

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Rescinding the Notice of Intent for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Harrison and Stone Counties, MS**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Rescind Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS.

SUMMARY: This notice rescinds the Notice of Intent for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed highway to provide a connection between U.S. Highway 49 near the town of Star to Interstate 20 near the Interchange with State Route 475 in the City of Pearl, Rankin County, Mississippi. The original Notice of Intent for this EIS process was published in the **Federal Register** on May 22, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Claiborne Barnwell, Project Development Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration, Mississippi Division, 100 West Capitol Street, Suite 1026, Jackson, Mississippi 39269, Telephone: (601) 965-4217.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with a Notice of Intent May 22, 2009, to provide a connector road, to be built to interstate standards, between U.S. Highway 49 and Interstate 20.

Due to funding constraints this Notice of Intent is rescinded.

Andrew H. Hughes,

Division Administrator, Mississippi, Federal Highway Administration, Jackson, Mississippi.

[FR Doc. 2010-30022 Filed 11-29-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration**

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2010-0159-]

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Compliance Dates

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice requests comments on compliance dates for highway agencies to upgrade their

existing non-compliant traffic control devices to comply with certain requirements established in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). This notice asks for responses to a series of questions about compliance dates, their benefits and economic impacts, and other related issues.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 14, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, or fax comments to (202) 493-2251. Alternatively, comments may be submitted to the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments must include the docket number that appears in the heading of this document. All comments received will be available for examination and copying at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard or you may print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments electronically. Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments in any one of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, or labor union). Anyone may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70, Pages 19477-78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about the program discussed herein, contact Mr. Hari Kalla, MUTCD Team Leader, FHWA Office of Operations, (202) 366-5915, or via e-mail at hari.kalla@dot.gov. For legal questions, please contact Mr. Raymond Cuprill, Senior Attorney Advisor, FHWA Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1392, or via e-mail at raymond.cuprill@dot.gov. Business hours for the FHWA are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Electronic Access and Filing**

You may submit or retrieve comments online through the Federal eRulemaking portal at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. The Web site is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Electronic submission and retrieval help and

guidelines are available under the help section of the Web site.

An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded from Office of the Federal Register's home page at: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register and the Government Printing Office's Web page at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>.

Background

The MUTCD is incorporated by reference within Federal regulations at 23 CFR Part 655, approved by FHWA, and recognized as the national standard for traffic control devices used on all public roads. When new provisions are adopted in a new edition or revision of the MUTCD, any new or reconstructed traffic control devices being installed after adoption are generally required to be in compliance with the new provisions. Existing devices in the field that do not meet the new MUTCD provisions are expected to be upgraded by highway agencies over time to meet the new provisions via a systematic upgrading process, but there are no specific dates for required completion of the upgrades. The Code of Federal Regulations, at 23 CFR 655.603(d)(1), authorizes FHWA to establish target compliance dates for compliance of particular existing devices. The FHWA establishes such compliance dates via the Federal rulemaking process.

The Final Rule for the 2009 edition of the MUTCD¹ established 12 new specific compliance dates in Table I-2 for upgrading existing devices to comply with certain new provisions adopted in that edition. Table I-2 in the 2009 MUTCD also included 46 other compliance dates that had not been reached by 2009 that were established in previous Final Rules in 2000,² 2003,³ and 2007⁴ for new provisions adopted in those Final Rules. The FHWA is aware of concerns on the part of some State and local highway agencies about the potential impacts of MUTCD compliance dates in the current economic downturn, which has significantly reduced the resources available to such agencies.

Purpose of This Notice

The FHWA is interested in examining the issues of the safety benefits provided by traffic control device uniformity and the economic hardships to State and local governments that might result from specific compliance dates for upgrading some non-compliant existing devices.

¹ 74 FR 66732, December 16, 2009.

² 65 FR 78923, December 18, 2000.

³ 68 FR 65496, November 20, 2003.

⁴ 72 FR 72574, December 21, 2007.