

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments and material received from the public, as well as the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket, including the draft EA, on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. (Once you enter the web site, click on "Search," enter the last five digits of the docket number ("10998") in the search box, and press the Enter key.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this notice, the proposed project, or the associated draft EA, call Frank Esposito, Coast Guard Headquarters, at 202-267-0053. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, at 202-366-5149.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Request for Comments**

We encourage you to submit comments and related material on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA). If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this notice (USCG-2001-10998) and give the reasons for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, hand delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under ADDRESSES; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

##### **Proposed Action**

The Coast Guard seeks to obtain and operate a new national museum to record and display its rich history and artifacts which document the development of America's oldest continuous sea-going service. A feasibility study has been performed. The study found that many large artifacts, such as historic lifesaving watercraft and helicopters, as well as the vast number of artifacts, cannot be displayed at the current site, Waesche

Hall on the grounds of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, because of a lack of space. The new museum, located in proximity to the Academy, would permit the Coast Guard to bring its large collection of artifacts together for exhibition in a single museum that would serve as an institution of enduring value providing professional growth and development for current and future leaders of the Coast Guard.

The existing 5,000-square-foot museum serves some 20,000 visitors annually. The proposed 40,000-square-foot museum would offer a potential tenfold increase in visitation—up to 200,000 visitors per year.

##### **Draft Environmental Assessment**

The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) is the process federal agencies use to facilitate compliance with relevant environmental requirements relating to their actions. The primary environmental legislation affecting the agency decision-making process is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Environmental Assessment (EA) considers the potential environmental impacts of a decision by the Coast Guard, subject to site requirement criteria, whether or not to accept land on which to construct a new National Coast Guard Museum to replace its existing museum.

We are requesting your comments on environmental concerns you may have related to the draft EA. This includes suggesting analyses and methodologies for use in the EA or possible sources of data or information not included in the draft EA. Your comments will be considered in preparing the final EA.

Dated: November 15, 2001.

**G.P. Fleming,**

*Acting Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-15-U**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

##### **Federal Highway Administration**

##### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA has forwarded the information collection request described in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. We published a

**Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day public comment period on this information collection on August 23, 2001 (66 FR 44432). We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Please submit comments by December 21, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: DOT Desk Officer. You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information.

##### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* FHWA Highway Design Handbook For Older Drivers and Pedestrians Workshop Participants' Feedback Survey.

*Abstract:* The FHWA published a revised handbook, "Guidelines and Recommendations to Accommodate Older Drivers and Pedestrians," in 2001 that documents new research findings and technical developments that occurred since the 1998 publication of the "Older Driver Highway Design Handbook, Recommendation and Guidelines." The revised Handbook provides practitioners with a practical information source that links older driver road user characteristics to highway design, operational, and traffic engineering recommendations by addressing specific roadway features. A series of workshops began in 1998 and are continuing. The workshops are designed for highway designers, traffic engineers and highway safety specialists involved in the design and operation of highway facilities and are presented in order to familiarize practitioners with the recommendations and guidelines.

The FHWA will conduct a survey of past and continuing workshop participants. This survey is needed to determine if recommendations and guidelines presented to practitioners in workshops are being utilized in new and redesigned highway facilities to accommodate the needs and functional limitations of an aging population of road users. The survey is also needed to gauge the success of the workshop presentations in imparting information

and determine if adjustments should be considered for future workshops.

**Respondents:** Participants in past workshops, including highway designers, highway engineers and highway safety specialists; and future workshop participants.

**Frequency:** This one-time survey will be conducted initially with a selection of past participants (approximately 500). Thereafter, a survey of participants will be conducted annually, consisting of approximately 50 percent of the participants who attended workshops during that year (approximately 125). The survey will be mailed, and for those participants with known e-mail addresses, the survey will be administered electronically to reduce completion time.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** The FHWA estimates that each respondent will be able to complete the survey in approximately 10 minutes. For the initial survey to approximately 500 respondents, total burden hours would be 84 hours. Future annual surveys to approximately 125 respondents are estimated at 21 burden hours.

**For Further Information Contact:** David Smith, 202-366-6614, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Safety Core Business Unit, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**Electronic Access:** Internet users may access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help. An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office Electronic Bulletin Board Service at telephone number 202-512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: November 15, 2001.

**James R. Kabel,**

*Chief, Management Programs and, Analysis Division.*

[FR Doc. 01-29062 Filed 11-20-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Applications for TIFIA Credit Assistance

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds (NOFA) inviting applications for credit assistance for major surface transportation projects.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. DOT's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Joint Program Office (JPO) announces the availability of funds to provide credit assistance in the form of secured (direct) loans, lines of credit, and loan guarantees to public and private sponsors of eligible surface transportation projects. Funding for this program is limited, and the TIFIA Joint Program Office will lead U.S. DOT multi-modal teams in evaluating applications for TIFIA credit assistance based on project merits and satisfaction of the TIFIA statutory criteria. This notice announces the availability of funds and outlines the process that applicants must follow when applying for TIFIA credit assistance.

**DATES:** This notice continues the "rolling" application process instituted in May 2001. See a further discussion under the caption "Application and Selection Process" in this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Both the letters of interest and completed applications should be submitted to the attention of Ms. Stephanie Kaufman, TIFIA Joint Program Office, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 4301, HABF-50, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** TIFIA Joint Program Office staff: Mr. Duane Callender, (202) 366-9644; Ms. Stephanie Kaufman, (202) 366-9649; and Mr. Mark Sullivan, (202) 366-5785. TIFIA Joint Program Office Staff can be contacted at the above address. Hearing- and speech-impaired persons may use TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Additional information, including the current edition of the TIFIA Program Guide and application materials, can be obtained from the TIFIA web site at <http://tifia.fhwa.dot.gov>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century TEA-21, Public Law 105-178, 112 stat.107, 241, created the Transportation Infrastructure Finance

and Innovation Act of 1998 (TIFIA), authorizing the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide credit assistance in the form of secured (direct) loans, lines of credit, and loan guarantees to public and private sponsors of eligible surface transportation projects. TIFIA regulations (49 CFR part 80) provide specific guidance on the program requirements.

On January 5, 2001, at 65 FR 2827, the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) delegated to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) the authority to act as the Executive Agent for the TIFIA program (49 CFR 1.48(nn)). The TIFIA Joint Program Office (TIFIA JPO), within the FHWA, has responsibility for coordinating program implementation.

Since funding for this program is limited, the U.S. DOT will evaluate and select projects based on their merits and satisfaction of the TIFIA statutory criteria. For each selected project the U.S. DOT will issue a term sheet outlining the basic conditions of the credit assistance. Subsequently, U.S. DOT will negotiate a definitive credit agreement with each of those project sponsors.

#### Types of Credit Assistance Available

The Secretary may provide credit assistance in the form of secured (direct) loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit. These types of credit assistance are defined in 23 U.S.C. 181 and 49 CFR 80.3.

#### Program Funding and Limitations on Assistance

TIFIA establishes annual funding ceilings for both total credit assistance (*i.e.*, the total principal amount that may be committed in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, or lines of credit) and subsidy costs (*i.e.*, the amount of budget authority available to cover the estimated present value of the Government's expected losses associated with the provision of credit instruments, net of any fee income). Funding for the subsidy costs is provided in the form of budget authority from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account).

Total Federal credit assistance currently authorized for the TIFIA program is \$2.4 billion in FY 2002 and \$2.6 billion in FY 2003. Unused credit amounts lapse at the end of the year for which it is authorized. To support this assistance, TIFIA provides budget authority to fund subsidy costs of \$120 million in FY 2002 and \$130 million in FY 2003. Any budget authority not obligated in the fiscal year for which it is initially authorized remains available