Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1086, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108–1086, Telephone: 717–782–4422, or Russell E. Campbell, Project Manager, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 3–0, 715 Jordan Avenue, Montoursville, Pennsylvania 17754–0218, Telephone: 717–368–4380.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the New York State Department of Transportation, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve the safety and capacity on U.S. Route 15 in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and Steuben County, New York. The approximate length of the study area is 12 miles (6 miles in each state).

In Pennsylvania, the project begins just south of the U.S. Route 15 and PA 287 intersection and continues north to the PA/NY state line. The New York section begins at the state line and continues north to the project terminus just south of Presho, where the existing two lane roadway becomes a four-lane, limited access highway.

This 12-mile section of U.S. Route 15 was programmed because of several transportation considerations. It is a direct tie between the major economic areas of Williamsport and Corning. This is the last section of U.S. Route 15 between these two cities to come under consideration for upgrade (all other sections of U.S. Route 15 are either under design, construction, or studies are being activated). The upgrade would improve access to nearby recreational areas and would sustain the existing economy of the area by providing improved access. A facility constructed to present design standards would improve safety.

À two-phased study approach will be used to identify and evaluate alternatives. The initial phase is for scoping and needs assessment. The study will then involve the development of potential alternatives through the study area. Each of the alternatives will be developed such that a means of comparison can be made along with the No-Build Alternative. Upgrade of the existing facility and new alignments may be considered.

Concurrent with the development of the alternatives, various types of data will be gathered which will describe the study area as it relates to the alternatives. The following environmental areas will be investigated for EIS preparation: Traffic, air quality, noise and vibration; surface water resources; aquatic environmental;

floodplains; groundwaters; soils and geology; wetlands; vegetation and wildlife; endangered species; agricultural lands assessment: visual: socioeconomics and land use; construction impacts; energy; municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste; historic and archaeological structures and sites; Section 4(f) evaluation; and wild and scenic rivers. The above information will be utilized to refine the alternatives or eliminate a particular alternative from further considerations because of the potential for negative socioeconomic, environmental, or engineering impacts.

The second phase will utilize the alternatives selected in the initial phase and perform a detailed analysis on each. These alternatives will be the basis for the detailed environmental and engineering studies and the Environmental Impact Statement. From this analysis a preferred alternative will be identified which meets the needs of traffic demand, and satisfies the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering evaluations and public feedback.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal agencies as well as State and local agencies in New York and Pennsylvania, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public and agency meetings will be held throughout the development of the project. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public

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 or the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding ingovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program) Issued on: February 15, 1995.

Manuel A. Marks,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. [FR Doc. 95–4564 Filed 2–23–95; 8:45 am]

Federal Railroad Administration

Florida East Coast Railway Company; Public Hearing

[RS&I-AP-No. 1094]

The Florida East Coast Railway Company (FEC) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking relief from the requirements of the Rules, Standards and Instructions, title 49 CFR, part 236, § 236.566, to the extent that FEC be permitted to operate foreign line nonequipped locomotives, in automatic train control (ATC) territory, in accordance with Centralized Traffic Control System rules as defined by FEC Operating Rules and title 49 CFR, part 236, § 236.567.

This proceeding is identified as FRA Rules, Standards and Instructions Application (RS&I-AP) Number 1094.

The FRA has issued a public notice seeking comments of interested parties and has conducted a field investigation in this matter. After examining the carrier's proposal and the available facts, the FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this proposal.

Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set for 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 27, 1995, in the Saint Johns County Auditorium, located at 420 Lewis Speedway, Saint Augustine, Florida. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at the hearing.

The hearing will be an informal one and will be conducted in accordance with Rule 25 of the FRA Rules of Practice (title 49 CFR part 211.25), by a representative designated by the FRA.

The hearing will be a nonadversary proceeding and, therefore, there will be no cross-examination of persons presenting statements. The FRA representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make brief rebuttal statements will be given the opportunity to do so in the same order in which they made their initial statements. Additional procedures, if necessary for the conduct of the hearing, will be announced at the hearing.