

boundaries, the alternatives studied will vary in length from 18 miles to 37 miles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Martin, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, 380 Jackson Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, Telephone (651) 291-6120; or Marcus Hall, Public Works Director/Highway Engineer, Saint Louis County Public Works Department, 4787 Midway Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55811, Telephone (218) 625-3830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with Saint Louis County Public Works Department, will prepare an EIS on a proposal to connect the Cities of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt, Saint Louis County, Minnesota, a distance of approximately 18 to 37 miles. The proposed action is being considered to develop a more direct and efficient roadway connection between the two Cities and to improve connectivity across the broader East Iron Range region. The EIS will evaluate the social, economic, transportation and environmental impacts of alternatives, including: (1) No-Build, (2) Reconstruction on existing alignment, (3) Construction on partial new alignment, and (4) Construction on new alignment.

The "Hoyt Lakes to Babbitt Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document" will be published early in 2008. A press release will be published to inform the public of the document's availability. Copies of the scoping document will be distributed to agencies, interested persons and libraries for review to aid in identifying issues and analyses to be contained in the EIS. A thirty-day comment period for review of the document will be provided to afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action. A public scoping meeting will also be held during the comment period. Public notice will be given for the time and place of the meeting. After the scoping comment period has closed, the "Hoyt Lakes to Babbitt Scoping Decision Document" will be published in the spring of 2008. A Draft EIS will be prepared based on the outcome of and closely following the scoping process. The Draft EIS will be available for agency and public review and comment. In addition, a public hearing will be held following completion of the Draft EIS. Public Notice will be given for the time and place of the public hearing on the Draft EIS. Coordination has been initiated and will continue with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed

or are known to have an interest in the proposed action. "Participating agencies" have been identified and a meeting will be held in February or March, 2008 to discuss the project and receive input on the "purpose and need" for the project and range of alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS. 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 at the address 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.)

Issued on: December 28, 2007.

Cheryl B. Martin,

Environmental Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

**Environmental Impact Statement;
Stearns County, MN**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for the construction of a new roadway located between County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4/CSAH 133 in St. Joseph and Trunk Highway (TH) 15 in Waite Park, a distance of approximately 7 miles, in the St. Cloud Metropolitan Area, Stearns County, Minnesota.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Martin, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, Suite 500, 380 Jackson Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, Telephone (651) 291-6120; or Mitchell Anderson, P.E., Stearns County Engineer, Stearns County Department of Highways, P.O. Box 246, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302, Telephone (320) 255-6180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with Stearns County Department of Highways, will prepare an EIS to identify a new safe and efficient minor arterial

transportation corridor within the greater southwest St. Cloud Metropolitan Area that can be preserved for future use in an area of planned growth. The proposed roadway is located between CSAH 4/CSAH 133 in St. Joseph to TH 15 in Waite Park, a distance of approximately 7 miles, in Stearns County, Minnesota. The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance mobility, enhance connectivity to regional corridors, and support the economic and social needs for the growing southwest St. Cloud Metropolitan Area by providing infrastructure support and accessibility to the planned growth areas of the communities of St. Joseph and Waite Park.

The EIS will evaluate the social, economic, transportation and environmental impacts of alternatives, including: (1) No-Build and (2) "Build" alternatives with variations in the location of the alignment.

The "St. Cloud Metro Area Southwest Beltway Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document" will be published in early spring of 2008. A press release will be published to inform the public of the document's availability. Copies of the scoping document will be distributed to agencies, interested persons and libraries for review to aid in identifying issues and analyses to be contained in the EIS. A thirty-day comment period for review of the document will be provided to afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action. A public scoping meeting will also be held during the comment period. Public notice will be given for the time and place of the meeting. After the scoping comment period has closed, the "St. Cloud Metro Southwest Beltway Scoping Decision Document" will be published in 2008. A Draft EIS will be prepared based on the outcome of and closely following the scoping process. The Draft EIS will be available for agency and public review and comment. In addition, a public hearing will be held following completion of the Draft EIS. Public Notice will be given for the time and place of the public hearing on the Draft EIS. Coordination has been initiated and will continue with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in the proposed action. "Participating agencies" have been identified and a meeting will be held in February or March 2008 to discuss the project and receive input on the "purpose and need" for the project and range of

alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS. 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 at the address 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.)

Dated: Issued on: December 28, 2007.

Cheryl B. Martin,

Environmental Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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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: January 14, 2008, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and January 15, 2008, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

PLACE: This meeting will take place at the Bellevue Biltmore, 25 Bellevue Boulevard, Clearwater, Florida 33756.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors (the Board) will continue its work in developing and implementing the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement and to that end, may consider matters properly before the Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Avelino Gutierrez, Chair, Unified Carrier Registration Board of Directors at (505) 827-4565.

Dated: December 27, 2007.

William A. Quade,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement and Program Delivery.

[FR Doc. 08-19 Filed 1-3-08; 12:20 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-1007X]

Colorado Springs & Eastern Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in El Paso County, CO

Colorado Springs & Eastern Railroad Company (CS&E) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 3.3-mile line of railroad between milepost 602.70 and milepost 599.40, in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, CO. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 80901, 80903, 80904, 80905, 80906, 80907, 80908, 80909, 80910, and 80911.

CS&E has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements of 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on February 6, 2008, unless stayed pending reconsideration.¹ Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,²

¹ Although CS&E has indicated an effective date of January 21, 2008, the earliest this transaction may be consummated is February 6, 2008. See 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(2). Staff has informed CS&E's attorney of this discrepancy.

² The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible

formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by January 17, 2008. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 28, 2008, with: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.⁴

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CS&E's representative: Monica Kadrmas, Moye White LLP, 1400 16th Street, 6th Floor, Denver, CO 80202.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CS&E has filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 11, 2008. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 245-0305. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision. Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CS&E shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by CS&E's filing of a notice of consummation by January 7, 2009, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.
Decided: January 2, 2008.

so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,300. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

⁴ CS&E states in its notice that it "has leased, and is in the process of selling, the property on which the line is located to the City of Colorado Springs for a public recreation hike/bike trail." CS&E is reminded that any such action cannot take place prior to the effectiveness of this exemption, including the completion of the OFA process and the handling of any requests for public use or trail use.