

Contact person for more information: Paul B. Larsen, Office of the General Counsel, DOT, Room 10102, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-9161.

Dated: February 8, 1996.

Joseph F. Canny,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy.

[FR Doc. 96-3386 Filed 2-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-M

Office of the Secretary

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. OST-96-1066]

Request for Public Comment on Competition in the Noncontiguous Domestic Maritime Trades

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Maritime Administration, United States Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notification of Open Docket for Public Comment.

SUMMARY: Section 407 of the "ICC Termination Act of 1995" calls for the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of competition in the noncontiguous domestic maritime trades to Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The Department seeks information on market conditions in each of these trades, including the composition of traffic, the extent of entry and exit, rates charged, the importance of liner service to the economic well-being of local economies, and any other institutional or economic factor that could influence competition in these markets.

Information is requested on the following specific issues: (1) carrier competition in both the regulated and unregulated portions of each of the trades, (2) the rate structure that exists in each trade, (3) the impact of tariff filing on marine carrier pricing, (4) the extent of parallel pricing, and (5) the impact on domestic cargo prices on foreign cargo services. The Department is also soliciting comments as to whether additional protections are needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power and the extent to which there needs to be continued reliance on tariff filing and rate regulation to further the transportation policy of meeting the Nation's commercial and defense waterborne needs.

DATES: Comments should be received by Monday, April 15, 1996. Comments that are received after that date will be considered to the extent possible.

ADDRESSES: To facilitate our review, we would appreciate having four copies of

comments sent to: Docket Clerk, Docket No. OST-96-1066, Room PL-401, United States Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurence T. Phillips or Thomas E. Marchessault, P-37, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington DC 20590. Phone: (202) 366-5412; fax: (202) 366-3393; John Pisani, MAR 830, Office of Ports and Domestic Shipping, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington DC. Phone: (202) 366-5123.

Joseph F. Canny,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.

[FR Doc. 96-3387 Filed 2-14-96; 8:45 am]

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Federal Aviation Administration

Westover Metropolitan Airport/Air Reserve Base, Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts; FAA Approval of Noise Compatibility Program

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces its findings on the noise compatibility program submitted by the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation under the provisions of Title I of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-193) and 14 CFR Part 150. These findings are made in recognition of the description of Federal and non-federal responsibilities in Senate Report No. 96-52 (1980). On August 11, 1995, the FAA determined that the noise exposure maps submitted by the Westover Metropolitan Airport Corporation under Part 150 were in compliance with applicable requirements. On January 26, 1996, the Associate Administrator approved the Westover Metropolitan Airport/Air Reserve Base noise compatibility program. Out of the 13 proposed program elements, 12 were approved and one was partially approved and partially disapproved.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of the FAA's approval of the Westover Metropolitan Airport/Air Reserve Base noise compatibility program is January 26, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John C. Silva, Federal Aviation Administration, New England Region, Airports Division, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington,

Massachusetts 01803, Telephone (617) 238-7602.

Documents reflecting this FAA action may be obtained from the same individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces that the FAA has given its overall approval to the Westover Metropolitan Airport/Air Reserve Base noise compatibility program, effective January 26, 1996.

Under Section 104(a) of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 (hereinafter the Act), an airport operator who has previously submitted a noise exposure map may submit to the FAA a noise compatibility program which sets forth the measures taken or proposed by the airport operator for the reduction of existing non-compatible land uses and prevention of additional non-compatible land uses within the area covered by the noise exposure maps.

The Act requires such programs to be developed in consultation with interested and affected parties including local communities, government agencies, airport users, and FAA personnel.

Each airport noise compatibility program developed in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR), Part 150 is a local program, not a federal program. The FAA does not substitute its judgment for that of the airport proprietor with respect to which measures should be recommended for action. The FAA's approval or disapproval of FAR Part 150 program recommendations is measured according to the standards expressed in Part 150 and the Act, and is limited to the following determinations:

(a) the noise compatibility program was developed in accordance with the provisions and procedures of FAR Part 150;

(b) program measures are reasonably consistent with achieving the goals of reducing existing non-compatible land uses around the airport and preventing the introduction of additional non-compatible land uses;

(c) program measures would not create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, unjustly discriminate against types or classes of aeronautical uses, violate the terms of airport grant agreements, or intrude into areas preempted by the federal government; and

(d) program measures relating to the use of flight procedures can be implemented within the period covered by the program without derogating safety, adversely affecting the efficient use and management of the navigable

airspace and air traffic control systems, or adversely affecting other powers and responsibilities of the Administrator as prescribed by law.

Specific limitations with respect to FAA's approval of an airport noise compatibility program are delineated in FAR Part 150, Section 150.5. Approval is not a determination concerning the acceptability of land uses under Federal, state, or local law. Approval does not by itself constitute an FAA implementing action. A request for Federal action or approval to implement specific noise compatibility measures may be required, and an FAA decision on the request may require an environmental assessment of the proposed action.

Approval does not constitute a commitment by the FAA to financially assist in the implementation of the program nor a determination that all measures covered by the program are eligible for grant-in-aid funding from the FAA under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982. Where Federal funding is sought, requests for project grants must be submitted to the FAA Regional Office in Burlington, Massachusetts.

The Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation submitted to the FAA, on January 26, 1994, noise exposure maps, descriptions, and other documentation produced during the noise compatibility planning study conducted from October 1990 to June 1995. The Westover Metropolitan Airport/Air Reserve Base noise exposure maps were determined by FAA to be in compliance with applicable requirements on July 31, 1995. Notice of this determination was published in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** on August 11, 1995.

The Westover study contains a proposed noise compatibility program comprised of actions designed for implementation by airport management and adjacent jurisdictions from the date of study completion to beyond the year 1998. It was requested that the FAA evaluate and approve this material as a noise compatibility program as described in Section 104(b) of the Act. The FAA began its review of the program on July 31, 1995, and was required by a provision of the Act to approve or disapprove the program within 180 days (other than the use of new flight procedures for noise control). Failure to approve or disapprove such a program within the 180-day period shall be deemed to be an approval of such a program.

The submitted program contained 13 proposed actions for noise mitigation on and off the airport. The FAA completed its review and determined that the procedural and substantive

requirements of the Act and FAR Part 150 have been satisfied. The overall program, therefore, was approved by the Assistant Administrator effective January 26, 1996.

Approval was granted for 12 specific program elements: preferential runway use, flight track changes, land acquisition, sound insulation, compatible land use zoning, land use airport overlay district, subdivision regulations, a pilot awareness program, a public awareness program, and a computer spread sheet program to monitor noise abatement performance.

One program element was partially approved and partially disapproved: monitoring nighttime operations and runway use.

FAA's determinations are set forth in detail in a Record of Approval endorsed by the Associate Administrator on January 26, 1996. The Record of Approval, as well as other evaluation materials and the documents comprising the submittal, are available for review at the FAA office listed above and at the office of the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation, 3911 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on February 5, 1996.

Bradley A. Davis,

Acting Manager, Airports Division, New England Region.

[FR Doc. 96-3495 Filed 2-14-96; 8:45 am]

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Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and To Hold Environmental Safety Area and Other Airport Master Plan Improvements at Bridgeport-Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Stratford, CT

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public environmental scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is issuing notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposal by the City of Bridgeport and the Federal Aviation Administration to construct runway safety area improvements to Runway 06-24, relocate a portion of a public highway, install an approach light system to Runway 06, extend Runway 06-24, and undertake related Airport Master Plan development at Bridgeport-Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Stratford, Connecticut. To ensure that all significant issues related to the

proposed action are identified, public scoping meetings will be held.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Silva, Manager, Environmental Programs, Airports Division, New England Region, Federal Aviation Administration, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, Massachusetts 01803. Telephone number: 617-238-7602.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Because of the potential for significant adverse environmental effect, primarily to wetlands, floodplain areas, and highway traffic, comments and suggestions are invited from federal, state, and local agencies, and other interested parties, in order to ensure that a full range of issues related to the proposed projects are identified and addressed in the scope of work for the EIS. Comments and suggestions may be mailed to FAA at the above address.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS: In order to provide public input, a scoping meeting for federal, state, and local agencies will be held on Thursday, March 14, 1996, at 2 pm at the Avon Room, Ramada Inn, 225 Lordship Blvd., Stratford, Connecticut. An additional meeting to receive public input will be held on Thursday, March 14, 1996, at 5 pm, in the Grand Ballroom at the same Ramada Inn. These meetings will be preceded by a field tour of the project area at 11 am on the same day. The tour will commence from the entrance to the main terminal building at Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Great Meadow Road, Stratford, Connecticut. Representatives of federal, state, and local agencies are encouraged to attend all three events. Additional information may be obtained by contacting FAA at the above address or telephone number.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on February 6, 1996.

John C. Silva,

Acting Manager, Airports Division FAA, New England Region.

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RTCA, Inc.; Special Committee 159; Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Airborne Navigation Equipment Using Global Positioning System (GPS)

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 159 meeting to be held March 4-8, 1996, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1140 Connecticut