

Beach to the south; Volvo Parkway in Chesapeake and Lynnhaven Parkway and Laskin Road in Virginia Beach to the north; and Bird Neck Road in Virginia Beach to the east.

The EIS will examine a range of alternatives consisting of a no-build alternative as well as transportation system management strategies, mass transit, improvements to existing facilities, and new alignment facilities. Initial studies for this project began in 1987, with a Draft EIS issued in September 1989 followed by a Supplemental Draft EIS in September 1994. Subsequently, VDOT recommended, and Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board endorsed, a preferred alternative. However, work was suspended prior to the completion of a Final EIS. Because of the lapse of time since the circulation of the previous drafts, the study is being reinitiated with a new Draft EIS. Previous studies will be used to the extent practical and will be updated to reflect changes in the project area. The final selection of an alternative will not be made until the alternatives' impacts and comments on the draft EIS and from the public hearing have been fully evaluated.

The scoping process is currently underway. Scoping letters describing the proposed study and soliciting input are being sent to the appropriate Federal, State and local agencies who have expressed or are known to have an interest or legal role in this proposal. A Citizen's Information Meeting will be held to enable organizations, citizens, and interest groups to provide input into the development of the EIS and identify issues that should be addressed. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

A Public Hearing will be held upon completion of the Draft EIS. Notices of the Public Hearing will be given through various forums, providing the time and place of the meeting along with other relevant information. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the Public Hearing.

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: December 17, 2003.

**Kenneth R. Myers,**

*Planning & Environmental Program Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Jefferson and Park Counties, CO

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice to amend notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental assessment will be prepared for transportation improvements on US 285 in the Counties of Jefferson and Park, Colorado, rather than an environmental impact statement.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Sands, Operations Engineer, FHWA, Colorado Division, 555 Zang Street, Room 250, Lakewood, CO, 80228, Telephone: (303) 969-6730 extension 362. Kamalesh (Kim) Patel, Project Manager, CDOT Region 1, 18500 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO, 80011, Telephone: (303) 365-7373.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), has begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for transportation improvements along US 285 between Conifer and Bailey, Colorado. Scoping has been completed, alternatives have been developed and evaluated and environmental impact analysis has been done.

As a result of these NEPA studies, FHWA and CDOT have determined that this project will not result in a significant impact to the environment, thus an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Analysis of the following areas was conducted to reach this determination: Land use and zoning; social; economic; right-of-way; air quality; noise; water resources and quality; wetlands; floodplains; wild and scenic rivers; vegetation and wildlife; threatened, endangered and sensitive species; visual quality; historic preservation; hazardous waste; utilities; parks and recreation resources; farmland; relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and

enhancement of long-term productivity; irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources; and cumulative impacts.

Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the environmental assessment should be directed to the FHWA or the Colorado Department of Transportation at the addresses 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: December 18, 2003.

**Ronald Sperl,**

*Program Delivery Engineer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2003-16564]

#### Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of applications for exemption from the vision standard; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice publishes the FMCSA's receipt of applications from 29 individuals for an exemption from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. If granted, the exemptions will enable these individuals to qualify as drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce without meeting the vision standard prescribed in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before January 23, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT DMS Docket Number FMCSA-2003-16564 by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

• Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

• Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building,