

the two main tracks, near Houston, Texas, on the Houston East Belt and Houston West Belt Subdivisions, consisting of the discontinuance and removal of 30 automatic leaving signals at the following locations:

Houston East Belt Subdivision

- milepost 3.4—signals No.'s 109 and 107
- milepost 8.2—signals No.'s 59 and 61
- milepost 9.1—signals No.'s 54 and 52
- milepost 9.4—signals No.'s 53 and 51
- milepost 10.6—signals No.'s 40 and 38
- milepost 11.3—signals No.'s 33 and 35
- milepost 12.1—signals No.'s 32 and 34
- milepost 12.75—signals No.'s 19 and 17
- milepost 13.2—signals No.'s 14 and 16
- milepost 13.3—signals No.'s 11 and 9
- milepost 14.3—signals No.'s 6 and 4

Houston West Belt Subdivision

- milepost 7.6—signals No.'s 225 and 227
- milepost 8.1—signals No.'s 220 and 218
- milepost 8.3—signals No.'s 219 and 221
- milepost 9.6—signals No.'s 206 and 204

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the leaving signals are redundant and that only entering signals are used to control train movements.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and contain a concise statement of the interest of the Protester 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 the docket number and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PI-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by the FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PI-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <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 by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 27, 1999.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 99-25539 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-99-6270]

Notice of Public Meeting for Strategies to Address the Potential for Driver Distraction Due to Emerging Vehicle Technologies

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: On October 15, 1999, NHTSA will conduct a public meeting to discuss strategies for realizing the benefits of advanced driver assistance and information technologies without compromising safety. These new technologies, known as telematics, include a range of automotive devices to transmit, receive, or display information. The intent of this meeting is to share viewpoints, information, and findings, if any, relative to the safety impact of telematics devices among the public, industry, government, and safety groups. Topics to be discussed include the need for research to understand the safety implications of telematics, the role of various entities in promoting best practices in the design and use of these devices, and opportunities for proper evaluation of the safety impacts of such systems to ensure the safe design, application, and use of telematics devices.

DATES: Public Meeting: NHTSA will hold the public meeting on October 15, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Written Comments: The agency has established Docket No. NHTSA-99-6270 as a repository for comment on issues related to the safety of telematics devices. Written comments may be made to this docket at any time.

ADDRESSES: Public Meeting: The public meeting will be held in room 2230, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400

Seventh Street, SW, Washington DC 20590.

Written Comments: If you wish to submit written comments on the issues related to or discussed at this meeting, they should refer to Docket No. NHTSA-99-6270 and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590 (Docket hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. August Burgett, Office of Vehicle Safety Research, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202-366-5663, Aburgett@nhtsa.dot.gov) or Dr. Jeffrey Michael, EMS Division, NTS-14, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202-366-4299, Jmichael@nhtsa.dot.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The increasing utilization of certain advanced technologies in automobiles brings both the promise of safety enhancement and concerns about safety compromises due to the potential of crash causation. Technologies which transmit, receive, or display information from an automobile have collectively been termed telematics, and include devices such as automatic collision notification systems, navigation systems, and driver warning systems, as well as in-vehicle fax machines, telephones, and other communication equipment.

Many of the functions performed by these devices promise direct safety benefits, for example automatic notification of emergency personnel following a crash or hazard alerts to inform drivers of dangerous traffic and roadway conditions. However, devices which provide drivers with additional information could also distract the driver from the task of operating the vehicle and increase the risk of crashes.

B. Public Meeting

On October 15, 1999, NHTSA will conduct a public meeting, providing a forum for industry, safety, research groups, and the general public to discuss strategies for realizing the safety and other benefits of telematics technologies without compromising safety. The intent of this meeting is to share viewpoints, information, and findings relative to the issue of the safety impact of telematics devices. Topics to be discussed include current research plans among stakeholders, the need for further research to understand the safety implications of telematics, the role of policies to promote best practices in the design and use of these devices,

and opportunities for proper evaluation of the safety impact of these systems to ensure the safe design, application, and use of telematics devices.

C. Written Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on this notice. Two copies should be submitted to Docket Management at the address given at the beginning of this document. Comments must not exceed 15 pages in length (49 CFR 553.21). Necessary attachments may be appended to these submissions without regard to the 15-page limit. This limitation is intended to encourage commenters to detail their primary arguments in a concise fashion.

If a commenter wishes to submit certain information under a claim of confidentiality, three copies of the complete submission, including purportedly confidential business information, should be submitted to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the street address given above, and two copies from which the purportedly confidential information has been deleted should be submitted to Docket Management. A

request for confidentiality should be accompanied by a cover letter setting forth the information specified in the agency's confidential business information regulation, 49 CFR part 512.

Issued on: September 27, 1999.

Raymond P. Owings,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 99-25548 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-U

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans, Notice of Charter Renewal

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. App.), that the Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans has been renewed for a 2-year period beginning September 22, 1999, through September 22, 2001.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-25601 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, Notice of Charter Renewal

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. App.), that the Department of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans has been renewed for a 2-year period beginning September 22, 1999, through September 22, 2001.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-25600 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M