

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Jackson County, NC**

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 from NC 107 to U.S. 23-74 east of Sylva, Jackson County, NC. (TIP Project R-4745.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Clarence W. Coleman, P.E., Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, Telephone: (919) 747-7014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed NC 107 Connector from NC 107 to U.S. 23-74 east of Sylva. The purpose of this project is to relieve traffic congestion in the Sylva area. The proposed action is consistent with the Sylva Thoroughfare Plan adopted in 1994 and the Jackson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan that is anticipated for adoption in 2009. The following alternatives will be studied: (1) The "no-build" alternative, (2) improve existing facilities and (3) a new location.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies. Opportunities will be provided for involvement with the public in defining the project purpose and need and determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. Citizens' informational workshops and meetings with local officials will be held in the study area. Upon completion of the draft EIS, a public hearing will be held. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. Information on the time and place of the workshops and hearings will be provided in the local news media.

An interagency project team is being assembled to obtain input on major milestones during the project's development. These include the purpose and need, detailed study alternatives, bridge lengths, alignment reviews, the preferred alternative, and

avoidance and minimization of environmental impacts.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action is addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning the proposed action should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

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

Issued on: September 25, 2008.

Clarence W. Coleman,
Operations Engineer, Raleigh, North Carolina.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD-2008 0091]

**Requested Administrative Waiver of
the Coastwise Trade Laws**

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel FELIX.

SUMMARY: As authorized by 46 U.S.C. 12121, 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 MARAD-2008-0091 at <http://www.regulations.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 46 U.S.C. 12121 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 October 31, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2008-0091. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. 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://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W21-203, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel FELIX is:

Intended Use: "Day charter passenger operations, possible overnight charter."

Geographic Region: "Eastern Seaboard and their inland tributaries including the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida."

Privacy Act

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78).

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: September 25, 2008.

Leonard Sutter,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-23108 Filed 9-30-08; 8:45 am]

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