

combination only, on the authorized routes.

*Docket Number:* OST-1995-766.

*Date Filed:* July 14, 2006.

*Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope:* August 4, 2006.

*Description:* Application of American Airlines, Inc. requesting renewal of its certificate authority to serve between U.S. points and Barcelona, Spain on segment 3 of its certificate for Route 602.

*Docket Number:* OST-1996-1394.

*Date Filed:* July 14, 2006.

*Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope:* August 4, 2006.

*Description:* Application of American Airlines, Inc. requesting renewal of segment 4 of its certificate for Route 602, authorizing scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between the coterminous points Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX and Miami, FL, the intermediate points the Azores and Lisbon, Portugal, and the coterminous points Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, and Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

**Renee V. Wright,**

*Program Manager, Docket Operations, Federal Register Liaison.*

[FR Doc. E6-12312 Filed 7-31-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Shelby County, AL

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Shelby County, Alabama.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catherine A. Batey, Acting Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 500 Eastern Boulevard, Suite 200, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, Telephone: (334) 223-7370.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the State of Alabama Department of Transportation, Shelby County Highway Department, and the city of Helena, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Alabama Project ST-059-261-004. The proposed project is to construct a new, multi-lane facility within the

corporate limits of Helena (Shelby County), Alabama, from Shelby County Road 52 northeastward to State Route 261, a distance of approximately 4 miles. The purpose of this proposed action is to provide an alternate route around historic downtown Helena. Existing and future traffic demands warrant additional lanes and/or an alternate route. Opportunities for further defining the purpose and need for the proposed project will be provided to the participating agencies and the public through scoping and public meetings.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) alternate route locations; and (2) a no-action or no-build alternative. Opportunities for providing additional alternatives by participating agencies and the public will be accomplished through a scoping meeting and a public meeting. These opportunities will insure a full range of alternatives have been considered.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations and citizens that have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A series of public involvement meetings will be initiated, and public hearings will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place for the meetings and hearings. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearings.

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. An interagency scoping meeting will be held. The time and date for the scoping meeting will be coordinated as the project develops. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and 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: July 26, 2006.

**Bill Van Luchene,**

*Acting Division Administrator, Montgomery, Alabama.*

[FR Doc. 06-6599 Filed 7-31-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket Nos. FMCSA-01-10578, FMCSA-04-17195]

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of renewal of exemption; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces its decision to renew the exemptions from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for 5 individuals. FMCSA has statutory authority to exempt individuals from the vision requirement if the exemptions granted will not compromise safety. The Agency has concluded that granting these exemptions will provide a level of safety that will be equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety maintained without the exemptions for these commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers.

**DATES:** This decision is effective August 1, 2006. Comments must be received on or before August 31, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Management System (DMS) Docket Numbers FMCSA-01-10578, FMCSA-04-17195, using any of the following methods.

- Web site: <http://dmses.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, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the Agency name and docket numbers for this Notice. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading for further information.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or

comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or 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. The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want us to notify you that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting comments on-line.

**Privacy Act:** Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or of the person signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the Department of Transportation's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477; Apr. 11, 2000). This information is also available at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Mary D. Gunnels, Chief, Physical Qualifications Division, (202) 366-4001, [maggi.gunnels@dot.gov](mailto:maggi.gunnels@dot.gov) FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 8301, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Exemption Decision**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may renew an exemption from the vision requirements in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce, for a two-year period if it finds "such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption." The procedures for requesting an exemption (including renewals) are set out in 49 CFR part 381. This Notice addresses 5 individuals who have requested renewal of their exemptions in a timely manner. FMCSA has evaluated these 5 applications for renewal on their merits and decided to extend each exemption for a renewable two-year period. They are: Manuel A. Almeida, Donald E. Hathaway, Jose M. Suarez, Stephen D. Vice, and Richard A. Yeager.

These exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) That each individual have a physical examination every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye

continues to meet the standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a medical examiner who attests that the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) that each individual provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file and retain a copy of the certification on his/her person while driving for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. Each exemption will be valid for two years unless rescinded earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be rescinded if: (1) The person fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315.

##### **Basis for Renewing Exemptions**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1), an exemption may be granted for no longer than two years from its approval date and may be renewed upon application for additional two year periods. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each of the 5 applicants has satisfied the entry conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirements (66 FR 53826; 66 FR 66966; 69 FR 17267; 69 FR 17263; 69 FR 31447). Each of these 5 applicants has requested timely renewal of the exemption and has submitted evidence showing that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the standard specified at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) and that the vision impairment is stable. In addition, a review of each record of safety while driving with the respective vision deficiencies over the past two years indicates each applicant continues to meet the vision exemption standards. These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver's ability to continue to drive safely in interstate commerce. Therefore, FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each renewal applicant for a period of two years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

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

FMCSA will review comments received at any time concerning a particular driver's safety record and determine if the continuation of the exemption is consistent with the

requirements at 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315. However, FMCSA requests that interested parties with specific data concerning the safety records of these drivers submit comments by August 31, 2006.

FMCSA believes that the requirements for a renewal of an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 can be satisfied by initially granting the renewal and then requesting and evaluating, if needed, subsequent comments submitted by interested parties. As indicated above, the Agency previously published Notices of final disposition announcing its decision to exempt these 5 individuals from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10). That final decision to grant the exemption to each of these individuals was based on the merits of each case and only after careful consideration of the comments received to its Notices of applications. Those Notices of applications stated in detail the qualifications, experience, and medical condition of each applicant for an exemption from the vision requirements. That information is available by consulting the above cited **Federal Register** publications.

Interested parties or organizations possessing information that would otherwise show that any, or all of these drivers, are not currently achieving the statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any adverse evidence submitted and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

Issued on: July 25, 2006.

**Rose A. McMurray**,  
Associate Administrator, Policy and Program Development.

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**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

### **Internal Revenue Service**

#### **Open Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An open meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer