

operations rather than the equipment requirements for HEMS aircraft.

E. Maintaining Part 91 IFR Flight

One commenter requested the ability to continue to fly IFR under Part 91 using Part 135 weather minimums.

Proposed Operations Specification A021 does not prohibit part 91 IFR operations. As noted in A021 paragraph "d," operators equipped and approved to so may elect to fly IFR following the part 91 IFR, or more stringent, weather minimums. The weather minimums found in Table 1 apply to VFR flight segments in Class G airspace.

F. Part 135 Compliance for All HEMS Flights

One commenter suggested requiring all segments of HEMS flights to be flown under Part 135 operating requirements.

This operations specification revision will increase safety for HEMS operators by requiring all VFR segments of flights that include a part 135 segment to adhere to increased weather minimums. This is an important factor in preventing controlled flight into terrain, obstacle collisions, inadvertent IMC, and spatial disorientation, or loss of situational awareness. The FAA believes that the increased weather minimums combined with the preflight planning requirements will provide an increased margin of safety for HEMS operations. Operators equipped and approved to do so may also elect to fly IFR which provides an additional measure of safety to VFR flight due to factors such as increased interaction with controllers, increased flight planning, and guaranteed obstacle clearance while in controlled airspace. IFR flight also provides the benefit of easier access to updated real-time en-route and destination weather as well as Notice to Airmen (NOTAMS).

The FAA has chosen to focus on the enhanced weather minimums and preflight planning at this time because of the enhancements to safety created by the proposed operations specifications, and the breadth of the regulatory revisions required if the FAA were to require compliance with part 135 for all HEMS operations.

G. Application to Public Aircraft

Two commenters raised the issue of application of the proposed operations specifications to public aircraft: One asked whether the proposed operations specifications would apply to public aircraft, another recommended applying A021 to all HEMS transports, whether public or civil.

The FAA intends to apply these operations specifications to part 135

HEMS operators currently required by their part 135 certificate to obtain operations specifications, or to future HEMS operations that obtain a part 135 certificate. The FAA will consider the public aircraft issue separately.

H. Medical Personnel

The FAA received several comments related to medical personnel that serve on board HEMS aircraft. These comments included limiting the non-patient transport related duties assigned to air-medical crew, flight time and duty period limitations, incorporation of medical personnel into safety aspects of HEMS operations, training requirements, and recordkeeping requirements.

The FAA recognizes that the air medical personnel are an important part of a HEMS operation. However, these operations specifications revisions focus on the flight operations and planning aspects of HEMS operations; therefore requirements pertaining to medical personnel are outside the scope of the revisions.

I. Other Comments

The FAA received numerous comments on a number of other topics. Topics included: Requiring HEMS operators to be based at full-service airports; establishing regional dispatch centers for HEMS operations; Requiring Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) certification for all operators; focusing on increased training rather than more stringent operations specifications; permitting landings only at preapproved landing sites; requiring two pilot crews; requiring two engine aircraft; pilot testing on local area hazards and procedures; operational credit for autopilot operations; use of common radio frequencies; prohibiting HEMS operators from selling memberships; establishment of obstacle free corridors; concern over pressure exerted on flight crew to engage in operations by for-profit operators; the FAA's role in making medical determinations; and continuing current exemptions for operators.

These comments are outside the scope of the operations specifications revisions, relate to business decisions by HEMS operators, or are already addressed by the operations specification.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 13, 2009.

John Duncan,

Manager, Air Transportation Division, AFS-200.

[FR Doc. E9-1448 Filed 1-22-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Twelfth Meeting—Special Committee 215—Aeronautical Mobile Satellite (Route) Services, Next Generation Satellite Services and Equipment

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of RTCA Special Committee 215, Aeronautical Mobile Satellite (Route) Services, Next Generation Satellite Services and Equipment.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of RTCA Special Committee 215, Aeronautical Mobile Satellite (Route) Services, Next Generation Satellite Services and Equipment.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 17, 2009, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 18, 2009, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: RTCA Headquarters, 1828 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036; USA, Tel: + 1 202 833-9339, Fax: + 1 202 833-9434, <http://www.rtca.org>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RTCA Secretariat, 1828 L Street, NW., Suite 805, Washington, DC 20036; telephone (202) 833-9339; fax (202) 833-9434; Web site <http://www.rtca.org> for directions. For additional details contact: Kelly O'Keefe, Tel: + 1 202 772-1873, e-mail: Kelly@accesspartnership.com.

Note: Dress is business casual.

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 215 meeting. The agenda will include:

February 17 (continued February 18 as necessary)

- Opening Plenary Session (Greetings, Introductions, Administrative Remarks).
- Review and Approval of Agenda for 12th Plenary.
- Review and Approval of 11th Meeting Summary (RTCA Paper No. 004-09/SC215-038).
- DO-262 Normative Appendix.
- Program Management Committee (PMC) Approval of Final Draft.

- DO-270 Normative Appendix.
- Review and Resolution of Final Review and Comment (FRAC) responses.

- Approval of DO-270 Normative Appendix for submission to PMC.

- Closing Plenary (Any Other Business, Review of Next Plenary Meeting Dates (if required), Adjourn).

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairmen, 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 January 13, 2009.

Francisco Estrada C.,

RTCA Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. E9-1342 Filed 1-22-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement Adoption; Washington, DC

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to adopt an existing Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR 1506.3. The Final EIS has been prepared and approved by the General Services Administration (GSA), National Capital Region.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Van Dop, Senior Technical Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, VA 20166, Telephone 703-404-6282

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's Web site at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>. The Final EIS, prepared by GSA is

posted at <http://www.stelizabethswestcampus.com>. A related Section 4(f) Evaluation, prepared by FHWA is posted at the above project Web site as well as at <http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects-environment.aspx>. A hard copy of the GSA Final EIS and the Section 4(f) Evaluation can be viewed at the following location until March 30, 2009: Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, VA 20166.

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) intends to adopt those portions of an approved Final EIS, related to the specific transportation aspects, for consolidation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Headquarters offices located in the District of Columbia. The FHWA, in consultation with the DDOT, will determine if additional documentation will be provided as a supplement to this Final EIS prior to issuing a decision document. The Final EIS was prepared by the General Services Administration, National Capital Region. The FHWA, DDOT and other federal agencies are cooperating agencies for this Final EIS. The Revised Notice of Intent for the EIS appeared in the FR, Volume 72, Number 124, June 28, 2007. The project consists of consolidation of the DHS Headquarters at the St. Elizabeths Campus in Southeast Washington, DC. DHS requested that GSA fulfill its requirement of collocating 4.5 million gross square feet of office; with parking, the project would accommodate up to 6.4 million gross square feet of development and adaptive re-use. The EIS considered the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the project. The No-Action alternative, three campus redevelopment alternatives, four interchange alternatives (I-295/Malcolm X Interchange) and a transportation no-build alternative were considered in the Final EIS.

Agency Action

The FHWA action subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act for this project is approval of modifications to the I-295/Malcolm X Interchange, and a related access road. Approval of modifications to the interchange may have the potential to impact other transportation infrastructure in the District of Columbia. The GSA preferred alternative is identified in the Final EIS. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 303, the

FHWA has also prepared and coordinated the distribution of a Section 4(f) Evaluation for the project. The Evaluation assesses the reasonable transportation alternatives subject to Section 4(f) to determine if they are the only feasible and prudent alternatives pursuant to Section 4(f). In addition, FHWA will prepare its own Record of Decision for the Selected Alternative in accordance with 40 CFR 1505.2.

(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 proposed action.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Dated: January 14, 2009.

Karen A. Schmidt,

Director, Program Administration.

[FR Doc. E9-1385 Filed 1-22-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice To Rescind Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement: Lawrence, Christian, and Greene Counties, MI

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT and the Missouri Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Rescind Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that we are rescinding the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for improvements that were proposed to the transportation system in Lawrence, Christian, and Greene Counties, Missouri.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy J. Casey, Environmental Projects Team Leader, FHWA Division Office, 3220 West Edgewood, Suite H, Jefferson City, Missouri 65109, Telephone: (573) 638-2620 or Kathy Harvey, State Design Engineer, Missouri Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, Telephone: (573) 526-5678.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), is rescinding the NOI to prepare an EIS for a project that had been proposed to improve the transportation system in Lawrence, Christian and Greene Counties,