

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Homer Bazan, Jr., P.E., Director of Transportation Planning and Development—TxDOT Pharr District, 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas, 78577; telephone: 956-702-6100; email: [Homer.Bazan@txdot.gov](mailto:Homer.Bazan@txdot.gov). TxDOT's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT. TxDOT will prepare an EIS for the proposed SH 68 from I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281, listed in the 2015–2040 Hidalgo County Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a 4-lane divided rural highway facility with the potential for main lanes and overpasses. There is no existing facility; therefore, the project is proposed on new location.

The purpose of the project is to improve north/south mobility, increase travel capacity for local and regional traffic, and provide an alternate north-south evacuation routes during emergency events. The project need is a lack of sufficient north/south mobility for local and regional traffic and for additional emergency evacuation routes, which are the result of historical and continuing growth in the region's population as well as continued growth of traffic in the region.

The significance of impacts for the proposed SH 68 project was initially uncertain, so the process began by preparing an environmental assessment (EA). Based on preliminary analysis and feedback from the public, it was determined that an EIS should be prepared. The EIS will incorporate information collected during the EA process; in addition, public input gathered during the development of the EA will be considered in the EIS process. The EIS will develop and evaluate a range of alternatives including "No-action" (the no-build alternative), Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM), rapid transit and roadway build alternatives. The EIS will analyze potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts from construction and operation of proposed corridor improvements including, but not limited to, the following: transportation impacts; air quality and noise impacts; water quality impacts including storm water runoff; impacts to waters of the United States including

wetlands; impacts to floodplains; impacts to historic and archeological resources; impacts to threatened and endangered species; socioeconomic impacts including environmental justice communities; impacts to and/or potential displacements of land use, vegetation, residents and businesses; and impacts to aesthetic and visual resources.

Public involvement is a critical component of the project development process and will occur throughout the planning and study phases. Letters describing the proposed action including a request for 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. Agency and public scoping meetings are planned for late 2015. The purpose of the public scoping meetings is to identify significant and other relevant issues related to SH 68 mobility improvements as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process. The scoping meetings will provide opportunities for participating agencies, cooperating agencies, and the public to be involved in review and comment on the draft coordination plan, defining the need and purpose for the proposed project, and the range of alternatives to be considered in the EIS. In addition to the agency and public scoping meetings, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action is addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Such comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to TxDOT 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: August 19, 2015.

**Michael T. Leary,**

*Director, Planning and Program Development, Federal Highway Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-20968 Filed 8-27-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Transit Administration****Limitation on Claims Against Proposed Public Transportation Projects**

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces final environmental actions taken by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for projects in the Cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, and Lynnwood, WA; New Orleans, LA; Tacoma, WA; and Fort Lauderdale, FL. The purpose of this notice is to announce publicly the environmental decisions by FTA on the subject projects and to activate the limitation on any claims that may challenge these final environmental actions.

**DATES:** By this notice, FTA is advising the public of final agency actions subject to Section 139(l) of Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.). A claim seeking judicial review of FTA actions announced herein for the listed public transportation projects will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before January 25, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nancy-Ellen Zusman, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, (312) 353-2577 or Terence Plaskon, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Environmental Programs, (202) 366-0442. FTA is located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that FTA has taken final agency actions by issuing certain approvals for the public transportation projects listed below. The actions on the projects, as well as the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the documentation issued in connection with the projects to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in other documents in the FTA administrative record for the projects. Interested parties may contact either the project sponsor or the relevant FTA Regional Office for more information on each project. Contact information for FTA's Regional Offices may be found at <http://www.fta.dot.gov>.

This notice applies to all FTA decisions on the listed projects as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including, but not limited to, NEPA [42 U.S.C. 4321-4375], Section 4(f) of the

Department of Transportation Act of 1966 [49 U.S.C. 303], Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 470f], and the Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q]. This notice does not, however, alter or extend the limitation period for challenges of project decisions subject to previous notices published in the **Federal Register**. The projects and actions that are the subject of this notice are:

1. *Project name and location:*

Lynnwood Link Extension, Cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, and Lynnwood, WA. *Project sponsor:* Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit). *Project description:* The proposed project would extend the Sound Transit Link light rail system from Northgate in Seattle north into Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, and Lynnwood in Snohomish County. The 8.5-mile project corridor would generally follow Interstate 5. Project components include traction power substations along the project alignment, new noise walls and relocation of existing noise walls, relocation of underground and overhead utilities, crossover tracks, stormwater management facilities, park-and-ride facilities, and intersection, street, and sidewalk improvements. *Final agency actions:* Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination; Section 106 finding of no adverse effect; project-level air quality conformity; and Record of Decision, dated July 10, 2015. *Supporting documentation:* Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated April 3, 2015.

2. *Project name and location:*

Cemeteries Transit Center Project, New Orleans, LA. *Project sponsor:* Regional Transit Authority. *Project description:* The proposed project would extend the Canal Streetcar Line from its present terminus at the end of Canal Street to the existing Cemeteries Transit Center located on Canal Boulevard. In addition, the project would move the existing Canal Streetcar Cemeteries stop at the intersection of Canal Street and City Park Avenue to the Cemeteries Transit Center at Canal Boulevard north of City Park Avenue. *Final agency actions:* Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination; a Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement, dated June 16, 2015; and Finding of No Significant Impact, dated July 15, 2015. *Supporting documentation:* Environmental Assessment, dated February 2015.

3. *Project name and location:* Tacoma Link Expansion, Tacoma, WA. *Project sponsor:* Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit). *Project description:* The proposed project would extend the existing Tacoma Link system an additional 2.4

miles, connecting Tacoma's Central Business District to the Stadium and Hilltop Business Districts and to Tacoma's "medical mile," which includes major hospitals and medical centers. The project includes six new stations, the relocation of one station, and expanding the existing operations and maintenance facility (OMF) on a property adjacent to the existing OMF. *Final agency actions:* No use determination of Section 4(f) resources; a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement, dated June 15, 2015; project-level air quality conformity; and determination of categorical exclusion. *Supporting documentation:* Documented categorical exclusion pursuant to 23 CFR 771.118(d), dated June 2015.

4. *Project name and location:* Wave

Modern Streetcar, Fort Lauderdale, FL. *Project sponsor:* South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. *Project description:* The proposed project is an approximately 2.8-mile modern streetcar system in Downtown Fort Lauderdale that will provide bi-directional service from S 17th Street and S Andrews Avenue to NE 6th Street and NE 3rd Avenue, primarily using Andrews Avenue, Bricknell Avenue, and E 3rd Avenue for north/south movement. The FTA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project on September 10, 2012. Since issuance of the FONSI, the project sponsor proposed minor changes to the project, including a new location for the vehicle maintenance and storage facility, minor refinements to proposed station locations, minor refinements to the alignment along SE 6th Street and SE 7th Street, and an alternative end-of-line treatment at the northern terminus known as Flagler Loop. FTA prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) for these design modifications. This notice only applies to the discrete actions taken by FTA at this time. Nothing in this notice affects FTA's previous decisions, or notice, for this project. *Final agency actions:* No use determination of Section 4(f) resources and Amended FONSI, dated June 10, 2015. *Supporting documentation:* Supplemental EA, dated March 27, 2015.

Dated: August 21, 2015.

**Lucy Garliauskas,**

*Associate Administrator Planning and Environment.*

[FR Doc. 2015-21285 Filed 8-27-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD 2015 0095]

#### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel KWIAT NIGHTS II; Invitation for Public Comments

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by 46 U.S.C. 12121, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before September 28, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2015-0095. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Williams, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W23-453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0903, Email [Linda.Williams@dot.gov](mailto:Linda.Williams@dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel KWIAT NIGHTS II is:

*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* OUPV Passengers, Sport fishing—non-commercial

*Geographic Region:* "Florida, Georgia, Louisiana"

The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2015-0095 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested