

costs, safety issues, capacity needs, shipping height restrictions, and connectivity to adjacent areas. The purpose of the improvements is to address these deficiencies while identifying future plans for the US 181 roadway structure and the area it serves.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action, and (2) replacing the existing US 181 Harbor Bridge and approach roads with a facility built to current highway standards. A Feasibility Study prepared in 2003 evaluated four corridor alternatives along existing and new location right-of-way and a No-Build alternative, resulting in the identification of a recommended study corridor. A reasonable number of alignment alternatives will be identified and evaluated in the EIS, as well as the No-Build Alternative, based on input from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private organizations and concerned citizens.

Impacts caused by the construction and operation of the proposed improvements would vary according to the alternative alignment utilized. Generally, impacts would include the following: Impacts to residences and businesses, including potential relocation; impacts to parkland; transportation impacts (construction detours, construction traffic, and mobility improvement); air and noise impacts from construction equipment and operation of the roadway; social and economic impacts, including impacts to minority and low-income residents; impacts to historic cultural resources; water quality impacts from construction and roadway runoff; and impacts to waters of the U.S. including wetlands from right-of-way encroachment.

A letter that describes the proposed action and a request for comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed interest in the proposal. TxDOT completed a Feasibility Study for the project in June 2003. In conjunction with the Feasibility Study, TxDOT developed a public involvement plan, sponsored three citizens' advisory committee (CAC) meetings, held two public meetings, and distributed two newsletters. An agency scoping meeting will be held by TxDOT on June 23, 2005 to brief agency representatives on project plans, introduce project team members, obtain comments pertaining to the scope of the EIS, identify important issues, set goals, and respond to questions. A continuing public involvement program will include a

project mailing list, project newsletters, a June 23, 2005 public scoping meeting (public notice will be given of the time and place), and numerous informal meetings with interested citizens and stakeholders. In addition, a public hearing will be held after the publication of the Draft EIS. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning, and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: May 10, 2005.

John R. Mack,

District Engineer, Austin, Texas.

[FR Doc. 05-10055 Filed 5-19-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34699]

Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Central of Georgia Railroad Company

Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (GSRW), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire from Central of Georgia Railroad Company (CGA) and operate approximately 43 miles of rail line, extending from milepost R-120 at Florida Rock to milepost R-55.0 at Allie, in Harris and Meriwether Counties, GA. The transaction also includes the acquisition by GSRW of 12.2 miles of incidental trackage rights, extending from milepost M-290.3 at South Columbus through milepost M-290.9/P-290.9 at Columbus and milepost P-291.7/R-1.2 at West Columbus to milepost R-12.0 at Florida Rock, in Harris and Muscogee Counties, GA.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on May 20, 2005. GSRW certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction

would not exceed \$5 million and would not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34699, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: May 12, 2005.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-9993 Filed 5-19-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Grant Program; Availability of 2006 Grant Application Package

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document contains a notice that the IRS has made available the grant application package (Publication 3319) for organizations interested in applying for a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) matching grant for the 2006 grant cycle (January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006). The IRS will award a total of up to \$6,000,000 (unless otherwise provided by specific Congressional appropriation) to qualifying organizations, subject to the limitations of Internal Revenue Code section 7526, for LITC matching grants.

DATES: Grant applications for the 2006 grant cycle must be electronically filed or received by the IRS no later than 4 p.m. e.d.t. on July 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send completed grant applications to: Internal Revenue Service, Taxpayer Advocate Service, LITC Grant Program Administration Office, Mail Stop 211-D, 401 W. Peachtree St., NW., Atlanta, GA 30308.

Copies of the 2006 Grant Application Package and Guidelines, IRS Publication 3319 (Rev. 5-2005), can be downloaded from the IRS Internet site at <http://www.irs.gov/advocate> or ordered from the IRS Distribution Center by calling 1-800-829-3676. Applicants can also file electronically at <http://www.grants.gov>. For applicants applying through the Federal Grants Web site, the Funding Number is TREAS-GRANTS-052006-001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The LITC Program Office at 404-338-8306 (not a toll-free number) or by e-mail at LITCProgramOffice@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 7526 of the Internal Revenue Code authorizes the IRS, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, to award organizations matching grants of up to \$100,000 for the development, expansion, or continuation of qualified low income taxpayer clinics. Section 7526 authorizes the IRS to provide grants to qualified organizations that represent low income taxpayers in controversies with the IRS or inform individuals for whom English is a second language of their tax rights and responsibilities. The IRS may award grants to qualifying organizations to fund one-year, two-year or three-year project periods. Grant funds may be awarded for start-up expenditures incurred by new clinics during the grant period.

The 2006 Grant Application Package and Guidelines, Publication 3319 (Rev. 5-2005), includes several changes that are being implemented to improve delivery of clinic services, including additional oversight and assistance with the technical components of the LITC Program by the LITC Program Office. Among the changes, the LITC Program Office has developed a new form to be submitted with interim and annual reports to assist clinics in consistently reporting the number of cases worked and taxpayers served throughout the year. In addition, the LITC Program Office has clarified the comprehensive Program standards.

The costs of preparing and submitting an application are the responsibility of each applicant. Each application will be given due consideration and the LITC

Program Office will mail notification letters to each applicant.

Selection Consideration

Applications that pass the eligibility screening process will be numerically ranked based on the information contained in their proposed program plan. Please note that the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs are independently funded and separate from the LITC Program. Organizations currently participating in the VITA or TCE Programs may be eligible to apply for a LITC grant if they meet the criteria and qualifications outlined in the 2006 Grant Application Package and Guidelines, Publication 3319 (Rev. 5-2005). Organizations that seek to operate VITA and LITC Programs, or TCE and LITC Programs, must maintain separate and distinct programs even if co-located to ensure proper cost allocation for LITC grant funds and adherence to the rules and regulations of the VITA, TCE and LITC Programs, as appropriate. In addition to the criteria and qualifications outlined in the 2006 Grant Application Package and Guidelines, to foster parity regarding clinic availability and accessibility for taxpayers nationwide, the IRS will consider the geographic area of applicants as part of the decision-making process. The IRS will also seek to attain a proper balance of academic and non-profit organizations, as well as a proper balance of start-up and existing clinics.

Comments

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments on the IRS's administration of the grant program on an ongoing basis. Comments may be sent to Internal Revenue Service, Taxpayer Advocate Service, Attn: W.R. Swartz, LITC Program Office, 290 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007.

Nina E. Olson,

National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service.

[FR Doc. 05-10170 Filed 5-19-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Earned Income Tax Credit Issue Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Earned Income Tax Credit Issue Committee will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Thursday, June 16, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Audrey Y. Jenkins at 1-888-912-1227 (toll-free), or 718-488-2085 (non toll-free).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Earned Income Tax Credit Issue Committee will be held Thursday, June 16, 2005, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. e.t. via a telephone conference call. The public is invited to make oral comments. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes. For information or to confirm attendance, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made with Audrey Y. Jenkins. Ms. Jenkins may be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or (718) 488-2085, send written comments to Audrey Y. Jenkins, TAP Office, 10 MetroTech Center, 625 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or post comments to the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made in advance.

The agenda will include various IRS issues.

Dated: May 17, 2005.

Martha Curry,

Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 05-10171 Filed 5-19-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P