

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the GDOT, will prepare a supplemental draft EIS to construct a new location roadway between US41 and I-75 in Bartow County, Georgia for a distance of approximately 7.5 miles. This new location extension of US411 is needed to provide additional capacity and congestion relief for the existing roadway network, which currently includes common sections of US411, SR 61 and SR20 to access I-75. This project would provide direct, multi-lane access from Rome to I-75 and is one of the final connecting links in the Memphis to Atlanta Connector.

A Final EIS for this project was approved January 9, 1989, and the Record of Decision was signed May 25, 1989. In 1991, a suit was filed against the USDOT, FHWA and the GDOT on this project. In 1993, the United States District for the Northern District of Georgia acknowledged the need for the project and confirmed its independent utility from a larger east-west connector known as the Northern Arc. However, the document was ruled inadequate because it failed to adequately study a full range of alternatives. The proposed Supplemental draft EIS will address and study a full range of alternatives for this corridor and will provide updated studies and analyses on the alternatives originally studied.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies. A public hearing will be held and a public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed project is addressed and all significant issues identified in the EIS, formal scoping will be reinitiated. Additionally, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. Georgia's approved clearinghouse review procedures apply to this program.)

Issued on: November 5, 2003.

Jennifer L. Giersch,
Environmental Coordinator, Atlanta, Georgia.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Study, Virginia

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the I-81 Corridor Improvement Study in Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Simkins, I-81 Corridor Environmental Project Manager, Federal Highway Administration, Post Office Box 10249, Richmond, Virginia 23240-0249. Telephone: (804) 775-3342.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), will prepare a Tier 1 EIS for the I-81 Corridor Improvement Study in Virginia. The Tier 1 EIS will study a range of improvement concepts that will address the purpose and need, including highway concepts, rail concepts, and combinations of highway and rail concepts. The effects of tolling with regard to the improvement concepts will also be studied. In addition, the consequences of making no improvements to the I-81 corridor will be studied. At the conclusion of the Tier 1 study, decisions will be made on the improvements concepts, the independent highway and rail components to be studied in Tier 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s), and the type of NEPA document(s) for those components. Site-specific analyses and approvals will be elements of subsequent Tier 2 studies.

The FHWA and the VDOT are seeking input as part of the scoping process to assist in determining and clarifying issues relative to the study. Letters describing the study and soliciting input will be sent to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and other interested parties as part of the scoping effort. An agency scoping meeting as well as multiple public scoping meetings are being planned and will be announced by the VDOT when schedules have been confirmed. In addition, multiple public hearings will be held for which public notice will be given on the time and place. The Tier 1 Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review

and comment prior to the public hearings.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this study is addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this study and the Tier 1 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 proposed action.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: November 6, 2003.

John Simkins,
I-81 Corridor Environmental Project Manager.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2000-7257; Notice No. 32]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC") meeting.

SUMMARY: FRA announces the next meeting of the RSAC, a Federal Advisory Committee that develops railroad safety regulations through a consensus process. The RSAC meeting topics will include updates on the Illinois Department of Transportation Positive Train Control Project, the Highway-Rail Crossing Action Plan, the Switching Operations Fatality Analysis, and the Collision Analysis Working Group. Status reports will be given on the Locomotive Crashworthiness, Passenger Safety, and other active working groups. The Committee will be briefed on the International Application of Alcohol and Drug Rules, Hazardous Materials Regulations, and Medical Standards for Safety Critical Employees.

DATES: The meeting of the RSAC is scheduled to commence at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting of the RSAC will be held at the Washington Plaza, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 842-1300. The meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and is accessible to