

environment. Areas of investigation for transit projects generally include, but are not limited to: Land use, development potential, land acquisition and displacements, historic resources, visual and aesthetic qualities, air quality, noise and vibration, energy use, safety and security, and ecosystems, including threatened and endangered species; investigation may reveal that the proposed project will not affect or affect substantially many of those areas. Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any significant adverse impacts will be identified.

FTA Procedures

The regulations implementing NEPA, as well as provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), call for public involvement in the EIS process. Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU requires that FTA and CTA do the following: (1) Extend an invitation to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Native American tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project to become "participating agencies;" (2) provide an opportunity for involvement by participating agencies and the public to help define the purpose and need for a proposed project, as well as the range of alternatives for consideration in the EIS; and (3) establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in, and comment on, the environmental review process. An invitation to become a participating or cooperating agency, with scoping materials appended, will be extended to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Native American tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project. It is possible that FTA and CTA will not be able to identify all Federal and non-Federal agencies and Native American tribes that may have such an interest. Any Federal or non-Federal agency or Native American tribe interested in the proposed project that does not receive an invitation to become a participating agency should notify at the earliest opportunity the Project Manager identified above under **ADDRESSES**.

A comprehensive public involvement program and a Coordination Plan for public and interagency involvement will be developed for the project and posted on CTA's Web site <http://www.transitchicago.com/YellowEIS>. The public involvement program includes a full range of activities including maintaining the project webpage on the CTA Web site and outreach to local officials, community and civic groups, and the public. Specific activities or events for

involvement will be detailed in the project's public participation plan.

The Paperwork Reduction Act seeks, in part, to minimize the cost to the taxpayer of the creation, collection, maintenance, use, dissemination, and disposition of information. Consistent with this goal and with principles of economy and efficiency in government, it is FTA policy to limit insofar as possible distribution of complete printed sets of environmental documents. Accordingly, unless a specific request for a complete printed set of environmental documents is received (preferably in advance of printing), FTA and its grantees will distribute only the executive summary of the environmental document together with a Compact Disc of the complete environmental document. A complete printed set of the environmental document is available for review at the grantee's offices and elsewhere; an electronic copy of the complete environmental document is also available on the grantee's Web page.

CTA may seek New Starts funding for the proposed project under 49 United States Code 5309 and will, therefore, be subject to New Starts regulations (49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 611). The New Starts regulations also require the submission of certain project-justification information to support a request to initiate preliminary engineering. This information is normally developed in conjunction with the NEPA process. Pertinent New Starts evaluation criteria will be included in the EIS.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and with the FTA/Federal Highway Administration regulations "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" (23 CFR part 771).

Issued on August 24, 2009.

Marisol R. Simon,

Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region V.

[FR Doc. E9–20964 Filed 8–31–09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Orange County, CA

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA, on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is issuing this notice to advise the public that a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Orange County, California.

DATES: The public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates:

- (1) Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 6 PM–8 PM, Fountain Valley.
 - (2) Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 6 PM–8 PM, Huntington Beach.
 - (3) Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 6 PM–8 PM, Westminster.
 - (4) Thursday, October 01, 2009, 6 PM–8 PM, Rossmore.
- The final day to submit comments is October 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The four public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations.

- (1) Fountain Valley Senior and Community Center, 17967 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708.
- (2) Huntington Beach Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

- (3) Westminster Community Center—A/B Room, 8200 Westminster Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683.

- (4) Rush Park Auditorium, 3021 Blume Drive, Rossmore, CA 90720.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Smita Deshpande, Branch Chief, Caltrans-District 12, "Attn: 405 Scoping," 2201 Dupont Drive, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92612; Tel: 949.724.2000.

405scoping.parsons@parsons.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, environmental responsibilities for this project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. Caltrans, as the delegated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) agency, in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal for a highway improvement project in Orange County, California. The proposed project covers approximately 14 miles and is located between State Route (SR) 73 and Interstate 605 (I–605) on Interstate 405 (I–405). The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to increase capacity, improve traffic and interchange operations, and enhance safety on I–405 between SR–73 and I–605. Currently, the following alternatives are being considered:

- Baseline/No Build Alternative; taking no action.

- Build Alternative 1; adding one general purpose lane in each direction.
- Build Alternative 2; adding two general purpose lanes in each direction.
- Build Alternative 3; adding one toll lane to the existing carpool lane in each direction that will be managed together (Federal Highway Administration tolling authority required); also adding one general purpose lane in each direction north of Euclid Street to I-605.
- Build Alternative 4; on I-405 from Euclid Street to I-605, providing additional general purpose lane at various locations and improving various interchanges.

• Transportation Systems Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM)/Mass Transit Alternative; making only low-cost operational improvements, rather than major capital projects, to maximize the efficiency of the present highway system and expand travelers' transportation choices.

Based on a Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report (PEAR) for the I-405 Improvement Project, it is anticipated that the project may require the following Federal permits: Section 404 Permit for filling/dredging waters of the United States and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The environmental document will analyze factors that include, but are not limited to, the following: Aesthetics, cultural resources, biological resources, hazardous wastes and materials, public services and facilities, water quality, floodplain, noise, air quality, recreation, community impacts, and transportation/traffic. Some of these alternatives may have impacts on the above mentioned resources, as well as on water quality, cultural resources, parks/recreation facilities, and community character and cohesion; the environmental documentation process will assess for potential impacts and suggest ways to reduce or mitigate them.

This document is available at <http://www.octa.net/405improvement> and <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist12/405/index.htm>.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, Participating Agencies, various Tribal governments, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. The environmental review process will begin in Fall 2009. Public scoping meetings will be held in Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Westminster, and Rossmore, California, on September 22, 23, 30, and October 01, respectively.

In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meeting and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the 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 Ms. Deshpande at Caltrans at the address provided above.

(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: August 26, 2009.

Cindy Vigue,

Director, State Programs, Federal Highway Administration, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. E9-21040 Filed 8-31-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Transit Improvements to the Red Line, Cook County, IL

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The FTA, as the lead federal agency, and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Red Line Extension Project in Cook County, Illinois. CTA operates the rapid transit system in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The proposed project, described more completely within, would extend the Red Line, a heavy rail transit line, to connect the 95th Street Station to 130th Street. The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to alert interested parties regarding the intent to prepare the EIS, to provide information on the nature of the proposed project and possible alternatives, to invite public participation in the EIS process.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS, including the project's purpose and need, the alternatives to be considered, the impacts to be evaluated, and the methodologies to be used in the evaluations should be sent to CTA on or before October 27, 2009. See **ADDRESSES**

below for the address to which written public comments may be sent. Two public scoping meetings to accept comments on the scope of the EIS will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 22, 2009; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; at the Historic Pullman Visitor Center, 11141 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628.
- Thursday, September 24, 2009; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; at the Woodson Regional Chicago Public Library, 9525 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60628.

The buildings used for the scoping meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, to participate in the scoping meeting should contact Mr. Darud Akbar, Government and Community Relations Officer, at 312-681-2708 or dakbar@transitchicago.com, five days prior to the meeting.

Scoping materials describing the project purpose and need and the alternatives proposed for analysis will be available at the meetings and on the CTA Web site <http://www.transitchicago.com/RedEIS>. Paper copies of the scoping materials may also be obtained from Mr. Darud Akbar, Government and Community Relations Officer, at 312-681-2708 or dakbar@transitchicago.com. An interagency scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24 at 10:30 a.m. at CTA Headquarters, in Conference Room 2C, 567 W. Lake Street, Chicago, IL 60661. Representatives of Native American tribal governments and of all federal, state, regional and local agencies that may have an interest in any aspect of the project will be invited to be participating or cooperating agencies, as appropriate.

ADDRESSES: Comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings or they may be sent to Mr. Jeffrey Busby, General Manager, Strategic Planning, Chicago Transit Authority, P. O. Box 7602, Chicago, IL 60680-7602, or via e-mail at RedExtension@transitchicago.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Werner, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, Region V, 200 West Adams Street, Suite 320, Chicago, IL 60606, phone 312-353-3879, e-mail david.werner@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scoping

The FTA and CTA invite all interested individuals and organizations, public agencies, and Native American Tribes to comment on