

individuals with disabilities. Sign and oral interpretation can be made available if requested 10 calendar days before the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trish Butera or Lydia Leeds, RSAC Coordinators, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6212/6213 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), FRA is giving notice of a meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC"). The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2003. The meeting of the RSAC will be held at the Washington Plaza, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 842-1300. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time.

RSAC was established to provide advice and recommendations to the FRA on railroad safety matters. The Committee consists of 48 individual voting representatives and five associate representatives drawn from among 32 organizations representing various rail industry perspectives, two associate representatives from the agencies with railroad safety regulatory responsibility in Canada and Mexico and other diverse groups. Staffs of the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Transit Administration also participate in an advisory capacity.

See the RSAC Web site for details on pending tasks at: <http://rsac.fra.dot.gov>. Please refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1996 (61 FR 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 7, 2003.

George A. Gavalla,

Associate Administrator for Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for Improved Transit Access Across the Hudson River to New York City, Referred to as Access to the Region's Core

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing this notice to advise other agencies and the public that, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations, FTA and the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), in partnership with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives that increase transit capacity across the Hudson River to meet the growing demand for travel between midtown Manhattan (23rd Street to 59th Street, Hudson River to East River) and west-of-Hudson points in New Jersey and New York. NJ TRANSIT is the local sponsoring agency for this EIS. Among the alternatives to be considered is the construction of a new trans-Hudson River rail tunnel and additional infrastructure improvements in New Jersey and proximate to Penn Station New York (PSNY) to improve train and commuter capacity. The tunnel alternative was recommended on the basis of a Major Investment Study (MIS) conducted from 1995 to 2003, which is available for review as described in **ADDRESSES** below. FTA, NJ TRANSIT, and PANYNJ seek public and interagency input on the scope of the EIS for the project, including the alternatives to be considered and the environmental and community impacts to be evaluated. The project is called Access to the Region's Core (ARC).

DATES: *Scoping Comments Due Date:* Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be sent to NJ TRANSIT by January 30, 2004. See **ADDRESSES** below.

Scoping Meeting: Public scoping meetings to determine the appropriate scope of the EIS for ARC will be held on December 8, 2003 in Newark and December 10, 2003 in New York City at the locations given in **ADDRESSES** below. Registration to speak will begin at 11 am for the mid-day session and at 5 pm for the evening session and will remain open for both sessions until all who wish to speak have been heard. The buildings are accessible to people with disabilities. A sign language interpreter will be available for the hearing impaired. People with other special needs should call the study toll-free information line at 1-877-ARC-0999. Oral and written comments may be given at the scoping meetings; a stenographer will record oral comments. At the meetings, project staff will be available for informal discussion and questions on project-related issues. Scoping information is available on the

project Web site at <http://www.accesstotheregionscore.com> and will be available at the scoping meetings. Scoping material may also be obtained by contacting David Widawsky, Project Manager, at the NJ TRANSIT address given in **ADDRESSES** below or by calling toll-free 1-877-ARC-0999 or by e-mailing info@accesstotheregionscore.com.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the project scope should be forwarded to David Widawsky, Project Manager, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07105-2246 or via e-mail to info@accesstotheregionscore.com. The scoping meetings will be held at the following locations: The Gateway Hilton, Newark Gateway Center @ Raymond Boulevard, Newark, New Jersey 07102 on December 8, 2003 from 11 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 8 pm and at the Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10001 on December 10, 2003 from 11 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 8 pm. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive further information as the EIS study develops, call the toll-free information line at 1-877-ARC-0999 or send an e-mail request to info@accesstotheregionscore.com. The Major Investment Study (MIS) Summary Report can be downloaded from the project Web site at <http://www.accesstotheregionscore.com> or a hard copy can be obtained by contacting the Project Manager, as indicated above. Updated information on ARC will also be posted on the project Web site given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James A. Goveia, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, Region II, One Bowling Green, Room 429, New York, New York, 10004-1415; telephone: (212) 668-2170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping

The FTA, NJ TRANSIT, and the PANYNJ invite all interested individuals and organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies to comment on the scope of the EIS. During the scoping process, comments should focus on identifying specific social, economic, or environmental issues to be evaluated, or on proposing alternatives that may be less costly, more cost effective or have fewer environmental impacts while achieving similar transportation objectives. At this time, comments should not focus on a preference for a particular alternative.

Following the public scoping process, public outreach activities will include