

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX A

Communications

- EQB Monitor Announcements (2)



Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document and Notice of Scoping Hearing

Trunk Highway (T.H.) 14 West, North Mankato to New Ulm

The project is approximately 22 miles long and is located in Nicollet County, Minnesota from State Highway 15, just east of New Ulm, to County Road 6 near North Mankato. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) has identified high crash rates along the corridor and at three intersections, lack of passing zones, high percentage of truck traffic and future levels of congestion, all indicating a need to improve the roadway. Therefore MN DOT is proposing to address safety, operations and geometric issues by reconstructing this section of Trunk Highway 14.

A public scoping meeting will be held on April 23, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. at the Courtland Community Center, 300 Railroad Street. Mark Scheidel, Project Manager, MN DOT, District 7, Mankato Office, 501 S. Victory Drive, Mankato, MN 56002; telephone 507-389-6149, fax 507-389-6281 or Email to mark.scheidel@dot.state.mn.us



Correction

TH 14 West, North Mankato to New Ulm

Comments are due by Friday, May 2, 2003, when the comment period closes.

The Trunk Highway 14, North Mankato to New Ulm, Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document is available for review and Scoping Hearings are scheduled. MN/DOT is proposing to reconstruct approximately 22 miles of TH 14 from County Road 6 near North Mankato to State Highway 15 just east of New Ulm in Nicollet County, Minnesota.

The Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document is available for review at the following places during regular business hours:

- Mn/DOT District 7, 501 S. Victory Drive, Mankato
- Blue Earth County Public Library, 100 East Main Street, Mankato
- North Mankato Public Library, 1001 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato
- New Ulm Public Library, 17 North Broadway, New Ulm
- City of Courtland (by appointment), 300 Railroad Street, Courtland
- City of Nicollet (by appointment), 205 Pine Street, Nicollet

The Scoping Hearings/Open House are scheduled for: Wednesday, April 23, 2003; Courtland Community Center; 300 Railroad Street

- Interagency Hearing 2:00 to 3:30 PM

- Public Hearing 4:30 to 7:00 PM
- Open House Continuous

A presentation on the scope of the project will be given at the formal hearings followed by public and agency comment for the record. The interactive Open House will give the public an opportunity to discuss the project one-on-one with Mn/DOT staff, the consultant Project Team, and the TH 14 Advisory Committee.

All written and verbal comments will be included in the public record. Verbal comments can be made at the Scoping Hearings and will be recorded by a Court Reporter. Written comments can be submitted at the Scoping Hearings or sent to Mn/DOT District 7 by mail, fax, or e-mail.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Mark Scheidel, Project Manager, MN/DOT - District 7, Mankato Office, 501 South Victory Drive, Mankato, MN 56002-4039; 507-389-6149, Fax: 507-389-6281, E-mail: mark.scheidel@dot.state.mn.us

APPENDIX A

Communications

- Coordination Letter



Howard R. Green Company

DATE: March 31, 2003

TO: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Distribution List

FROM: Elizabeth Colburn, AICP

RE: Scoping Document/*Draft* Scoping Decision Document and
Notice of Scoping Meeting

TH 14 West, North Mankato to New Ulm

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation enclosed please find the Scoping Document/*Draft* Scoping Decision Document for the TH 14 West, North Mankato to New Ulm project. It has been prepared as part of the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and state environmental process to fulfill the requirements of both 23 CFR 771 and Minn. Rules Chapter 4410.

The proposed action is the reconstruction of approximately 22 miles of TH 14 from County Road 6 near North Mankato to State Highway 15 just east of New Ulm in Nicollet County, Minnesota.

The Scoping Document/*Draft* Scoping Decision Document is available for review at the following places during regular business hours, as well as at the Environmental Conservation Library and the Legislative Reference Library:

- Mn/DOT District 7
- Blue Earth County Public Library
- North Mankato Public Library
- New Ulm Public Library
- Cities of Courtland and Nicollet (by appointment)

An Open House and Scoping Hearings to receive comments on the scope of the project will be held:

Wednesday, April 23, 2003
Courtland Community Center
300 Railroad Street

Interagency Hearing	2:00 to 3:30 PM
Public Hearing	4:30 to 7:00 PM
Open House	Continuous

The purpose of the Scoping meetings is to educate the public about the project and to allow for public comment early in the process. At the formal hearing, a presentation on the scope of the project will be given at 2:15 PM and again at 5:30 PM followed by public and agency comment on the project for the record. The interactive Open House will give the public an opportunity to discuss the project one-on-one with Mn/DOT staff, the consultant Project Team, and the TH 14 Advisory Committee.

All written and verbal comments will be included in the public record. Verbal comments can be made at the Scoping Hearings and will be recorded by a Court Reporter. Written comments can be submitted at the Scoping Hearings or sent to Mn/DOT by mail, fax, or e-mail. The contact person is:

Mark Scheidel, Project Manager
Mn/DOT - District 7, Mankato Office
501 South Victory Drive
Mankato, MN 56002-4039

Telephone: (507) 389-6149
Fax: (507) 389-6281
E-mail: mark.scheidel@dot.state.mn.us

Comments are due by Friday, May 2, 2003, when the comment period closes.

Attachment

Cc: Mark Scheidel, Mn/DOT District 7
Cheryl Martin, FHWA
Gerry Larson, Mn/DOT OES

APPENDIX A

Communications

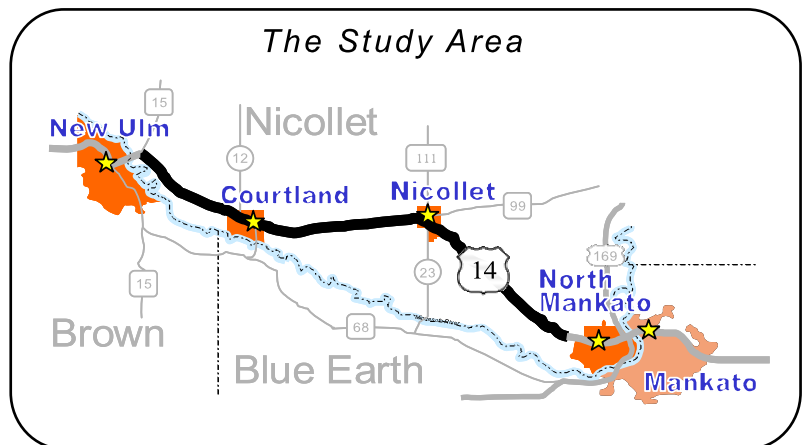
- Newsletter Invitation

You are Invited to Attend One of the Scoping Hearings

on April 23, 2003 to learn about the Highway 14 North Mankato to New Ulm plan. People are encouraged to comment on the scope of the study including the alternatives and environmental issues to be studied. At the formal hearing, a presentation on the scope of the plan will be given at 2:15 PM and again at 5:30 PM followed by public and agency comment for the record. An Open House will run concurrently with the Hearing where the public will have the opportunity to discuss issues one-on-one with Mn/DOT and consultant team staff.

★THE STUDY AREA

The study area is approximately 22 miles of Highway 14 from County Road 6 near North Mankato to State Highway 15 just east of New Ulm in Nicollet County, Minnesota. This segment of Highway 14 has been identified by Mn/DOT as a Medium Priority Interregional Corridor connecting the regional trade centers of Mankato and New Ulm and includes the Cities of Courtland and Nicollet.



ORIGIN-DESTINATION STUDY RESULTS

An origin-destination study was conducted to understand travel patterns along Highway 14. The results indicate that:

- Bypasses of Courtland and Nicollet would be feasible, most likely diverting 50 percent of the traffic around the cities.
- New Ulm, a regional trade center, is an origin or destination for 85 percent of the traffic, therefore a bypass is not suggested.

★THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Highway 14 plan is to address present and future safety, operations, and geometric deficiencies along this 22-mile segment of Highway 14, consistent with community and public expectations.

★THE NEED

Identified problems include: high crash rates at three intersections, lack of passing zones, high percentage of truck traffic, future levels of congestion, high levels of access in Courtland, and concern about the divisive effect on the communities of Courtland and Nicollet with the increasing volumes of traffic, especially truck traffic.

THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

The environmental document will evaluate the social, economic, transportation, and environmental impacts of alternatives, including the No-Build and various Build Alternatives. The proposed alternatives include four-lane design alternatives and bypasses of the Cities of Courtland and Nicollet as well as using the existing alignment. A number of alternatives have been identified to address the safety and geometric deficiencies in the vicinity of the intersection of Highways 14, 15, and 21 near New Ulm.

The alternatives have been identified during the development of the Corridor Management Plan through input from the Advisory Committee, at public meetings, during coordination with the Cities of Courtland and Nicollet, and from affected agencies.

THE SCOPING HEARINGS

The same project information will be presented at each of the hearings and people are welcome to attend either one.

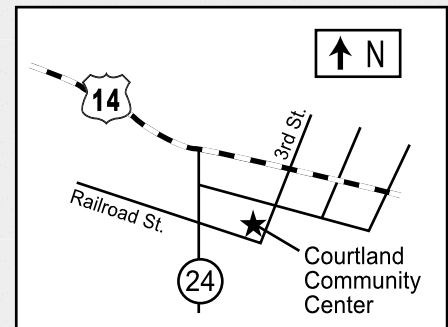
The Scoping Hearings are scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 23, 2003

Courtland Community Center

300 Railroad Street

Interagency Hearing	2:00 to 3:30 PM Presentation at 2:15 PM
Public Hearing	4:30 to 7:00 PM Presentation at 5:30 PM
Open House	Continuous



DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document is available for review at the following places during regular business hours:

- Mn/DOT District 7
- Blue Earth County Public Library
- North Mankato Public Library
- New Ulm Public Library
- Cities of Courtland and Nicollet (by appointment)

HOW TO COMMENT

Verbal comments can be made at the Scoping Hearings and will be recorded by a Court Reporter. Written comments can be submitted at the Scoping Hearings or sent to Mn/DOT District 7 by mail, fax, or e-mail.

The contact person is:

Mark Scheidel, Project Manager
Mn/DOT - District 7, Mankato Office
501 South Victory Drive
Mankato, MN 56002-4039

Telephone: (507) 389-6149

Fax: (507) 389-6281

E-mail: mark.scheidel@dot.state.mn.us

★ All written and verbal comments will be included in the public record. **Comments are due by Friday, May 2, 2003, when the comment period closes.**

APPENDIX A

Communications

- Press Releases



News Release

District 7, Mankato/Windom
501 S. Victory Dr.
P.O. Box 4039
Mankato, MN 56002-4039

Office Tel: 800-657-3747
Fax: 507-389-6281

Date: April 4, 2003

Contact: Rebecca Arndt
507/389-6883

To Be Released: Immediately

SCOPING HEARING SET FOR HIGHWAY 14 NEW ULM TO MANKATO

MANKATO, Minn.—The public and affected agencies in the Highway 14 corridor, New Ulm to Mankato, are invited to a scoping hearing and open house hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Formal scoping hearings will be held on Wednesday, April 23 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Courtland Community Center. Also, an open house will run continuously for people to discuss issues one-on-one with Mn/DOT and consultant team staff.

The scoping document summarizes the analysis conducted during the development of the corridor management plan and indicates there is a need to make improvements in this corridor. Some of the identified problems include: high crash rates at three intersections, lack of passing zones, high percentage of truck traffic, future traffic congestion, and high levels of access roads in Courtland. An origin-destination study was conducted to understand travel patterns in the corridor. The results indicate that bypasses of Nicollet and Courtland would be feasible, but since New Ulm is an origin or destination for 85% of the traffic, a bypass of New Ulm is not suggested.

Alternatives have been developed to address the safety, operations, and geometric needs along this 22-mile segment of Highway 14 from State Highway 15 in New Ulm to Nicollet County Road 6 near North Mankato. They include bypasses of Nicollet and Courtland as well as using the existing alignment and there are a number of alternatives in the vicinity of the Highway 14/15/21 intersection near New Ulm.

-more-

The alternatives in the scoping document have been identified during the development of the corridor management plan through input from the Advisory Committee, at public meetings, during coordination with the cities of Courtland and Nicollet and from affected agencies. Information on the results of the analysis and the development of alternatives will be available for public review and comment at the scoping hearing. Public input during scoping is crucial in refining the alternatives to carry forward into the environmental review process.

The scoping document is available for public review during regular business hours at Mn/DOT District 7; the Blue Earth County, North Mankato, and New Ulm Public Libraries; and at the Cities of Courtland and Nicollet (by appointment).

The public and agencies are invited to comment on the scope of the project. All written and verbal comments will be included in the public record. Comments are due by Friday, May 2 when the comment period closes.

Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting on April 23 may contact Rebecca L. Arndt at 1-800-657-3747 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

#

XPEDITE DETAILED DELIVERY REPORT

Attention: Rebecca Arndt
 Job Number: 19302780
 Sent By Xpedite User: mndot-mkto
 User's Filename: P:\NEWS\TH14NU-NktoScoping3-2003.doc
 Entered Xpedite System: 04/04 10:47
 Report Generated: 04/04 11:09
 Page Count: 2 (no cover sheet)

F-651-644-9446
 ATTN: BIZ
 for 14West IRC

SUMMARY:

Sent 29, Errors 0, Cancelled 0
 Total 29

DETAIL:

List ID: #103

LQN	REF	PHONE	STAT	DATE	TIME	RT	DUR	CUM	SPEED
00001	Blue Earth County Sh	5073874929	SENT	04/04	10:49	1	51	51	14400
00002	Blue Earth County En	5076255271	SENT	04/04	10:50	1	56	56	14400
00003	Free Press	5073884355	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	51	51	14400
00004	KEEZ Radio	5073453299	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	76	76	14400
00005	KEYC TV	5076255745	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	51	51	14400
00008	KMSU Radio	5073874991	SENT	04/04	10:50	1	51	51	14400
00007	KTOE / KDOG Radio	5073455364	SENT	04/04	10:49	1	61	61	9600
00008	KYSM / KXLP Radio	5073454875	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	56	56	14400
00009	Lake Region Times	5072433122	SENT	04/04	10:50	1	61	61	9600
00010	Mankato City Enginee	5073878642	SENT	04/04	10:50	1	56	56	14400
00011	The Reporter	5073895812	SENT	04/04	10:52	1	75	75	9600
00012	Blue Earth County D1	5073878709	SENT	04/04	10:50	1	50	50	14400

List ID: #104

LQN	REF	PHONE	STAT	DATE	TIME	RT	DUR	CUM	SPEED
00013	Brown County Sheriff	5073591524	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	51	51	14400
00014	Brown County Enginee	5073546857	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	66	66	9600
00015	Comfrey Times/Darfur	5078772251	SENT	04/04	10:49	1	86	86	9600
00016	KNSG Radio	5077235604	SENT	04/04	10:52	1	56	56	14400
00017	KNUJ / KXLP Radio Ne	5073594520	SENT	04/04	10:52	1	60	60	14400
00018	KNUJ Radio Sleepy Ey	5077944990	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	70	70	9600
00019	New Ulm City Enginee	5073599752	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	61	61	9600
00020	Sleepy Eye Herald-D1	5077945031	SENT	04/04	10:55	2	50	50	14400
00021	Springfield Advance	5077234400	SENT	04/04	10:51	1	51	51	14400
00022	The Journal	5073597362	SENT	04/04	10:52	1	56	56	14400

List ID: #111

LQN	REF	PHONE	STAT	DATE	TIME	RT	DUR	CUM	SPEED
00023	KRBI Radio	5079314740	SENT	04/04	10:55	2	140	140	7200
00024	Lafayette-Nicollet L	5072288779	SENT	04/04	10:52	1	65	65	9600
00025	Nicollet County Engi	5079316978	SENT	04/04	10:49	1	49	49	14400
00026	Nicollet County Sher	5079311577	SENT	04/04	10:53	2	49	49	14400
00027	North Mankato City E	5076254177	SENT	04/04	11:06	3	76	76	14400
00028	St Peter City Engine	5076254177	SENT	04/04	10:54	2	76	76	14400
00029	St. Peter Times-Hera	5079314522	SENT	04/04	10:49	1	73	73	9600

APPENDIX A

Communications

- Press Coverage



District 7
About D7
Construction
News & Events
Key Contacts

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Bemidji
Brainerd
Detroit Lakes
Rochester
Mankato
Willmar
Metro

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Moving Minnesota



News Release

April 4 , 2003

Scoping Hearing Set for Highway 14 New Ulm to Mankato

MANKATO, Minn. - The public and affected agencies in the Highway 14 corridor, New Ulm to Mankato, are invited to a scoping hearing and open house hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Formal scoping hearings will be held on Wednesday, April 23 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Courtland Community Center. Also, an open house will run continuously for people to discuss issues one-on-one with Mn/DOT and consultant team staff.

The scoping document summarizes the analysis conducted during the development of the corridor management plan and indicates there is a need to make improvements in this corridor. Some of the identified problems include: high crash rates at three intersections, lack of passing zones, high percentage of truck traffic, future traffic congestion, and high levels of access roads in Courtland. An origin-destination study was conducted to understand travel patterns in the corridor. The results indicate that bypasses of Nicollet and Courtland would be feasible, but since New Ulm is an origin or destination for 85% of the traffic, a bypass of New Ulm is not suggested.

Alternatives have been developed to address the safety, operations, and geometric needs along this 22-mile segment of Highway 14 from State Highway 15 in New Ulm to Nicollet County Road 6 near North Mankato. They include bypasses of Nicollet and Courtland as well as using the existing alignment and there are a number of alternatives in the vicinity of the Highway 14/15/21 intersection near New Ulm.

The alternatives in the scoping document have been identified during the development of the corridor management plan through input from the Advisory Committee, at public meetings, during coordination with the cities of Courtland and Nicollet and from affected agencies. Information on the results of the analysis and the development of alternatives will be available for public review and comment at the scoping hearing. Public input during scoping is crucial in refining the alternatives to carry forward into the environmental review process.

The scoping document is available for public review during regular business hours at Mn/DOT District 7; the Blue Earth County, North Mankato, and New Ulm Public Libraries; and at the Cities of Courtland and Nicollet (by appointment).

The public and agencies are invited to comment on the scope of the project. All written and verbal comments will be included in the public record. Comments are due by Friday, May 2, when the comment period closes.

Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting on April 23 may contact Rebecca L. Arndt at 1-800-657-3747 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

Too fast...too close...too late...

See ORANGE.

We're in the *WORK ZONE* Together

For statewide up-to-date traveler information, Minnesotans are now able to access weather-related road conditions, construction and congestion by dialing 511 or by logging on to <http://www.511mn.org/>

District 7, Mankato/Window
501 S. Victory Dr.
P.O. Box 4039
Mankato, MN 56002-4039
Tel: 800/657-3747
Fax: 507/389-6281

Contact:
[Rebecca Arndt](#)
Public Affairs Coordinator
507/389-6883

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Mn/DOT Information Center E-mail: info@dot.state.mn.us
395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899
Phone: 800/657-3774 • 800/627-3529 (TTY, Voice, ASCII)

New Ulm Journal

April 24, 2003

Highway 14 route coming into focus

Possible routes
presented at
meeting

By KURT NESBITT
Journal Staff Writer

COURTLAND — The project still has many years to go and many more hurdles to jump, but some of the folks who live along U.S. Highway 14 got an idea of where the new road might go Wednesday evening.

Courtland area residents, city officials and MnDOT representatives from Mankato met in the same spot where the project's first open house was held over one year ago.

The purpose of Wednesday night's meeting was to gather public comments and answer questions for the scoping study, which will become part of MnDOT's corridor management plan for the section of 14 from Mankato to New Ulm.

Project managers were quick to point out that the project is neither in MnDOT's three-year nor 10-year plans. Rather it is in the department's 20-year plans. The processes to get to the construction phase may take five years, they said.

"There is no reason to get excited about a big project coming through town," project manager Mark Sheidel told some 15 Courtland residents. "This is not in our three-year plan and it's not in our 10-year plan, but it is in our 20-year plan. But that doesn't mean we're not getting anywhere."

In the year since the first MnDOT open house in Courtland, MnDOT has narrowed down many parts of the project that weren't even being considered last April.

The Highway 14 that many are hoping for will be a four-lane highway, separated either by a cement median or 55 feet of ditch. A third idea for an improved two-lane road was ruled out, said MnDOT Public Affairs Coordinator Rebecca Arndt.

MnDOT also gathered about 14 different ideas for where the road should go. Many of them generally followed the current route with bypasses of Courtland and Nicollet. One idea even proposed making improvements to State Highway 68. All except four of those routes were ruled out.

The five remaining alterna-

Highway 14 —

Continued from page 1A

tives would bypass Nicollet south of its city limits and bypass Courtland north of its city limits. The fifth alternative would raise U.S. 14 up onto the river bluff that overlooks the Minnesota River just north of where the current road is located. That alternative would end at the intersection of 14 and State Highway 15.

Project manager Howard Preston said the period for public comments will end on May 3. He encouraged anyone to write to MnDOT's district office in Mankato. The public comments will have some bearing on the scoping decision document, which may lead to the corridor management plan.

Preston said the next step in the project will be an environmental impact study, which may take up to three years. He said such studies are valid for 3-5 years and can be updated after that time expires.

Highway 14

Continued on page 8A

APPENDIX A

Communications

- Federal Notice of Intent

ACTION: Notice of RTCA Special Committee 189/EUROCAE Working Group 53 meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of RTCA Special Committee 189/EUROCAE Working Group 53: Air Traffic Services (ATS) Safety and Interoperability Requirements.

DATES: The meeting will be held June 23–27, 2003 starting at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Honeywell Learning Center, 14980 NE 31st Circle, Redmond, WA 98052

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: (1) RTCA Secretariat, 1828 L Street, NW., Suite 805, Washington, DC, 20036; telephone (202) 833–9339; fax (202) 833–9434; Web site <http://www.rica.org>; (2) Honeywell Contact, Christophe Hamel; telephone 536–886–8336; fax 602–436–5575; e-mail christophe.hamel@Honeywell.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a Special Committee 189/EUROCAE Working Group 53 meeting. The agenda will include:

- June 23:
 - Opening Plenary Session (Welcome and Introductory Remarks, Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda, Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes)
 - Sub-group and related reports; Position papers planned for plenary agreement; SC–189/WG–53 co-chair progress report
- June 24–26:
 - Sub-group Meetings
 - Review and resolve comments on PU–26 V3.0, Safety and Performance Requirements Standard for Initial Air Traffic Data Link Services in Continental Airspace (SPR IC)
 - Continue work on Safety and Performance Requirements Standard for Initial Air Traffic Data Link Services in Oceanic Airspace (SPR IO)
 - Continue Interoperability Work
- June 27:
 - Closing Plenary Session (Welcome and Introductory Remarks, Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda)
 - Sub-group and related reports; Position papers planned for plenary agreement; SC–189/WG–53 co-chair progress report and wrap-up

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral

statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 28, 2003.

Janice L. Peters,

FAA Special Assistant, RTCA Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 03–14164 Filed 6–4–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Los Angeles County, CA

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 (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed 1st Street Bridge Widening and Road Realignment project in the city and county of Los Angeles, California in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cesar Perez, Senior Transportation Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 980 Ninth St., Suite 400, Sacramento, CA, Telephone: (916) 498–5860.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with Caltrans, will prepare an EIS on a proposal to widen the 1st Street Bridge and realign 1st Street in the city and county of Los Angeles, California. The proposed improvements would involve construction over the Los Angeles River between Vignes Street and Clarence Street for a distance of approximately 1.25 miles (1.6 kilometers).

The study will determine the type of facility required to meet the transportation needs of this traffic corridor. Existing and proposed industrial, commercial and residential development along the 1st Street corridor is expected to induce traffic demand in excess of the capacity of the existing east-west transportation corridor. The proposed EIS will discuss the sufficiency rating of the bridge in terms of its functional serviceability and the realignment 1st Street to accommodate construction of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority

(MTA) Los Angeles Eastside Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) line in the median, while maintaining the existing four traffic lanes and adding shoulders on the bridge. Also included in the proposal is the realignment and lowering of local streets at Santa Fe Avenue and Myers Street meet vertical and horizontal clearance requirements. Alternatives under consideration include (1) no-build; (2) widen bridge on the north side; and (3) construct a separate structure on the north side of existing bridge.

The public information program and project development team meetings will continue throughout the design and environmental process. There will be ongoing project development team meetings that involve concerned parties such as the city of Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA). The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment. A public hearing will be held to discuss alternatives and impacts of the proposed action. Public notice will be given for the time and place of the public hearing. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant concerns are identified, comments and are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions about this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to FHWA at the address indicated herein.

(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.)

Issued: May 30, 2003.

Cesar E. Perez,

Senior Transportation Engineer.

[FR Doc. 03–14137 Filed 6–4–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Nicollet, MN

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 (EIS) will be prepared for proposed highway improvements to Trunk Highway (TH) 14 from State Highway 15, just east of New Ulm, to County Road 6 near North

Mankato, a distance of approximately 22 miles, in Nicollet County, Minnesota.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Martin, Federal Highway Administration, Galtier Plaza, 380 Jackson Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, Telephone (651) 291-6120; or Mark Scheidel, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation—District 7, 501 South Victory Drive, PO Box 4039, Mankato, Minnesota 56002-4039, Telephone (507) 389-6149; (800) 627-3529 TTY.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), will prepare an EIS on a proposal to reconstruct TH 14 from State Highway 15, just east of New Ulm, to County Road 6 near North Mankato, a distance of approximately 22 miles, in Nicollet County, Minnesota. The proposed action is being considered to address future transportation demand, safety problems, and geometric design issues. The EIS will evaluate the social, economic, transportation and environmental impacts of alternatives, including: (1) No-Build and (2) variations of four-lane urban design and four-lane rural design "Build" alternatives involving reconstruction and capacity expansion of TH 14 along the existing highway corridor, including individual or combined bypass alignments north of Courtland and south of Nicollet.

The "Trunk Highway 14 West Interregional Corridor North Mankato to New Ulm Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document" was published in March 2003. A press release was published to inform the public of the document's availability. Copies of the scoping document were distributed to agencies, interested persons and libraries for review to aid in identifying issues and analyses to be contained in the EIS. A thirty-day comment period for review of the document was provided to afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action. A public scoping meeting was also held during the comment period. Public notice was given for the time and place of the meeting. The scoping comment period closed on May 2, 2003. At the time of publication of the scoping document, there was uncertainty as to the immediate completion of an EIS for this project due to a lack of funding. However, funding has been identified and, therefore, a Draft EIS will be prepared based on the outcome of and closely following the scoping process. The Draft EIS will be available for

agency and public review and comment. In addition, a public hearing will be held following completion of the Draft EIS. Public Notice will be given for the time and place of the public hearing on the Draft EIS. Coordination has been initiated and will continue with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in the proposed action. 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 and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: May 27, 2003.

Stanley M. Graczyk,

Project Development Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, St. Paul, Minnesota.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2003-15154; Notice 1]

General Motors North America, Receipt of Application for a Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

General Motors North America (GM), has determined that certain 2003 model year Silverado/Sierra pickup trucks, Tahoe/Suburban/Escalade sport utility vehicles, and Savanna/Express vans do not comply with either S5.3.3(a) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 105, or S5.5.3 of FMVSS No. 135, whichever standard is applicable based on gross vehicle weight rating.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), GM has petitioned for a determination that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

This notice of receipt of an application is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other

exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the application.

A total of approximately 251,000 vehicles are involved. Specifically, the red "BRAKE" telltale, if illuminated, will be extinguished for the duration of an Antilock Brake System (ABS) activation event that involves the front wheels. Stated briefly, the "BRAKE" telltale will not be illuminated while ABS is modulating the front brakes.

GM considers the momentary deactivation of the "BRAKE" telltale while ABS is cycling to be inconsequential to motor vehicle safety for the following reasons:

The owner's manual of the noncompliant vehicles includes the following text regarding the "BRAKE" telltale:

If the light comes on while you are driving, pull off the road and stop carefully. You may notice that the pedal is harder to push. Or, the pedal may go closer to the floor. It may take longer to stop. If the light is still on, have the vehicle towed for service.

The instructions and caution are intended to prompt drivers to take immediate corrective action when the "BRAKE" telltale is illuminated, thereby minimizing any likelihood that the vehicle will experience ABS cycling subsequent to initial illumination of the telltale.

S5.3.4 of FMVSS 105 allows the subject "BRAKE" telltale to be "steady burning or flashing." The corresponding language in S5.5.4 of FMVSS 135 is "continuous or flashing". This explicit regulatory allowance for flashing demonstrates that momentary absence of telltale illumination is not per se a safety issue.

The "BRAKE" and "ABS" telltales on the subject vehicles otherwise comply with all applicable provisions of S5.3 of FMVSS 105 and S5.5 of FMVSS 135. The noncompliance is limited in scope to the single word "whenever" in S5.3.3(a) of FMVSS 105 or S5.5.3 of FMVSS 135. GM is not aware of any crashes, injuries, owner complaints or field reports related to this condition.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the application described above. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590. It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Comments may be submitted electronically by logging onto