

Public Meetings on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Requirements

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have announced the dates, times, and locations of six public meetings and a national Webcast to be held in July and August 2006 concerning a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Requirements.

Presentations delivered at these meetings will describe the provisions of the proposed rulemaking jointly issued by FHWA and FTA on June 9, 2006 to provide guidance on implementing the planning provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Federal surface transportation law.

The meetings listed below will provide a forum for FTA and FHWA staffs to make oral presentations on the NPRM for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning. Additionally, the sessions are intended to encourage interested parties and stakeholders to submit their comments directly to the official docket by the close of the public comment period on September 7, 2006, per the instructions found in the NPRM at 71 FR 33510 (June 9, 2006). That notice is posted in the Federal Register under Federal Highway Administration:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a060609c.html

I. Meetings

The following are the 2006 Statewide and Metropolitan Planning NPRM public outreach session meeting dates and addresses:

1. Wednesday, July 19, 2006, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. eastern standard time, Atlanta, GA--Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center (auditorium), 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303.
2. Friday, July 21, 2006, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. eastern standard time, New York, NY--Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House (auditorium), One Bowling Green, New York City, NY 10004.
3. Monday, July 24, 2006, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. central standard time, Kansas City, MO--Radisson Hotel and Suites Kansas City-City Center, 1301 Wyandotte, Kansas City, MO 64105.
4. Tuesday, August 1, 2006, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific standard time, San Francisco, CA--Metropolitan Transportation Commission Building (auditorium), MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607.
5. Monday, August 7, 2006, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. central standard time, Chicago, IL--Harold Washington Library Center (Multipurpose Room-B), 400 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

6. Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. eastern standard time, Cambridge, MA--
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (auditorium), 55 Broadway,
Cambridge, MA 02142.

Some meetings are held in Federal government buildings; therefore, Federal security measures are applicable.

II. Presentations and Comment Format

Generally, there will be at least two speakers delivering a presentation of approximately 1.5 hours. Meeting participants should arrive early since each meeting is anticipated to begin promptly at the appointed time.

III. Online Event

In addition to the NPRM outreach sessions, FHWA and FTA will conduct a national Webcast on July 13, 2006 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. eastern standard time. The Webcast will include a presentation on the NPRM, and participants will have an opportunity to submit questions electronically. Interested parties may learn more and register for the event, which is hosted by the Center for Transportation and the Environment, at <http://itre.ncsu.edu/cte/TechTransfer/Teleconferences/2006schedule.asp>

For further information contact: for FTA, Effie S. Stallsmith, Office of Planning and Environment, at Effie.Stallsmith@dot.gov or 202-366-5653, or Christopher Van Wyk, Office of Chief Counsel, 202-366-1733; for FHWA, Robert Ritter, Office of Planning, 202-493-2139. Both agencies are located at 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours for FTA are from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Office hours for FHWA are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

More information about the meetings is in the July 6 Federal Register under Federal Highway Administration, http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a060706c.html