

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5332]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Cradle of Christianity: Treasures From the Holy Land"

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Cradle of Christianity: Treasures from the Holy Land," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Beachwood, OH, beginning on or about March 28, 2006 until on or about October 22, 2006, The Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, FL, beginning on or about December 7, 2006, until on or about April 15, 2007, and at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, beginning on or about May 3, 2007, until on or about October 30, 2007, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Paul Manning, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/453-8052). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: February 21, 2006.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-2884 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5333]

Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for Antarctic Activities

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State gives notice of the availability of a draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE) for activities proposed to be undertaken in Antarctica. Interested members of the public are invited to submit comments relative to this CEE.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 31, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to OES/OA, Room 5805; Department of State; Washington, DC 20520, or to SaturniFM@state.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fabio M. Saturni, Office of Oceans Affairs, (202) 647-0237.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Article 3 of Annex I to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty requires the preparation of a CEE for any proposed Antarctic activity likely to have more than a minor or transitory impact. Draft CEEs are to be made publicly available with a 90-day period for receipt of comments. This notice is published pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 2403a(h).

The Department of State has received a draft CEE submitted by Belgium entitled "Construction and operation of the new Belgian Research Station, Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica." The document is available on the Internet at the following website: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/BePoles/doc/draft_CEE.pdf.

The Department of State invites interested members of the public to provide written comments on this draft CEE.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

Raymond Arnaudo,

Deputy Director, Office of Oceans Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-2885 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5321]

Defense Trade Advisory Group; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) will meet in open

session from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday, April 21, 2006, in Room 1912 at the U.S. Department of State, Harry S. Truman Building, Washington, DC. Entry and registration will begin at 8:15. Please use the building entrance located at 23rd Street, NW., Washington, DC, between C & D streets. The membership of this advisory committee consists of private sector defense trade specialists, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, who advise the Department on policies, regulations, and technical issues affecting defense trade. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss current defense trade issues and topics for further study.

Although public seating will be limited due to the size of the conference room, members of the public may attend this open session as seating capacity allows, and will be permitted to participate in the discussion in accordance with the Chairman's instructions. Members of the public may, if they wish, submit a brief statement to the committee in writing.

As access to the Department of State facilities is controlled, persons wishing to attend the meeting must notify the DTAG Executive Secretariat by COB Thursday, April 13, 2006. If notified after this date, the DTAG Secretariat cannot guarantee that State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security can complete the necessary processing required to attend the April 21 plenary.

Each non-member observer or DTAG member needing building access that wishes to attend this plenary session should provide his/her name; company or organizational affiliation; phone number; date of birth; and identifying data such as driver's license number, U.S. Government ID, or U.S. Military ID, to the DTAG Secretariat contact person, Mary Sweeney, via e-mail at SweeneyMF@state.gov. DTAG members planning to attend the plenary session should notify the DTAG Secretariat contact person, Mary Sweeney, at the e-mail provided above. A RSVP list will be provided to Diplomatic Security and the Reception Desk at the 23rd Street entrance. Attendees must present a driver's license with photo, a passport, a U.S. Government ID, or other valid photo ID for entry.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary F. Sweeney, DTAG Secretariat, U.S. Department of State, Office of Defense Trade Controls Management (PM/DTCM), Room 1200, SA-1, Washington, DC 20522-0112; telephone (202) 663-2865; FAX (202) 663-261-8199; or e-mail SweeneyMF@state.gov.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

Michael T. Dixon,

Executive Secretary, Defense Trade Advisory Group, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-2883 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2006-23612]

Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP)

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Section 5207 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) established the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP). The general objective of the STEP is to improve understanding of the complex relationship between surface transportation, planning and the environment. SAFETEA-LU provides \$16.875 million per year for fiscal years (FY) 2006-2009 to implement this new cooperative research program. Due to obligation limitations, rescissions, and congressional designation of Title V Research in SAFETEA-LU, it is anticipated that approximately \$11.9 million of the \$16.875 million authorized will be available each fiscal year. The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Announce the creation of an FHWA Web site to provide information regarding the STEP; and (2) to solicit public input on the implementation strategy for this program.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 17, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Felicia Young, Office of Interstate and Border Planning, (202) 366-1263, Felicia.young@fhwa.dot.gov; or Grace Reidy, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-6226; Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

You may submit or retrieve comments online through the Document Management System (DMS) at: <http://dms.dot.gov/submit>.

The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of the Web site.

An electronic copy of this notice may be downloaded from the Office of the Federal Register's home page at <http://www.archives.gov> and the Government Printing Office's Web site at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

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 a **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (70FR 19477), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Background

Section 5207 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109-59, Aug. 10 2005), established the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP), and provided \$16.875 million per year for FY2006-FY2009 to implement this new program. The general objective of the STEP is to improve understanding of the complex relationship between surface transportation, planning and the environment.

The FHWA anticipates that approximately \$11.9 million of the \$16.875 million authorized will be available each year. STEP will also be the sole source of funds available to conduct all FHWA research on planning and environmental issues. In addition, Congress mandated several special studies (*i.e.* Report on Non Motorized Transportation Pilot Program (Section 1807 of SAFETEA-LU); and the Annual Report for the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program (Section 6005(h) of SAFETEA-LU)). STEP will be the funding source for those projects as well.

Section 5207 of SAFETEA-LU identifies certain characteristics of STEP regarding program contents and administration. Regarding the program content, STEP may include research to:

- Develop more accurate models for evaluating transportation control measures and system designs for use by State and local governments to meet environmental requirements;

- Improve understanding of transportation demand factors;

- Develop indicators of economic, social, and environmental performance of transportation systems to facilitate alternatives analysis;

- Meet additional priorities determined through the transportation research and development strategic planning process identified in section 5208 of SAFETEA-LU;

- Refine the scope and research emphases through outreach and in consultation with stakeholders.

In administering the program, the USDOT and FHWA will ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that:

- The best projects and researchers are selected based on merit, open solicitations, and selection by a panel of appropriate experts;
- Qualified, permanent core staff with ability to manage a large multiyear budget is used;
- Stakeholders are involved in governance of program;
- There is no duplication with the Future Strategic Highway Research Program (Section 5210 of SAFETEA-LU), which will be administered by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

The FHWA has had some initial meetings with major stakeholder groups and Federal agency partners to begin receiving input on the governance and strategic direction of STEP, and will continue these discussions in the future.

The FHWA is issuing this notice to: (1) Announce the creation of an FHWA Web site to provide information regarding the STEP; and (2) to solicit public input on the implementation strategy for this program. The Web site URL for the STEP is <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/index.htm>. The FHWA will use this Web site as a major mechanism for informing the public regarding the status of the STEP.

We invite the public to visit this Web site to obtain additional information regarding the STEP as well as information regarding the process for forwarding comments to FHWA regarding the STEP implementation strategy.

Authority: Section 5207 of Pub. L. 109-59.

Issued on: February 6, 2006.

J. Richard Capka,

Acting Federal Highway Administrator.

[FR Doc. E6-2829 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

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