DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: San Bernardino County, CA

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 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed widening and realignment of State Route 58 (SR–58) Kramer Junction Expressway from two to four lanes located between the Kern/San Bernardino County line and a point 12.9 miles east on SR–58 in San Bernardino County, California. This will be a gap closure project.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, will prepare an EIS for the proposed widening and realignment of SR–58 Kramer Junction Expressway in San Bernardino County, California. This 13-mile long project would take place entirely within San Bernardino County and is centered on the Kramer Junction where SR–58 intersects with US–395 west of the City of Barstow. This section of SR–58 is currently a nonstandard two-lane highway between a four-lane freeway to the west and a four-lane expressway to the east. The proposed project would close this gap. The existing two-lane segment includes an at-grade signalized intersection at SR–58/US–395 (Kramer Junction), an overhead crossing of Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad west of that intersection, and numerous uncontrolled at-grade driveway and street access points. There is also an at-grade railroad crossing on US–395 north of the SR–58/US–395 intersection that slows traffic and contributes to accidents when traffic backs up during train crossings. SR–58 is a major east-west transportation corridor with a high percentage of truck traffic transporting goods in and out of the state. The purpose of this project is to provide for increased separation of slow moving vehicles, to separate local and regional traffic, to reduce accidents, and to eliminate the convergence of SR–58 and US–395 traffic. The project would also provide congestion relief and improve traffic operations and access to local services.

A preferred alternative has not been selected at this point. One No Build (Alternative A) and three Build Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) will be addressed in the EIS document. All three proposed Build Alternatives would increase capacity and be reclassified from a conventional highway to an expressway. As proposed, Alternative B would be a realignment north of the existing highway. Alternative C would be generally along the existing highway alignment, and Alternative D would be a realignment south of the existing highway. Furthermore, construction of a new freeway-to-freeway interchange where SR–58 intersects with US–395 is proposed for Alternatives B, C, and D. This new interchange would have to span the existing at-grade railroad under Alternative B and C, but this would not be necessary under Alternative D because the new interchange is far enough south of the railroad. In addition, Alternatives B and D would include a second grade separation (overhead) structure to span the railroad further east and west, respectively, of the proposed SR–58/US–395 interchange.

The alternatives described above will be further refined through efforts conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500–1508, and 23 CFR part 771), the 1990 Clear Air Act Amendments, the Endangered Species Act, the section 4(f) provisions of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act, and other federal environmental protection laws, regulations, policies, and executive orders. The EIS will incorporate comments from the public and technical studies. Other alternatives suggested during the scoping process would be considered during the development of the EIS. The EIS will consider any additional reasonable alternatives identified during scoping process. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, local, and private organizations and citizens who previously have expressed, or are known to have, an interest in this project. Location and details of the public scoping meeting for the proposed project will be advertised in local newspapers and other media and be hosted by the California Department of Transportation, District 8.

issued on: May 2, 2007.

Maiser Khaled,

Director, Project Development & Environment, California Division, Federal Highway Administration.
Public scoping meeting for the proposed project will be advertised in local newspapers and other media and will be hosted by the California Department of Transportation, District 8. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: May 2, 2007.

Maiser Khaled,
Director, Project Development & Environment, California Division, Federal Highway Administration.

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BILLING CODE 4910–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroad has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 236 as detailed below.

[Docket Number FRA–2007–27762]

Applicant: Canadian National Railway Company, Mr. Timothy R. Luhn, Senior Manager of S&C, Southern Region, Chicago Division, 17641 Ashland Avenue, Homewood, Illinois 60430.

The Canadian National Railway Company (CN) seeks approval of the permanent discontinuance and removal of the automatic block signal (ABS) system on Track Numbers 3 and 4, from Milepost 15.68 to Milepost 20.25, on the Chicago Division, Chicago Subdivision, between Riverdale and Harvey, Illinois. The ABS system was suspended on August 14, 2001, due to a derailment. The reason given for the proposed change is that the ABS system impedes train operations on Track Numbers 3 and 4. Due to the congestion in the area from the Intermodal facility, GTW, Harvey Yard, IHB, CSX, and Cook County Lumber, cars are continually stored and interchanged in this area.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, including a concise statement of the interest of the party in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by docket number FRA–2007–27762 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Web site: http://dms.dot.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic site;
- Fax: 202–493–2251;
- Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL–401, Washington, DC 20590–0001; or
- Hand Delivery: Room PL–401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001.

FRA wishes to inform all potential commenters that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78) or you may visit http://dms.dot.gov.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without an oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position in a written statement, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 2, 2007.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. E7–9030 Filed 5–9–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroad has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 236 as detailed below.

[Docket Number FRA–2007–27767]

Applicant: Marquette Rail, LLC, Mr. Donald J. Davis, Roadmaster, 5550 West First Street, Ludington, Michigan 49431.

Marquette Rail, LLC seeks approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of the interlocked signal system on the Manistee River moveable bridge, Milepost CBA 113.5, on the Manistee Subdivision near Manistee, Michigan.

The proposed changes include the permanent elimination of the two controlled signals, the replacement of the power-operated switches at the derail locations with hand throw switches, and the display of permanent red signals.

The reason given for the proposed changes is to eliminate the costly upkeep and maintenance of the equipment and place a person on the site to visually inspect the operation of all equipment each time a train crosses.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, including a concise statement of the interest of the party in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by Docket Number FRA–2007–27767 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Web site: http://dms.dot.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic site;
- Fax: 202–493–2251;
- Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL–401, Washington, DC 20590–0001; or
- Hand Delivery: Room PL–401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001.