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, will prepare an SEIS to examine the impacts of a proposal by the Project Sponsors to modify the Selected Alternative. The SEIS will be prepared in accordance with all applicable requirements of Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, codified at 23 U.S.C. 139. The proposed modification includes revising several design elements and using innovative financing sources, including collecting tolls.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation was issued for the Project on April 8, 2003. The FEIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation examined four major project alternatives and a number of sub-alternatives in detail. On September 6,

2003, FHWA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) identifying the Selected Alternative and the reasons for its selection. The Selected Alternative consists of a new northbound I-65 bridge just east of the existing Kennedy Bridge (I-65); an East End bridge approximately eight miles from downtown Louisville connecting the Gene Snyder Freeway (KY 841) to the Lee Hamilton Highway (IN 265); and an adjacent rebuild of the Kennedy Interchange where I-64, I-65 and I-71 converge in downtown Louisville. The FEIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation and ROD are available for review by contacting the FHWA or any of the Project Sponsors at the addresses provided above. In addition, the ROD can be viewed electronically and/or downloaded from the Project Web site at <http://www.kyinbridges.com/project/history.aspx>.

Since the issuance of the ROD, the Project Sponsors have taken several major steps to advance the Project towards construction: a general engineering consultant was retained; a bridge type selection process was conducted; engineering design and right-of-way acquisition activities began; the Louisville and Southern Indiana Bridges Authority was created for the development, design, financing, construction, operation and oversight of the Project, and an update to the major project finance plan was completed. The Project Sponsors now propose to evaluate the environmental impacts of revising several elements of the Selected Alternative. Although the modifications are expected to reduce the environmental impacts of the Project, an SEIS is being prepared because the changes have the potential to result in significant environmental impacts that were not evaluated in the FEIS. In addition to updating the FEIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation, FHWA expects the SEIS to examine design changes and their potential impacts such as:

(1) Rebuilding the Kennedy Interchange within the existing location rather than reconstructing it adjacent to the existing location;

(2) Reducing the East End bridge, roadway and tunnel from six lanes to four lanes, with a possible option to add two lanes later if future traffic demand warrants;

(3) Removing the proposed pedestrian and bike path from the design for the new northbound I-65 bridge, as a result of a separate proposal to meet the same need by constructing a pedestrian walkway and bike path on the Big Four Bridge;

(4) Collecting tolls linked to the Project's improvements in cross-river

mobility from the reconfigured Kennedy Bridge and the new northbound I-65 bridge in downtown and from the new East End bridge, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 129 or other applicable law.

The SEIS will build upon and incorporate the work already completed as part of the project development process. Specifically, the SEIS will consider whether the Modified Selected Alternative would increase or decrease the expected direct, secondary, cumulative and temporary impacts to the environment within the Project Area, including social and economic concerns, agricultural impacts, historic and archaeological resource impacts, air quality impacts, noise impacts, vibration impacts, natural resources impacts, water resources impacts, floodplain impacts, wetland impacts, visual and aesthetic impacts, and hazardous substances concerns. The SEIS will address the requirements of all environmental laws, regulations and Executive Orders that would be applicable to the FHWA's approval of a Modified Selected Alternative.

The SEIS study process will include an invitation letter sent to potential Cooperating Agencies, Participating Agencies, and Section 106 Consulting Parties inviting the agencies to officially take part in the SEIS study, encouraging agency comments and suggestions concerning the SEIS, and further defining the roles of agencies in the study. One or more public workshops will be held to solicit public input into the development of the Modified Selected Alternative. In addition, a formal comment period for the public and agencies will be provided following the publication of the draft SEIS. The comments received will be responded to in the final SEIS. Notices of availability for the draft and final SEISs will be provided through direct mail, the **Federal Register** and other media. Notification also will be sent to Federal, State, local agencies, persons, and organizations that submit comments or questions. Precise schedules and locations for the public workshops will be announced in the local news media and on the Project Web site, <http://www.kyinbridges.com/>. Interested individuals and organizations may request to be included on the mailing list for the distribution of announcements and associated information.

#### *Other Approvals for Federal Permits:*

The following approvals for Federal permits are anticipated to be required: The Navigational Permit Application from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Section 404 Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally,