

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement: High Desert Corridor, State Route 18**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: This notice is to inform agencies and the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a project in San Bernardino, California. Furthermore, it is advised that environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations for this project is being, or has been, carried out by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) under its July 1, 2007 assumption of all the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary's responsibilities under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to Section 6005 of SAFETEA-LU codified in 23 U.S.C. 327(a)(2)(A).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Russell Williams, Acting Office Chief, Environmental Oversight, California Department of Transportation District 8, 464 W. Fourth Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401. Telephone: (909) 383-1554.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the city of Victorville, will prepare an EIS on the proposal to construct a portion of the High Desert Corridor (HDC), in San Bernardino County, California. The proposed project would involve construction of a freeway/expressway to realign State Route (SR) 18 on new alignment from US 395 in the City of Adelanto to SR 18 near the Town of Apple Valley for a distance of approximately 21 miles. This notice of intent is prepared in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22.

In addition, to NEPA, the project is required to comply with the efficient environmental review process pursuant to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Section 6002 codified at 23 U.S.C. 138. The process is intended to promote efficient project management by the NEPA lead agency and to provide enhanced opportunities for coordination and accountability with the public as well as, Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies during the project development process. The process will include activities such as invitation of participating and cooperating agencies,

preparation of a coordination plan, and establishment of a statute of limitations on the EIS. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, sponsor agencies are required to notify the Secretary of Transportation of the type of work, termini, length, and general location of the project, together with a statement of Federal approvals anticipated to be necessary for the proposed project. Issuance of this notice will serve to meet these requirements for initiation of the environmental review process.

Currently, SR 18 exists as a four-lane conventional highway with numerous signalized intersections, business districts and congestion bottlenecks which restrict accessibility and mobility for east-west travel, and reduces throughput and safety for interregional travel in Victor Valley. The purpose of the project is to maximize accessibility to major economic generators such as the Southern California Logistics Airport and the industrial park surrounding Apple Valley Airport, improve mobility for interregional travel and truck/goods movement by providing freeway/expressway connectivity between regional routes US 395, I-15, and SR 18. Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to alleviate the projected traffic demand for the increasing population growth in the area. Another goal of the project is to maintain consistency with the overall development of the High Desert Corridor and the future Victor Valley Beltway.

It is proposed to construct a "stand alone" phase of the HDC in Victor Valley from US 395 in Adelanto to SR 18 of the Town of Apple Valley, a distance of approximately 21 miles. A preferred Alternative has not been selected at this point, but two Build Alternatives will be analyzed along with the No-Build Alternative. Alternative 1, known as the north alignment, would construct the HDC as a multi-lane freeway/expressway on new alignment from U.S. 395 to continue east between the Southern California Logistics Airport and the proposed new Federal Prison in Victorville. The new alignment would cross the Mojave River and the BNSF mainline, intersect I-15 north of the Stoddard Wells Road Interchange, travel east through the industrial section of the Town of Apple Valley, then turn south to meet existing SR 18. In addition, at least 6 interchanges, 8 bridge/undercrossing structures, 5 grade intersections, and at least 300 ft. of right of way are proposed for Alternative 1.

Alternative 2, from US 395 to I-15, would follow the same alignment as Alternative 1 from U.S. 395 to just west

of I-15. Alternative 2 would then swing south to tie into SR 18 near Rimrock Road. This section of the alternative from east of I-15 will be constructed as an access controlled highway. On the east of I-15, Alternative 2 will be on new alignment for about 3.5 miles and then it will replace existing SR 18 for about 6 miles. Alternative 2 will meet SR 18 in the same location as Alternative 1. In addition, at least 4 interchanges, 8 at grade intersections, and 200-300 ft of right of way are proposed for Alternative 2.

The two Alternatives will be studied and refined through efforts conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and 23 CFR part 771), the Clean Air Act Amendments, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Federal Endangered Species Act, the Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act, and other federal environmental protection laws, regulations, policies, and executive orders. Based on available information, the project is anticipated to require a Clean Water Act 404 permit, a right-of-way use permit from the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, consultation is anticipated under Section 7 of the FESA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

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. The EIS will incorporate comments from the public scoping process as well as analysis from environmental and engineering technical studies. Other alternatives suggested during the scoping process would be considered during the development of the EIS. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and Local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Location and details of the public scoping meeting for the proposed project will be advertised in local newspapers and other media. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to Caltrans at the address indicated 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.)

Issued on: September 28, 2007.

David Tedrick,

Project Development Team Leader, South Region, California Division, Federal Highway Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on Proposed Highway in Minnesota

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Limitation on Claims for Judicial Review of Actions by FHWA and Other Federal Agencies.

SUMMARY: This notice announces actions taken by the FHWA and other Federal agencies that are final within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). The actions relate to a proposed highway project, the Interstate (I)-94/Trunk Highway (TH) 10 Interregional Connection from west of Becker to east of St. Cloud in Sherburne, Stearns and Wright Counties, Minnesota. Those actions grant approvals for the project.

DATES: By this notice, the FHWA is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions of the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before 180 days from the date of this notice. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 180 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For FHWA: Mr. Thomas Sorel, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, Suite 500, 380 Jackson Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, Telephone (651) 291-6100, e-mail: Thomas.sorel@fhwa.dot.gov. The Minnesota Division Office's normal business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (central time). For the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT): Mr. Terry Humbert—District 3, 3725—12th Street North, Mail Stop 031, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303-2130, Telephone (320) 223-6527, (800) 627-3529 TTY, e-mail: Terry.Humbert@state.mn.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the FHWA and other Federal agencies have taken final agency actions by issuing approvals for the following highway project in Minnesota: I-94/TH 10 Interregional Connection from Clearwater, Wright County to Clear

Lake, Sherburne County, Minnesota. The project will be an approximately 5.4-mile, four-lane freeway with interchanges at I-94 and TH 10 and a grade-separated rail crossing near TH 10 and includes the construction of a new crossing of the Mississippi River. The project also includes an interchange at existing TH 24 to provide local access to/from the Cities of Clear Lake and Clearwater. The actions by the Federal agencies, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), approved on December 21, 2006, in the FHWA Record of Decision (ROD) issued on September 7, 2007, and in other documents in the FHWA project files. The FEIS, ROD and other project records are available by contacting the FHWA or Mn/DOT at the addresses provided above. The FHWA FEIS and ROD can be viewed and downloaded from the project Web site at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/projects/interregionalconnection/index.html>.

This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to:

1. *General:* National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321-4351]; Federal-Aid Highway Act [23 U.S.C. 109].

2. *Land:* Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 [49 U.S.C. 303]; Landscaping and Scenic Enhancement (Wildflowers) [23 U.S.C. 319].

3. *Wildlife:* Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531-1544 and section 1536]; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act [16 U.S.C. 661-667(d)]; Migratory Bird Treaty Act [16 U.S.C. 703-712].

4. *Historic and Cultural Resources:* Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended [16 U.S.C. 470(f) *et seq.*]; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 469-469(c)].

5. *Social and Economic:* Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2000(d)-2000(d)(1)]; Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) [7 U.S.C. 4201-4209].

6. Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) [42 U.S.C. 300(f)-300(j)(6)]; Flood Disaster Protection Act [42 U.S.C. 4001-4128].

7. *Executive Orders:* E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands; E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management; E.O. 12898, Federal Actions to address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations; E.O. 11593, Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Resources; E.O. 13007, Indian Sacred Sites; E.O.

13287, Preserve America; E.O. 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; E.O. 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality; E.O. 13112, Invasive Species.

(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: U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

Issued on: October 5, 2007.

Thomas K. Sorel,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2007-0007]

Postponement of Medical Review Board (MRB) Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces the postponement of the Medical Review Board meeting that was scheduled for October 15, 2007 from 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary D. Gunnels, Chief, Physical Qualifications Division, 202-366-4001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 14, 2007, FMCSA published a Notice in the **Federal Register** announcing a public meeting of the Medical Review Board to be held on October 15, 2007 (72 FR 45479). The meeting announced on August 14, 2007 will not be held. FMCSA will publish a Notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the date, time, and place of any rescheduled MRB meeting. The public may also refer to: <http://www.mrb.fmcsa.dot.gov> for upcoming meeting announcements.

Issued on: October 4, 2007.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development.

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