

Issued in Hawthorne, California, on July 15, 1999.

Herman C. Bliss,

Manager, Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 99-20085 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Rail Corridor-Washington, DC to Charlotte, NC

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Tiered Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor from Washington, DC to Charlotte, North Carolina, by way of Richmond, Virginia and Raleigh, North Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catherine Batey, Planning & Program Development Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 310 New Bern Ave., Suite 410, Raleigh, NC 27601, Telephone # (919) 856-4330 x 115; and Mr. David Valenstein, Transportation & Environmental Specialist, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), 400 Seventh Street, SW, MS 20, Washington, DC 20590, Telephone # (202) 493-6368.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA and the FRA, in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), will prepare a Tiered Environmental Impact Statement to examine the concept of a high speed rail system from Washington, DC through Richmond, Virginia and Raleigh, North Carolina, on to Charlotte, North Carolina. This concept represents a 477 mile long extension of the Northeast Rail Corridor, and encompasses over 1000 miles of existing rail rights-of-way that are potentially useable.

This action has four basic goals: (1) Establish the purpose and need of the project concept; (2) examine the regional implications of the project concept; (3) assess the modal and technology alternatives within the broad corridor and determine a preferred modal alternative; and (4) determine the feasible study area(s) to be carried forward for the appropriate second tier of environmental documentation.

It is anticipated that a joint scoping meeting will be held in South Hill, Virginia during late September or early

October of this year. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments are being sent appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies (in North Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia). An iterative public involvement/information program will support the process. The program will involve public workshops, newsletters, fact sheets, a public opinion survey, and a project hotline along with other methods to solicit and incorporate public input throughout the planning process.

To ensure that the full range of issues relating to the proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning the proposed action should be directed to the FHWA or the FRA at the addresses provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulation implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: July 29, 1999.

Nicholas L. Graf,

Division Administrator, Raleigh, North Carolina.

[FR Doc. 99-20167 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on May 11, 1999 [64 FR 25391].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 7, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William W. Dean, Office of Ports and Domestic Shipping, Maritime

Administration, MAR-831, Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Telephone 202-366-5477 or FAX 202-366-6988. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Title: Port Facilities Inventory.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0023.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Port terminal owners.

Form (S): MA-400.

Abstract: The collection of port facility data from terminal owners allows MARAD to maintain information, at the proper level of accuracy and currency, on those essential port facilities that are required for emergency use. The surveys would be used only in the event the data contained on these facilities fell below a level of currency deemed adequate for emergency planning purposes.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 40 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

COMMENTS ARE INVITED ON: 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; the accuracy of the agency'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. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on August 2, 1999.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

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