

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Contact: Mr. David Beckhouse, Community Planner, Federal Transit Administration, (303) 844-3242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scoping Process:

Project scoping will be accomplished through a public scoping meeting and correspondence with interested people, organizations, and local, regional, state and federal agencies. Public scoping meetings will be advertised in local newspapers and through other media. The purpose of the scoping process is to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues related to the proposed action. The development of the Master Plan and EIS will include opportunities for public participation and comment throughout the study process, so that interested individuals may contribute to the decision-making process.

Description of Master Plan and Transportation Needs

A Master Plan will be developed to address what role the Union Station can play as an extremely efficient center for interconnecting various modes of transportation (cross-country, regional, and local bus and rail transit), and influencing land use by both the private and public sectors. All the activities, existing and proposed developments, and potential transportation terminals and modes, which are envisioned for the Union Station area, must co-exist efficiently and effectively. Therefore, a Master Plan must be created to identify and evaluate all the proposals and plans for the Union Station area. This evaluation will include, in terms of their impacts on each other within the context of the Union Station and its environs, the full build-out of the area, and how the alternatives will blend into the overall development of Union Station and its environs. Components of the plan include: the mixture of land uses, the magnitude of development, and the incorporation of new development into what has been built and planned for the Union Station environs. Special emphasis will be placed on transportation issues such as access, circulation, and parking. It is the intent of this project to use the Master Plan as the basis for any necessary rezoning of the study area to allow the build out of the plan.

Proposed Action

The EIS scoping process will include an evaluation of alternatives relative to the development of the Master Plan in order to derive a proposed action.

Public Involvement

A comprehensive public involvement program has been developed. The program includes a project web site (www.DenverUnionStation.org); a 24-hour Hot Line (303) 322-3320, outreach to local and county officials and community and civic groups; a public scoping process to define the issues of concern among all parties interested in the project; a public hearing upon release of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS); and development and distribution of a project newsletters.

Alternatives

FTA and RTD propose to evaluate the no-action alternative and other reasonable alternatives identified during the public scoping and master planning processes that provide transportation benefits while reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. Interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to participate in defining the alternatives to be evaluated and related issues of concern.

Probable Effects and Potential Impacts for Analysis

The FTA and RTD will evaluate all environmental, social and economic impacts of the alternatives analyzed in the EIS. The impact areas to be addressed include land use, visual/aesthetic values, ecosystems, mineral resources, cultural and historical resources, water quality, floodplains and drainage; air quality; noise and vibration, traffic and parking, hazardous materials, utilities, energy use and conservation, public safety and security; and community and economic impacts. The EIS will evaluate potential environmental justice issues as well as secondary, cumulative, and construction-related impacts. The need for right-of-way acquisitions and relocations will also be evaluated. Alternative alignments, designs, station locations, and other measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts will be developed and evaluated.

FTA Procedures

In accordance with FTA policy, all Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders affecting project development, including but not limited to the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality and FTA implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508, and 23 CFR part 771), the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 12898 regarding environmental justice, the National Historic Preservation Act, the

Endangered Species Act, and section 4(f) of the DOT Act, will be addressed to the maximum extent practicable during the NEPA process. In addition, RTD may seek § 5309 New Starts funding for the project or related projects that may terminate within the project area and will therefore be subject to the FTA New Starts regulations (49 CFR part 611). This New Starts regulation requires submission of certain specified information to FTA to support an RTD request to initiate preliminary engineering, which is normally done in conjunction with the NEPA process.

Issued on: May 29, 2002.

Lee O. Waddleton,

FTA Regional Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW (Pension and Parents DIC Participants)]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Planning and Analysis, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Planning and Analysis, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed new collection of information, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information that will be collected by a telephone survey to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of VA programs.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before August 5, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to John A. Corso, Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Analysis (008B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail john.corso@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-

NEW (Pension and Parents DIC Participants)” in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John A. Corso at (202) 273-5927 or FAX (202) 273-5993.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, the Office of Planning and Analysis invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of

information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Survey of Department of Veterans Affairs Pension and Parents DIC Participants.

OMB Control Number: None assigned.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the VA Pension and Parents' DIC programs. These are needs-based programs that provide benefits to wartime veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to non-service-connected causes, surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans, and needy parents of veterans whose deaths were service-connected.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Time Per Respondent and Annual Burden: 2,871 hours.

a. Veterans @ 45 minutes per response = 981.75 hours.

b. Spouses @ 45 minutes per response = 978 hours.

c. Parents @ 45 minutes per response = 911.25 hours.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,828.

a. Veterans—1,309.

b. Spouses—1,304.

c. Parents—1,215.

Dated: March 20, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

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