

domestic source, on April 2, 2009, FTA published a notice in the Federal Register seeking public comment. Unlike with public interest waivers, FTA is not required to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** before waiving its Buy America requirements on the basis of non-availability. In this instance, however, FTA proceeded with an abundance of caution because a non-availability waiver would have a national impact. In order to understand completely the facts surrounding the El Dorado's request, FTA asked for comment from all interested parties regarding the availability of domestically manufactured minivans and minivan chassis.

Approximately three dozen parties responded to FTA's notice by submitting comments to the Docket, including vehicle manufacturers, transit service providers, transit agencies, cities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations, transportation associations, and state departments of transportation. The overwhelming majority of comments expressed support for a waiver, recognizing the fact that minivans are not available from a domestic source. One commenter asked for additional information. Three parties opposed a waiver. Of note, FTA received comments from a direct competitor to El Dorado—the Braun Corporation—and two minivan manufacturers—Chrysler and Honda. With the exception of Honda, all parties confirmed El Dorado's assertion that minivans and minivan chassis are not available from a domestic source. Toyota, Nissan and other minivan manufacturers did not submit comments.

In a short, three-paragraph comment dated June 11, 2009, Honda indicated that it manufactures its Odyssey LX model minivan in Lincoln, Alabama, and asserted that it complies with FTA's Buy America domestic content and final assembly requirements. However, after several months of correspondence with FTA, Honda declined to make its minivans available for procurement by FTA grantees based on concerns about the disclosure of detailed cost information. Thus, while Honda claims that its Odyssey model minivan meets the domestic content and final assembly requirements of FTA's regulations, FTA grantees would still be precluded from purchasing the Odyssey because Honda is unwilling to comply with FTA's pre-award/post-delivery audit requirements.

Of the many comments favoring a waiver, most expressed support only because minivans are not, in fact, available from a domestic source. Several commenters noted their desire

to see minivan production return to the United States. FTA shares this desire. FTA regrets the fact that Chrysler elected to close its St. Louis final assembly facility and that other manufacturers of minivans have decided not to make their vehicles available for purchase with FTA funds.

The above reservations notwithstanding, the fact remains—minivans and minivan chassis are not available from a domestic source. Therefore, after careful consideration, and based on the fact that no manufacturer has identified itself as willing and able to supply minivans or minivan chassis that are assembled in the United States, FTA hereby waives its Buy America final assembly requirement of 49 CFR 661.11 for all minivans and minivan chassis, regardless of manufacturer. Minivan manufacturers will need to comply with FTA's domestic content requirement as well as the pre-award and post-delivery audit requirements of 49 CFR part 663. This waiver is valid until such time as a domestic source, as verified by FTA, becomes available.

Issued this 15th day of June, 2010.

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.,
Chief Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT); Environmental Impact Statement: Monroe County, New York

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this revised notice to advise the public that FHWA and NYSDOT will not be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed improvements to extend Route 531 in the Towns of Ogden and Sweden, Monroe County, New York (NYSDOT Project Identification Number: 4531.05). A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on January 14, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey W. Kolb, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 9th Floor, Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12207, *Telephone:* (518) 431-4127.

Or

Robert A. Traver, Acting Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation Region 4; 1530 Jefferson Road, Rochester, New York 14623, *Telephone:* (585) 272-3310.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will not prepare an EIS as previously intended on a proposal to extend Route 531 in Monroe County, New York. The purpose of the Route 531 Extension study was to develop improvements to the 6.5 mile long corridor that could provide for the existing and projected traffic demand and to address highway safety. During the scoping phase of the project however, the results of traffic studies and accident analysis indicated that future Route 31 traffic will operate at capacity during the commuter peak. As such, most of the traffic problems, other than those at the current Route 531 terminus with Route 36, will not occur until 15 years or more in the future. The study indicated that few highway improvements are required other than addressing the Route 531 terminus and identified safety issues within the study area. The improvements being considered will not have a significant impact on the environment and will be progressed as Categorical Exclusion(s).

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

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 23 CFR 771.123.

Issued on: June 10, 2010.

Jeffrey W. Kolb,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Sunshine Act Meetings; Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors

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

TIME AND DATE: July 8, 2010, 12 noon to 3 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

PLACE: This meeting will take place telephonically. Any interested person may call Mr. Avelino Gutierrez at (505) 827-4565 to receive the toll free number and pass code needed to participate in this meeting by telephone.