

international secured finance interests in mobile equipment, including, at this stage, aircraft, to be followed by rail equipment and space and satellite equipment. A Rail Working Group authorized by UNIDROIT has undertaken work on the current draft protocol on provisions specific to rail equipment financing. Provision may be made at a future date for protocols on other categories of equipment, such as containers, construction and agricultural equipment, certain types of vessels, etc. Other international bodies participate as appropriate. Completion of the basic Convention and aircraft protocol is expected by mid-2001. Completion of the protocol on rail equipment is expected to follow.

The proposed Convention and equipment specific protocols together are intended to provide comprehensive international rules on financing interests in such equipment and could thus stimulate the development of these industries in many countries as well as increase the capacity of many countries to finance such equipment through private sector capital markets. This can enhance infrastructure growth, as well as reduce reliance on direct government funding or use of sovereign debt, which in turn would facilitate privatization and market development.

Key features of the draft Convention include the creation of internationally enforceable interests pursuant to the Convention; providing for regional or international computer-based registry systems for notice of finance interests; provisions on assignments of such interests; priorities based on filing; and optional provisions on key finance issues such as default remedies, insolvency, etc. Proposed new registration systems for rail finance authorized under the protocol are intended to facilitate processes, equivalent to that utilized in North America, to support asset-based finance in other regions, and may provide for linkage between registration systems to facilitate cross-border finance and the export of such equipment.

Attendance

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the offices of the Association of American Railroads (AAR), Conference Center (4th floor) 50 "F" Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. The meeting is open to the public. Persons wishing to attend should contact Peter Bloch, Department of Transportation, Office of General Counsel, (202) 366-9183, fax 366-9188; Louis P. Warchot at AAR at 202-639-2500, fax 639-2868; or Harold Burman, Department of State, Office of

Legal Adviser (L/PIL), at 202-776-8421, fax 776-8482, email pildb@his.com, not later than Friday, November 10.

Documents

Basic Convention drafts on mobile equipment and the aircraft protocol are available at www.UNIDROIT.org, scroll to "news". Revised versions will be available shortly which reflect recent changes; the changes do not affect the basic structure or the purpose of the operative provisions. The draft Rail Equipment Protocol is available from the AAR or the Office of Legal Adviser, or may be provided to attendees by fax on request.

Harold S. Burman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, United States Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-28645 Filed 11-3-00; 1:21 pm]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Meeting of the Committee of Chairs of the Industry Sector and Functional Advisory Committees

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Administrative

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Committee of Chairs of the Industry Sector and Functional Advisory Committees will hold a meeting on November 28, 2000, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and opened to the public from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss the review of the Trade Advisory Committee System.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2000, unless otherwise notified.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Conference Room 1, located at 1724 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., unless otherwise notified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia Prosak, (202) 482-3268, Department of Commerce, 14th St. and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, or Dominic Bianchi, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F. St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508, (202) 395-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During the opened portion of the meeting the Committee of Chairs will present their

report on recommendations for reform of the Trade Advisory System.

Dominic Bianchi,

Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison.

[FR Doc. 00-28518 Filed 11-6-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Southcentral, Alaska

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Amended Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing this amended notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for the proposed Copper River Highway project in Southcentral, Alaska.

ADDRESSES: Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division, 709 West 9th Street, Room 851, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1648.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Haugh, Environmental/Right-of-Way Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division Office, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska, 99802-1648.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) have agreed to terminate the preparation of the Copper River Highway Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS was to study a proposed highway route, along the old Copper River and Northwest Railroad right-of-way, which would connect the City of Cordova to the Alaskan highway system. In September 2000, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities made a decision to not pursue the proposed highway project, thus this notice is to rescind the earlier notice, which was published in the **Federal Register** on February 27, 1992. Letters describing the termination of the Copper River Highway Environmental Impact Statement will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed an interest in or are known to have an interest in this action. This information will be published in various newspapers throughout the State of

Alaska in affected regions and posted on-line on the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities home page (www.dot.state.ak.us). No formal public meetings or hearings are scheduled. Comments concerning the proposed action should be directed to the Federal Highway Administration at the address provided above.

Dated: October 30, 2000.

David C. Miller,

Division Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-28457 Filed 11-6-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-00-8228]

Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice regarding upcoming UN/ECE WP.29 Session in Geneva, Switzerland.

SUMMARY: The UN/ECE World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (UN/ECE WP.29) will hold its one hundred and twenty second session on November 7-10, 2000. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that NHTSA will not be ready at that session in Geneva to submit its recommendations concerning the establishment of priorities under the 1998 Global Agreement. Further, NHTSA has decided that holding a public meeting to discuss the upcoming November session is not warranted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Julie Abraham, Director, Office of International Policy and Harmonization, NPP-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2114. Fax: (202) 366-2559.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. NHTSA's Final Recommendations

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Agreement Concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts Which Can Be Fitted and/or Used on Wheeled Vehicles (1998 Global Agreement) has entered into force on August 25, 2000. In anticipation of the

agreement's entry into force, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a notice on July 12, 2000, seeking public comments on its preliminary recommendations for the first motor vehicle safety technical regulations or aspects of regulations to be considered for establishment under the 1998 Global Agreement.

In the notice (published July 18, 2000; 65 Fed. Reg. 44565), NHTSA categorized its recommendations into two main groups: (1) priority recommendations and (2) other recommendations. The priority items included generally those foreign standards and/or aspects of those standards that may represent best current safety practices from existing national and regional regulations, and whose addition to the existing Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) would improve the level of vehicle safety in the U.S. In the notice, the agency stated that, in allocating its resources, it will give priority to the recommendations in this category.

The "Other Recommendations" group comprised those U.S. standards or aspects of those standards that may represent best current safety practices and should be therefore considered by other contracting parties to the 1998 Global Agreement in the establishment of global technical regulations.

In addition to the above mentioned categories, the notice also referred to the suggestions that had been received by the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) from the governments of Japan and the Russian Federation and various industry and consumer groups. These suggestions are posted in the NHTSA docket (NHTSA-00-7638).

In the notice, NHTSA sought comments on its preliminary recommendations. It specifically asked whether any changes should be made to its list of preliminary recommendations and whether any of the standards listed in the proposals submitted to WP.29 by other governments and by non-governmental organizations should be added to NHTSA's list. In addition, NHTSA asked whether the agency's rulemaking priority activities under the Vehicle Safety Act and those under WP.29 should be linked, and if so, to what extent?

NHTSA received comments from Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Flat Glass Manufacturers Association of Japan, Honda, the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA), the

Rubber Manufacturers Association, and Toyota.

NHTSA had anticipated completing its consideration of the public comments and publishing a revised list of recommendations prior to the November 7-10, 2000 meeting of WP.29 so that it could formally present its recommendations to WP.29 at that meeting. However, the agency has not completed its analysis of the comments and will not be ready to make such a proposal at the November 2000 meeting. The agency anticipates completing its analysis and publishing the final list prior to the March 2001 meeting and then submitting it at that meeting.

II. Upcoming November 7-10, 2000 WP.29 Meeting

In its Statement of Policy on Agency Policy Goals and Public Participation in the Implementation of the 1998 Agreement on Global Technical Regulations (published August 23, 2000; 65 Fed. Reg. 51236), NHTSA stated that it would hold periodic public meetings on its activities under the 1998 Global Agreement. It said further that if the extent of recent and anticipated significant developments concerning those activities so warrant, NHTSA would hold a public meeting within the 60-day period before each of the three sessions of WP.29 held annually.

NHTSA decided that holding a public meeting before the November WP.29 meeting was not warranted. Although NHTSA anticipates that the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the 1998 Global Agreement will take place during this session, that meeting will not address the setting of priorities or the establishing of particular standards under that Agreement. The meeting will focus instead on discussing the administrative procedures that will be followed in implementing the 1998 Global Agreement such as the working of the Compendium, meeting time for the Executive Committee, etc. The technical regulations listed on the agenda are those being considered under the 1958 Agreement. For information purposes, NHTSA has placed the agenda for the November 2000 meeting in the docket for this notice.

Issued on November 2, 2000.

Julie Abraham,

Director, Office of International Policy and Harmonization.

[FR Doc. 00-28532 Filed 11-02-00; 8:45 am]

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