

persons who have previously expressed an interest or are known to have an interest in this project.

TxDOT will conduct two public meetings in February 2006. The public meetings will be conducted in an open house format with no formal presentation. At least 30 days and 10 days prior to the public scoping meetings, notices will be published in newspapers generally circulated in the project area. These will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Persons interested in attending these meetings who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the local TxDOT Public Information Office at (713) 802-5072 at least two days prior to the meetings. Because the public meetings will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two days prior to the public meetings. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

Public involvement will occur throughout the planning process. Public notice will be given stating the time and place of future public meetings and hearings. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed actions 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 TxDOT at the address provided. Additional project information may be obtained by visiting the project Web site at <http://www.bolivarbridge.com>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding governmental consultation on federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Gary Johnson,

Acting District Engineer, FHWA Texas Division.

[FR Doc. 06-1238 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, TX

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), TxDOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent, Grand Parkway Segments H and I-1 EIS.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed State Highway (SH) 99 (Grand Parkway Segments H and I-1) connecting US 59 (N) to IH 10 (E) in Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gary Johnson, P.E., Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division, 300 East 8th Street, Room 826, Austin, Texas 78701, Telephone (512) 536-5960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with TxDOT and the Grand Parkway Association, will prepare an EIS for transportation alternatives included in Segments H and I-1 of the proposed Grand Parkway. Segments H and I-1 are located on the northeast side of the greater Houston metropolitan area and span the area from US 59 (N) to IH 10 (E) generally between FM 2100 and SH 146 in Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, a distance of approximately 36 miles.

The proposed Grand Parkway is planned as a 182-mile circumferential highway facility around the greater Houston metropolitan area. It would provide access to radial freeways and would serve as a third loop around the City of Houston. The Grand Parkway has been divided into 11 segments of independent utility. Currently, Segment D (US 59 S to IH 10 W) of the Grand Parkway is open to the traveling public. Segment D is 19 miles long and is located on the southwest side of the greater Houston metropolitan area. The remaining Segments A (SH 146 to IH 45 S), B (IH 45 S to SH 288), C (US 59 S to SH 288), E (IH 10 W to US 290), F1 (US 290 to SH 249), F2 (SH 249 to IH 45 N), G (IH 45 N to US 59 N), and I-2 (IH 10 E to SH 146) are in various stages of project development. Segments H and I-1 are planned as a four-lane, limited access, toll facility within a 400-foot wide right-of-way.

The Grand Parkway (SH 99) is a key element of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan, a transportation program developed by the Houston-

Galveston Area Council. The project is proposed as a toll facility in the 2025 regional plan.

The EIS will include a preferred alternative alignment, number of lanes, roadway configuration, and operational characteristics of the proposed roadway. Alternatives to be studied include "no-action" (the no-build alternative), Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) alternative; mass transit alternative and roadway build alternatives. The EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed roadway including, but not limited to, the following: transportation impacts (construction detours, construction traffic, mobility improvement and evacuation improvement), air, and noise impacts from construction equipment and operation of the facilities, water quality impacts from construction area and roadway storm water runoff, impacts to waters of the United States including wetlands from right-of-way encroachment, impacts to historic and archeological resources, impacts of floodplains, and impacts and/or potential displacements to residents and businesses.

Correspondence describing the proposed project and soliciting comments has been sent to appropriate Federal, state, regional, and local agencies, and to organizations and persons who have previously expressed an interest or are known to have an interest in this project.

TxDOT and the Grand Parkway Association will conduct a series of public scoping meetings in March 2006 held in two separate locations. The public scoping meetings will be conducted in an open house format with no formal presentation and both meetings will present the same information. At least 30 days and 10 days prior to the public scoping meetings, notices will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the project area. These will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Persons who have special communication, access, or accommodation needs should contact TxDOT's public information office at (713) 802-5072 at least two working days prior to the meeting. TxDOT offices are open Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding national holidays. The public meetings will be conducted in English. Requests for language interpreters should also be

made at least two working days in advance of the meeting/hearing/workshop. TxDOT will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate these needs.

Public involvement will occur throughout the planning process. Public notice will be given stating the time and place of future public meetings and hearings. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a 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 FHWA at the address provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding governmental consultation on federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Gary N. Johnson,

Acting District Engineer, FHWA Texas Division.

[FR Doc. 06-1239 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

FTA Fiscal year 2006 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information; Notice of Supplemental Information

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice supplements the notice concerning FTA Fiscal Year 2006 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information, dated as of December 20, 2005, as changed and corrected by the FTA Fiscal Year 2006 Apportionments and Allocations Changes and Corrections; Announcement of States Selected for Participation in Section 5310 Pilot Program, dated as of February 3, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David B. Horner, Esq., Chief Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 or at (202) 366-4063 or by e-mail at David.Horner@fta.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Reference is made to the Appropriation for

“Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” set forth in Division A of title I of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 (“FY2006 Act”). Please be advised that pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5334(a)(9), the Secretary of Transportation may include in an agreement or instrument entered into between the U.S. Department of Transportation and a recipient of funds under 49 U.S.C. 5301 *et seq.* (the “Federal Transit Law”) a covenant or term the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the Federal Transit Law or the FY2006 Act, including, without limitation, a covenant or term governing payment for the capital portions of rail trackage rights or the enforcement of payments required by the FY2006 Act.

Dated: Issued on the 6th day of February, 2006.

Sandra K. Bushue,

Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 06-1225 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number 2006 23744]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel Bert's Boy.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383 and Public Law 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2006-23744 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Public Law 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have

an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2006 23744. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel Bert's Boy is:

Intended Use: “Charter for recreational use of passengers, perhaps with or without a professional captain. The primary commercial venture will be located in Florida where the rentals occur in the winter.”

Geographic Region: East Coast, primarily Florida, including the states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire.

Dated: February 6, 2006.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-1899 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P