

from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, from on or about March 26, 2007, until on or about July 8, 2007, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Wolodymyr Sulzynsky, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: (202) 453-8050). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: December 15, 2006.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-21964 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice To Rescind a Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); Bannock County, ID

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Rescind Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the Notice of Intent (NOI) published on May 3, 2006 to prepare an EIS for a proposed highway project in Bannock County, Idaho is being rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Edwin B. Johnson, Field Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 3050 Lakeharbor Lane, Suite 126, Boise, Idaho 83703, Telephone: (208) 334-9180, ext. 116, or Mr. Dennis Clark, Environmental Section Manager, Headquarters, Idaho Transportation Department, P.O. Box 7129, Boise, Idaho 83703-1129, Telephone: (208) 334-8203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD),

is rescinding the NOI to prepare an EIS for a project that has been proposed to provide a new access point along Interstate 15 (I-15) in Bannock County, Idaho. The NOI is being rescinded because ITD and FHWA have determined that the project will have no significant impacts and an EIS is not necessary or appropriate for the environmental evaluation.

The I-15 Environmental Study began in June 2004. Initial projects indicated that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be an appropriate level of documentation for project impacts. Additional environmental scans and screening did not reveal significant impacts to support a change in the level of documentation. Alternatives were developed and advanced into further screening where actual footprints were evaluated for impacts within the project limits. One of the alternatives showed greater impacts than others being evaluated during the continued screening process. In response to that finding it was thought that an EIS would be the best method to discuss impacts from this alternative. Consequently, an NOI was published on May 3, 2006.

A public meeting was held on June 22, 2006 to solicit comments from the public on alternatives being considered. An additional screening analysis was performed in conjunction with the public meeting. Based upon the results of that screening analysis and public comments received on this analysis, some of the alternatives were dropped from further analysis due to potential significant impacts to the built and natural environment as well as to traffic operations. At this point in the project development process, no significant human or natural environmental impacts are evident in the I-15 Environmental Study project that would require an EIS. If, at any point in the EA process, it is determined that the action is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the preparation of an EIS will be required.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties regarding this action to rescind the NOI published May 3, 2006 for the highway project in Bannock County, Idaho. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to the FHWA or ITD at the addresses 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 the program.]

Issued on December 12, 2006.

Stephen A. Moreno,

Division Administrator, Boise, Idaho.

[FR Doc. 06-9779 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Value Pricing Pilot Program Participation, Fiscal Years 2007-2009

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation for participation.

SUMMARY: This notice invites State and local governments and other public authorities to apply to participate in the Value Pricing Pilot (VPP) program and presents guidelines for program applications. This notice supersedes two previous notices about the VPP program under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) published in the **Federal Register** on January 6, 2006 (71 FR 970), and July 17, 2006 (71 FR 40578). The primary purpose of superseding the previous notices with this new notice is to shift the focus on the types of VPP program projects being solicited to achieve consistency with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network (DOT Congestion Initiative), announced on May 16, 2006.¹ This national strategy contains a number of elements that involve pricing, thus warranting a reconsideration of the types of projects solicited for VPP program participation. This solicitation aligns the VPP program with the DOT Congestion Initiative by together seeking to support metropolitan areas in systemically progressing toward implementation of broad congestion pricing strategies in the near term. This notice also describes the statutory basis for the VPP program and specifies all of the steps necessary to apply for funding and, where applicable, tolling authority

¹ Speaking before the National Retail Federation's annual conference on May 16, 2006, in Washington, DC, former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta unveiled a new plan to reduce congestion plaguing America's roads, rail, and airports. The National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network includes a number of initiatives designed to reduce transportation congestion. The transcript of these remarks is available at the following URL: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/minetas051606.htm>.