

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in the towns of Brewer, Holden, Eddington, and Clifton, Maine.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Hasselmann, Right of Way and Environmental Programs Manager, Maine Division, Federal Highway Administration, 40 Western Ave., Augusta, Maine 04330, Tel. 207/622-8350, ext. 101; Raymond Faucher, Project Manager, Maine Department of Transportation, 16 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0016, Tel. 207/624-3300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 11, 2005, FHWA Maine Division notified MaineDOT that they completed their review of the preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) including the history and issues involving the I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study. Based on the review, FHWA determined that an EIS is required before location and design approval. The FHWA determination to elevate the I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study NEPA documentation requirements from an EA to an EIS is based on:

- 23 CFR 771.115 identification of a new controlled access freeway and highway projects of four or more lanes normally requiring an EIS; approximate corridor length 10.5 miles,
- The proposed 43.2 acres of wetland impacts exceeding historical MaineDOT annual statewide total for wetland impacts,
- The potential difficulty in identifying compensatory mitigation opportunities within the Study Area, and
- The resource agencies request for additional information on indirect and cumulative impacts and the potential for habitat fragmentation.

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation, will prepare an EIS that analyzes alternatives to identify a Preferred Alternative to meet future transportation needs. The alternative identification and analysis from the preliminary EA will provide the foundation to further the evaluation of upgrades of the existing roadway system, alignments on new location, and the No-build Alternative. The EIS will examine alternatives to improve transportation system linkage, safety, and mobility between Interstate 395 (I-395), Brewer and State Route 9 (Route 9), Clifton in southern Penobscot County, Maine.

This project was initiated as an EA. Agency scoping and early coordination

was initiated in December of 2000; letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments were sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and the municipalities in accordance with the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and FHWA's and MaineDOT's requirements and policies for scoping and early coordination. The I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study was presented to the federal and state regulatory and resource agencies at eight MaineDOT monthly Interagency coordination meetings between January 2000 and July 2005. Public participation, initiated early in the EA process, has included 17 meetings of a Public Advisory Committee (PAC), two public meetings and an interactive Web site, <<http://www.i395-rt9-study.com>>. The first PAC meeting was held in September 2000. A public scoping and informational meeting was held on April 11, 2001. A second public meeting was held on September 19, 2001 to present the range of alternatives considered for satisfying purpose and need, preliminary alternatives screening, and the range of alternatives retained for further consideration.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations that have previously expressed or are known to have interest in the proposed action. All public and agency comments, including early scoping comments, received during the EA process will be addressed in the EIS. 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 the FHWA and/or MaineDOT at the addresses provided above. (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.)

FHWA anticipates that the following Federal approvals will be necessary for the project:

Clean Water Act Section 404 permit Design, Right of Way, and Construction Funding Authorization

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: November 22, 2005.

**Jonathan McDade,**

*Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Augusta, Maine.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA-2005-22174]

### Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

**SUMMARY:** Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections.

This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before January 30, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must refer to the docket notice numbers cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC 20590. Please identify the proposed collection of information for which a comment is provided by referencing its OMB Clearance Number. It is requested but not required that two copies of the comment be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Complete copies of this request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Donna Glassbrenner, PhD., Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6125, NPO-121, Washington, DC 20590. Dr. Glassbrenner's telephone number is (202) 366-3962. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its Docket Number above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of

information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collection of information:

*Title:* National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats.

*OMB Control Number:* 2127-0644.

*Affected Public:* Motorists in passenger vehicles at gas stations, fast food restaurants, and other types of sites frequented by children during the time in which the survey is conducted.

*Form Number:* NHTSA 1010.

*Abstract:* The National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats is being conducted to respond to the Section 14(i) of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act of 2000. The Act directs the Department of Transportation to reduce the deaths and injuries among children in the 4- to 8-year old age group that are caused by failure to use a booster seat by 25 percent. Conducting the National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats will provide the Department with invaluable information on who is and is not using booster seats, helping the Department better direct its outreach programs to ensure that children are protected to the greatest degree possible when they ride in motor vehicles. The OMB approval for this

survey is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2006. NHTSA intends to seek an extension to this approval in order to continue to obtain this important survey data, saving more children and helping to comply with the TREAD Act requirement.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 320 hours.

*Number of Respondents:*

Approximately 4, 800 adult motorists will respond to survey questions about the children in their vehicle.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued: November 2005.

**Joseph Carra,**

*Associate Administrator for the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NHTSA.*

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