

(6) The extent to which the country has taken steps to become a party to and implements the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

(7) The extent to which the country applies transparent, nondiscriminatory and competitive procedures in government procurement, and contributes to efforts in international fora to develop and implement rules on transparency in government procurement.

Public Comment

Written comments should be addressed to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room F516, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. Twenty copies must be submitted. Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on September 14, 2001. Non-confidential information received will be available for public inspection by appointment, in the USTR Reading Room, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-395-6186. All submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR part 2003. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,
Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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BILLING CODE 3190-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[Docket No. FTA-2001-10349]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the following currently approved information collection: 49 U.S.C. Sections 5309 and 5307 Capital Assistance Programs.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before October 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the United States Department of Transportation, Central Dockets Office, PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard/envelope.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sue Masselink, Office of Program Management, (202) 366-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FTA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.

Title: 49 U.S.C. Sections 5309 and 5307 Capital Assistance Programs (OMB Number: 2132-0543).

Background

49 U.S.C. Sections 5309 Capital Program and Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to State and local governments and public transportation authorities for financing mass transportation projects. Grant recipients are required to make information available to the public and to publish a program of projects for affected citizens to comment on the proposed program and performance of the grant recipients at public hearings. Notices of hearings must include a brief description of the proposed project and be published in a newspaper circulated in the affected area. FTA also uses the information to determine eligibility for funding and to monitor the grantees' progress in implementing and completing project activities. The information submitted ensures FTA's compliance with applicable federal laws and OMB Circular A-102.

Respondents: State and local government, business or other for-profit institutions, and non-profit institutions.

Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents: 54 hours for each of the 3,675 respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 198,466 hours.

Frequency: Annual.

Issued: August 7, 2001.

Dorrie Y. Aldrich,

Associate Administrator for Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-20153 Filed 8-9-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement on Transit Improvements Between Denver and Golden, CO

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing this notice to advise agencies and the public that, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FTA and the Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD), in cooperation with the Denver Regional Council of Governments, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate transit improvements, including a potential light rail transit (LRT) line, in the West Corridor from Denver to Lakewood and Golden in Jefferson County, Colorado.

DATES: Three public scoping meetings, one meeting each in Denver, Lakewood, and Golden, Colorado, will be held in September 2001. Details as to the specific locations, dates, and times of the public scoping meetings will be advertised in local newspapers and other media. An interagency scoping meeting will be held on August 30, 2001 at 9 a.m. in the RTD Conference Room. See **ADDRESSES** below. Written comments on the scope of the EIS, including the alternatives to be considered and the impacts to be studied, may be sent to David Hollis, Project Manager, Regional Transportation District by October 14, 2001. See **ADDRESSES** below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the project scope should be sent to David Hollis, Project Manager, Regional Transportation District, Systems Planning Division, Planning and Development Department, 1600 Blake Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1399. Telephone: 303-299-2404; fax: 303-299-2425. The interagency scoping meeting on August 30, 2001 at 9 a.m.

will be in the RTD Conference Room, Alamo Building, Suite 560, 1401 Seventeenth Street, Denver, Colorado 80202. All scoping meetings will be held in wheelchair-accessible locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Beckhouse, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, (303) 844-3242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Scoping

FTA and RTD will establish the scope of the EIS for the West Corridor after evaluating the results of the Major Investment Study (MIS) for the corridor completed in July 1997, after consulting with Federal, State, and local resource and regulatory agencies through meetings and correspondence, and after hearing from the general public. Interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to participate in defining the alternatives to be evaluated and related issues of concern. A summary of the MIS and its results is available for public review at the following public libraries: Denver Central Library (10 West 14th Avenue, Denver), Lakewood Library (10200 West 20th Avenue, Lakewood), and Golden Library (1019 10th Street, Golden). The MIS summary is will also be available on the project website at www.rtdwestcorridor.com after September 1, 2001, or by contacting David Hollis, the RTD project manager, at the address and phone numbers given above under **ADDRESSES**. Also contact Mr. Hollis to be placed on the project mailing list and receive information about the public scoping meetings and the project newsletter. Written comments on the alternatives and potential impacts to be considered should be sent to David Hollis of RTD.

II. Description of Corridor and Transportation Needs

Federal transit law requires that projects proposed for FTA funding come from a long range metropolitan transportation plan that is fiscally constrained and conforms to State air quality plans. The Denver Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies additional capacity for east-west travel in the West Corridor as one of the most needed projects that is affordable by the region over the next 20 years. Because the Denver region is an air quality non-attainment area for carbon monoxide and small particulate matter (PM-10), the RTP must consider air quality in its prioritization of transportation projects for the region. The RTP identifies the need for transit improvements in the West Corridor to address existing as

well as projected congestion and to improve air quality, or at least to not degrade it any further. The West Corridor Transit Project is included in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

III. Proposed Action

The EIS scoping process will include an evaluation of the results of the MIS for the West Corridor completed in July 1997, which looked at several alternatives to handle the travel demand in the West Corridor, within the boundaries of Alameda Avenue and 26th Avenue and the city of Golden and the Central Business District (CBD) of Denver. The locally preferred alternative (LPA) of the MIS was LRT on new double tracks from the CBD along the existing right-of-way of the former Associated Railroad and Denver Interurban Transit line. This right-of-way runs west from Denver to Lakewood generally between 12th and 13th Avenues to the Cold Spring Park-n-Ride at 6th Avenue and Simms. The LRT line would continue west of the Cold Spring Park-n-Ride to a location near the junction of US 6 and US 40. The LRT line will also have to cross the South Platte River to connect with the Central Platte Valley Corridor LRT line currently under construction. Roadway, pedestrian and bike improvements were included in the LPA, with improved passenger waiting areas at bus stops, a multiple-use trail, and sidewalk improvements. Modifications to bus service in the West Corridor were also proposed in the LPA, including new circulator and feeder routes to connect residential and employment areas of the corridor with the LRT system. Transit service to and from the CBD and the West Corridor neighborhoods would be improved during peak travel periods. These recommendations were approved by Denver Regional Council of Governments and included in the fiscally constrained RTP and the MetroVision 2020 master plan.

IV. Public Involvement

A comprehensive public involvement program has been developed. The program includes a project web site (www.rtdwestcorridor.com); outreach to local and county officials and community and civic groups; a public scoping process to define the issues of concern among all parties interested in the project; a public hearing on release of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS); establishment of walk-in project offices in the corridor; and development and distribution of project newsletters.

V. Alternatives

FTA and RTD propose that the EIS evaluate the following three alternatives. The no-action alternative is the option of implementing nothing more than the existing and committed road and transit systems. The TSM alternative includes various transportation improvements beyond the existing and committed projects plus enhanced bus transit service in the West Corridor. The MIS LPA will be evaluated as the proposed project. This alternative includes an LRT line extending from the Central Platte Valley Corridor across the South Platte River west along the existing Associated Railroad right-of-way to the Cold Spring Park-n-Ride facility and extending further west along a new right-of-way to a location near the junction of US 6 and US 40. The EIS will also consider any additional reasonable alternatives identified during scoping that provide similar transportation benefits while reducing or avoiding adverse impacts.

VI. Probable Effects and Potential Impacts for Analysis

The FTA and RTD will evaluate all environmental, social, and economic impacts of the alternatives analyzed in the EIS. The impact areas to be addressed include land use; visual/aesthetic values; ecosystems; mineral resources; cultural and historical resources; water quality, floodplains, and drainage; air quality; noise and vibration; traffic and parking; hazardous materials; utilities; energy use and conservation; public safety and security; and community and economic impacts. The EIS will evaluate potential environmental justice issues as well as secondary, cumulative, and construction-related impacts. The need for right-of-way acquisitions and relocations will also be evaluated. Alternative alignments, designs, station locations, and other measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts will be developed and evaluated.

VII. FTA Procedures

In accordance with FTA policy, all Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders affecting project development, including but not limited to the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality and FTA implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508, and 23 CFR part 771), the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 12898 regarding environmental justice, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, and Section

4(f) of the DOT Act, will be addressed to the maximum extent practicable during the NEPA process. In addition, RTD seeks \$ 5309 New Starts funding for the project and will therefore be subject to the FTA New Starts regulation (49 CFR part 611). This New Starts regulation requires the submission of certain specified information to FTA to support an RTD request to initiate preliminary engineering, which is normally done in conjunction with the NEPA process.

Dated: August 7, 2001.

Lee O. Waddleton,

FTA Regional Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Revenue Procedure 2001-42

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Revenue Procedure 2001-42, Modified

Endowment Contract Correction Program Extension.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before October 9, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the revenue procedure should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5242, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Modified Endowment Contract Correction Program Extension.

OMB Number: 1545-1752.

Revenue Procedure Number: Revenue Procedure 2001-42.

Abstract: Revenue Procedure 2001-42 allows issuers of life insurance contracts whose contracts have failed to meet the tests provided in section 7702A of the Internal Revenue Code to cure these contracts that have inadvertently become modified endowment contracts.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the revenue procedure at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Average Time Per

Respondent: 100 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Reporting

Hours: 1,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: August 7, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-20147 Filed 8-9-01; 8:45 am]

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