

alignments; and (3) other alternatives that may arise from public and agency input.

Coordination letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. Public meetings were held to discuss concept alignments in January and February 1997 and public comments were received. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared and made available for public and agency review and comment. Comments from the initial coordination letters and the public meetings will be considered in determining the scope of the EIS.

To insure that the full range of issues to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and suggestions concerning the proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address above.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The provisions of Executive Order 12372 regarding state and local clearinghouse review of federal and federally assisted programs and projects apply to this program.)

Issued on October 15, 1999.

Charles S. Boyd,

Division Administrator, Tennessee Division, Nashville, Tennessee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement, Polk County, TN

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 will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Polk County, Tennessee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Charles S. Boyd, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 640 Grassmere Park, Suite 112, Nashville, Tennessee 37211, Telephone: (615) 781-5770.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve U.S. Route 64

(U.S. 64) in Polk County, Tennessee. The proposed project would involve improvements to a section of the U.S. 64 roadway between U.S. 411 on the west and State Route 68 in Ducktown for a distance of about 42 kilometers (26) miles.

Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for existing and projected traffic demand and to improve safety. Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; and (2) widening the existing two-lane highway to four lanes to the east and west of the Ocoee River Gorge, and constructing a four-lane divided highway on new location to bypass existing U.S. 64 through the Ocoee River Gorge.

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 an interest in this proposal. A public hearing will be held upon completion of the Draft EIS and public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. A formal scoping meeting is planned.

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 October 15, 1999.

Charles S. Boyd,

Division Administrator, Tennessee Division, Nashville, Tennessee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[FRA Docket No. FRA-1999-5685, Notice No. 3]

RIN 2130-AB33

Proposed Joint Statement of Agency Policy Concerning Shared Use of the General Railroad System by Conventional Railroads and Light Rail Transit Systems

AGENCIES: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: By notice of a proposed policy statement published on May 25, 1999 (64 FR 28238), FRA and FTA proposed how they intend to coordinate use of their respective safety authorities to address safety issues related to light rail transit operations that take place, or are planned to take place, on the general railroad system of transportation. The proposal also summarized how the process of obtaining waivers of FRA's safety regulations may work, particularly where the light rail and conventional rail operations occur at different times of day. In that notice, the deadline for the submission of written comments was July 30, 1999. By notice published on July 28, 1999 (64FR 40931), the deadline for the submission of written comments was extended until October 29, 1999.

Due to the need to ensure that all interested parties have a sufficient amount of time to fully develop their comments, and because FRA's separate proposed statement of agency policy concerning its safety jurisdiction over railroad passenger operations is not yet published, this document announces an additional extension of the deadline for the submission of written comments.

DATES: Written comments must be received by January 14, 2000. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent possible without incurring additional expense or delay.

ADDRESSES: Procedures for written comments: Submit one copy to the Department of Transportation Central Docket Management Facility located in room PL-401 at the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. All docket material on the proposed statement will be available for inspection at this address and on the Internet at <http://doms.dot.gov>. (Docket hours at the Nassif Building are Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding