APPENDIX TO PART 393—CRITERIA FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF MARINE HIGHWAY PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Criteria for Initial Assessment of Marine Highway Project Applications

1. Evaluate each application as strong, medium, or weak in reference to the criteria listed below.
2. Collapse the criteria-specific ratings into a single "initial assessment rating" – strong, medium or weak.

Criteria	Central Question	Areas to Consider
Overall Benefit of Project:		
Scope	How much freight or passenger traffic would be affected?	- How many truck/rail car miles are likely to be saved? - How many passenger vehicle miles will be saved?
Impact	Are the reductions in critical areas?	- Miles saved in urban areas? - Miles saved in rural areas? - Does the project represent a segment of a Marine Highway Corridor or include an area designated in DOT's Urban Partnership Program? - Does it support another DOT project or initiative?
Public benefit	What are the benefits to the public in the following? – Congestion Reduction – Energy Savings – Reduced Emissions – Safety Improvements	- Number of urban and rural miles saved - Energy consumption between vessel & truck or rail - Using available data, emission reductions (SOX/NOX/Particulates) - What is the statistical savings in highway/rail accidents
Return on Investment/Feasibility		
Offsetting Costs	What publicly funded expenses does this project alleviate? – Road Repair due to wear and tear – Construction/Expansion of existing Roads/Rail lines	- Utilize a formula of trucks/cars per dollar of maintenance - Does the proposed project delay or eliminate need for new construction?
Feasibility	Is the project likely to achieve self-sustaining operation?	- Identify current/future impediments to successful operation - Is the business model feasible? – Is there adequate freight/passenger load? – Is the cost difference between modes minimal? – What variables will influence success? – Is it likely to begin/expand on time?
Cost Effectiveness (Government)	What is the cost to the Government to support the project?	- If there is a Federal cost, what is the return against: - Offsetting costs? - Public benefit received?

PARTS 394–399 [RESERVED]