

Street, SW., Room 5319, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-0699 or at bvilla@nhtsa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA recommends that all visitors arrive at least 45 minutes early in order to sign in with security. Visitors to the building should enter through the Southwest Lobby to sign in with security and to be escorted to the meeting room.

NHTSA will provide auxiliary aids to participants as necessary. Any person desiring such auxiliary aids (sign language interpreter, telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDDs), readers, taped tests, brailled materials, or large print materials, and magnifying devices) should contact Julia Goldson at (202) 366-9944, by Wednesday, August 13, 2003.

Issued on: July 30, 2003.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 03-19902 Filed 8-4-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2003-14620]

Safety Belt Use Integrated Project Team (IPT) Plan

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of document.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of NHTSA's third of four high priority safety reports describing the agency's current and planned activities to address safety belt use. The report is available from the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, at <http://dms.dot.gov> or on NHTSA's Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ipreports.html>. While the document is final, the agency is offering the public the opportunity to comment on the agency's planned safety belt use activities. The comments will be considered for future agency efforts.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than September 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Safety Belt Use DOT DMS Docket Number [NHTSA-2003-14620] by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-001.

- Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov>, at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Sauers, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 6240, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-0144 or Dee Williams, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-0498.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Safety belt use is the single most effective strategy a person can employ to prevent deaths and injuries and reduce the costs associated with motor vehicle crashes. Despite over 30 years of efforts and the expenditure of substantial resources, safety belt use in the United States is currently 75 percent. Although safety belt use has risen dramatically and has saved more than 100,000 lives in the past twenty years (13,000 in 2002 alone), the current level of nonuse in the U.S. still results in thousands of lives lost, over 100,000 serious injuries and billions of dollars in economic losses each year. NHTSA has made finding solutions to increase safety belt use one of the agency's highest priorities. Initiatives the agency plans to pursue include:

- (1) Behavioral Strategies
 - a. Upgrade Existing Safety Belt Laws
 - b. High Visibility Enforcement
 - c. National Communications Plan
 - d. Employer Policies and Regulation
 - e. Insurance Industry Collaboration
- (2) Vehicle Strategies
 - a. Safety Belt Reminders, Voluntary Installation of In-Vehicle Devices and Evidence of Safety Belt Use

- b. Improvements to Safety Belt Comfort and Convenience

NHTSA believes the initiatives described in this report will lead to both near-term and longer-term solutions to increase safety belt use among the United States population.

In September 2002, NHTSA assembled integrated project teams (IPTs) to address four highway safety programs of special interest: safety belt use; impaired driving; vehicle compatibility; and vehicle rollover. The reports associated with vehicle compatibility and vehicle rollover were released in June 2003 and can be found on NHTSA's Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ipreports.html> and also on DOT's docket management system (DMS) at <http://dms.dot.gov/>. Once completed, the fourth report addressing impaired driving will also be found in these locations. The docket numbers for each of the respective draft reports are as follows:

- Safety Belt Use: NHTSA-2003-14620;
- Impaired Driving: NHTSA-2003-14621;
- Rollover Mitigation: NHTSA-2003-14622; and
- Vehicle Compatibility: NHTSA-2003-14623.

Each document describes the safety problem and provides strategies the agency plans to pursue in addressing vehicle compatibility; increasing safety belt use, reducing impaired driving and mitigating rollover. Comments received will be evaluated and incorporated, as appropriate, into planned agency activities.

How Do I Prepare and Submit Comments?

Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket number of this document (NHTSA-2003-14620) in your comments.

Please send two paper copies of your comments to Docket Management or submit them electronically. The mailing address is U. S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. If you submit your comments electronically, log onto the Docket Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov> and click on "Help & Information" or "Help/Info" to obtain instructions.

How Can I Be Sure That My Comments Were Received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your

comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How Do I Submit Confidential Business Information?

If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, send three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NCC-110, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter supplying the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR part 512).

In addition, send two copies from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information to Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Will the Agency Consider Late Comments?

In our response, we will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date.

Please note that even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

How Can I Read the Comments Submitted by Other People?

You may read the comments by visiting Docket Management in person at Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You may also see the comments on the Internet by taking the following steps:

- Go to the Docket Management System (DMS) Web page of the Department of Transportation (<http://dms.dot.gov>).
- On that page, click on "search."
- On the next page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search/>) type in the four-digit Docket number shown at the beginning of this document (14620). Click on "search."

- On the next page, which contains Docket summary information for the Docket you selected, click on the desired comments. You may also download the comments.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30111, 30117, 30168; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Dated:

Rose A. McMurray,

Associate Administrator for Planning, Evaluation & Budget.

[FR Doc. 03-19878 Filed 8-4-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-308 (Sub-No. 3X)]

Central Michigan Railway Company-Abandonment Exemption-in Saginaw County, MI

On July 16, 2003, Central Michigan Railway Company (CMR) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon an approximately 1.77-mile line of railroad, extending from milepost 2.83 at the western end of CMR's railroad bridge over Interstate 75 to milepost 4.60 in Saginaw County, MI.¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 48601.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in CMR's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.-Abandonment-Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by November 3, 2003.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,100 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

¹ CMR indicates that the above-described mileposts are sometimes referred to by their former designations as milepost 17.21 and milepost 15.46, totaling approximately 1.75-miles of rail line and differing from the current designations by .02-mile. CMR points out that this discrepancy is just a measurement error in the milepost labeling, a fairly common occurrence in railroad milepost designations.

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than August 25, 2003. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-308 (Sub-No. 3X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) William A. Mullins, 915 15th Street, NW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005-2318. Replies to the CMR petition are due on or before August 25, 2003.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: July 23, 2003.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-19333 Filed 8-4-03; 8:45 am]

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