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Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroad has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 236 as detailed below.

Docket Number FRA-2003-14799

Applicant: CSX Transportation, Mr. N. Michael Choat, Assistant Chief Engineer of Signal Maintenance, 4901 Belfort Road, Suite 130 (J370), Jacksonville, Florida 32256.

CSX Transportation (CSXT) seeks approval to extend the temporary discontinuance of the traffic control system (TCS), on portions of the Florence Service Lane, Aberdeen Subdivision, between milepost S164.8 and milepost S241.6, for approximately one year. The request is associated with the December 6, 2002-catastrophic event in which CSXT experienced a severe ice storm over portions of the Aberdeen Subdivision. Major damage to the signal pole line resulted in the removal of the TCS from service as authorized by 49 CFR, Section 235.7(a)(4), and implementation of Direct Traffic Control (DTC), under the direction of the train dispatcher.

The reason given for the proposed changes is to allow CSXT time to file a block signal application with the Federal Railroad Administration for the proposed permanent discontinuance and removal of the existing TCS between milepost S164.8 and milepost S241.6, and installation of DTC authority for movement supplemented with CSXT's Communications Based Train Management System (CTBM). The petition process and the implementation of CBTM would be completed within the one-year time frame.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds

upon which the protest is made, and include a concise statement of the interest of the party in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by the docket number and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by the FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FRA wishes to inform all potential commenters that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without an oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 21, 2003.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the Spokane Regional Light Rail (South Valley Corridor) Project in Spokane, Washington Metropolitan Area

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement that includes two new alternatives.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Spokane Transit Authority (STA) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for transit improvements in Spokane County, between downtown Spokane and Liberty Lake. The EIS will be prepared to satisfy both NEPA and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). This project was originally scoped as an Environmental Assessment (EA), but transitioned to an Environmental Impact Statement as a result of a second scoping meeting held on June 4, 2002. Because of the recent demonstrated need to study two additional lower cost build alternatives, an additional scoping meeting will be required.

The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to notify interested parties of the intent to prepare an EIS with two additional build alternatives and to invite participation in the study. The project proposes to implement a major high capacity transit improvement in the Spokane Metropolitan area that maintains livability, manages growth and provides a balanced transportation system. The Proposed Action is intended to contribute to implementation of a series of state, regional, and local planning policies that address air quality, sprawl, and growth. In addition to the original alternatives, two new alternatives (described below) will be evaluated in the EIS.

DATES: The public is welcome to make comments on the scope of the proposed project. Written comments should be sent to the Spokane Transit Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the local newspaper or September 18, 2003, whichever is later. A packet on the proposed project, project alternatives, and the scoping process may be obtained from the Spokane Transit Authority. The information may also be obtained by sending an electronic request through the "Contact Us" section of the project Web site, www.spokanelightrail.com. A *Public Open House/Scoping Meeting* will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2003 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. PDT, at the Kress Gallery on the third floor of the Riverpark Square Mall, located at 808 West Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99206. An *Agency Scoping Meeting* will be held at 1:30 p.m. PDT on Thursday, September 4, 2003, at the Spokane