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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Termination of Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, Wisconsin

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise that FHWA is terminating the Environmental Policy Act (EIS) process at the conclusion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Major Investment Study (DEIS/MIS) phase of the project development. The FHWA and the WisDOT have jointly decided to not continue with completion of the EIS process for the IH 94 East-West Corridor Study. Work completed to date on the DEIS/MIS will serve as a starting point for developing environmental analysis and documentation for potential individual projects expected to follow. The DEIS/MIS was completed and made available to the public on November 8, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William K. Fung, FHWA Wisconsin Division Administrator; Telephone: (608) 829-7500, FHWA Wisconsin Division Office, 567 D'Onofrio Drive, Madison, WI 53719-2814.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Electronic Access**

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (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>.

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is closing the Major Investment Study (MIS) for the I-94 East-West Corridor study in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, Wisconsin. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/MIS was made available to the public on November 8, 1996. The DEIS/MIS evaluated five transportation components: (1) Redesign of the Marquette Interchange (I-94/I-43/I-794); (2) re-design of the East-West Freeway (I-94) between downtown Milwaukee and Waukesha; (3) special purpose lanes for carpools and buses in the East-West Freeway Corridor; (4) light rail transit in Milwaukee County; and (5) expanded bus transit service throughout the metro Milwaukee area.

A Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) which included all five of the above-mentioned transportation components was accepted by the relevant county boards in 1997. However, none of the elements of the LPA have advanced into preliminary engineering. Developing the

LPA completed the MIS process. Therefore, FHWA is concluding the Major Investment Study process for the I-94 East-West Corridor in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties.

Because the corridor-wide MIS is in place, and recognizing that the components of the LPA are unlikely to proceed on the same schedule, the I-94 East-West Corridor DEIS will not be followed by a corridor-wide Final EIS or Record of Decision. The previous work completed on the DEIS will now serve to provide a solid foundation of information on which to begin environmental analysis of individual components. Then, if found to satisfy State and Federal requirements, the individual component could be advanced through the final design and construction phases. Advancing an individual component requires its own sponsoring agency. This advancement of a component would not preclude or assure that another component would move forward.

(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)

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

Issued on: June 14, 2000.

William K. Fung,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Madison, WI.

[FR Doc. 00-16005 Filed 6-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

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 Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William C. Farr, Program Operations Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, Telephone: (225) 757-7615, Facsimile: (225) 757-7601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD), will

prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a new highway facility on an alignment to be determined. The proposed project, known locally as the Kansas Lane Connector, is generally located in the northeast quadrant of Monroe, Louisiana. The roadway includes several alternates based on the number of bridges needed for various alignments. The approximate length of the project is 4.3 kilometers (2.7 miles). Final length will depend on the alternative selected.

The proposed improvements would improve the connectivity, travel time, and safety of the area and increase regional access to the area, including the University of Louisiana at Monroe for persons, businesses and industry in the region.

The western terminus of the proposed project will be in the vicinity of the junction of U.S. Highway 165 and Forsythe Avenue and the eastern terminus will be in the vicinity of the junction of U.S. Highway 80 and Kansas Lane.

Alternatives to be considered are:

(1) The "Do-nothing" Alternative, where the current and existing highways will be repaired and maintained in their present location, capacity, and character.

(2) The "Build" Alternative, considering several different alignments, roadway type and control of access.

An agency scoping meeting will be held at a time and place to be determined at a later date. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies and to private organizations, including conservation groups and groups of individuals who have expressed interest in the project in the past. At least one public informational meeting will be held in the project area that will be affected. In addition, a Public Hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public informational meeting(s) and the Public Hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the 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 the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning