

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Town Boone, Watauga County, NC**

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 within Watauga County, North Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Emily O. Lawton, Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, Telephone (919) 856-4350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed improvement of US 421 to multi-lanes from NC 105 Bypass to east of SR 1514 (Bamboo Road) in Watauga County (approximately 5.3 miles). The proposed action is to upgrade this section of US 421 to a high speed, multi-lane facility. US 421, the primary east-west corridor in the north-western part of the state, connects the North Carolina coastal region (Wilmington) to the western part of the state and, ultimately, to Tennessee. This proposed project is a portion of the projects proposed for US 421 in the NCDOT's 2004-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Alternatives under consideration include: (1) "no-build", (2) widening the existing facility, and (3) multiple bypass alternatives for a four-lane divided facility control of access.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies. A Citizens Informational Workshop and meetings with local officials and neighborhood groups will be held in the study area. Public hearings will also be held. Information on the time and place of the public hearings will be provided in the local news media and project newsletters. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment at the time of the hearing. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

To ensure the full range of issues related to the proposed action are addressed and all significant issues 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).

Emily O. Lawton,

Operations Engineer, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Internal Revenue Service****Proposed Collection; Comment
Request for Form 2758**

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 Form 2578, Application for Extension of Time To File Certain Excise, Income, and Other Returns.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 2, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3945, or through the Internet at CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Extension of Time To File Certain Excise, Income, Information, and Other Returns.

OMB Number: 1545-0148.

Form Number: 2758.

Abstract: Internal Revenue Code section 6081 allows a reasonable

extension of time for filing any return, declaration, statement, or other document. Form 2758 is used by fiduciaries, trustees, and certain other organizations to request an extension of time to file their returns. The information is used to determine whether the extension should be granted.

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

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 70,371.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 5 hours, 21 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 375,923.

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: November 28, 2003.

R. Joseph Durbala,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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