To demonstrate that this suggested milestone is achievable, applicants should provide information about the anticipated class of action, the budget for completing NEPA, including hiring a consultant if necessary, and a schedule that demonstrates when a Web site will be complete. The schedule should show how the suggested milestones described in this section will be complied with, and include any anticipated coordination with Federal and State regulatory agencies for permits and approvals. The budget should demonstrate how costs to complete NEPA factor into the overall cost to complete the project. The budget and schedule for completing NEPA should be reasonable and be comparable to a budget and schedule of a typical project of the same type. The applicant should provide evidence of support based on input during the NEPA process from State and local elected officials as well as the public. Additionally, the applicant should provide environmental studies or other documents (preferably by way of a Web site link) that describe in detail known potential project impacts and possible mitigation for these impacts. The applicant should supply sufficient documentation for DOT to adequately review the project’s NEPA status.

Right-of-Way and Design: If the obligation of TIGER Discretionary Grant funds for construction or other activities by an operating administration may be contingent on completion of right-of-way acquisition and final design approval, applicants should demonstrate, through their project schedule, that they reasonably expect to have right-of-way and design completed, and completion of any other needed pre-construction steps if a project element is for pre-construction activities, or other approvals by June 30, 2013, so that the TIGER Discretionary Grant funds will be fully obligated in advance of the September 30, 2013, statutory deadline, and that any unexpected delays will not put TIGER Discretionary Grant funds at risk of expiring before they can be fully obligated. If the obligation of TIGER Discretionary Grant funds for construction or other activities is contingent on completion of other approvals only take place after the environmental approvals process, the applicant should demonstrate, through their project schedule, that they can reasonably expect to obtain all environmental approvals by March 30, 2013, or other date sufficiently in advance of June 30, 2013, to reasonably expect to have right-of-way acquisition and design completed, and additional approvals contingent on completion of right of way acquisition and design, and any other required approvals by June 30, 2013, so that the TIGER Discretionary Grant funds will be fully obligated in advance of or by the September 30, 2013, statutory deadline, and that any unexpected delays will not put TIGER Discretionary Grant funds at risk of expiring before they can be fully obligated. If the obligation of TIGER Discretionary Grant funds for construction or other activities is contingent on completion of right-of-way acquisition and design, and any other required approvals by June 30, 2013, so that the TIGER Discretionary Grant funds will be fully obligated in advance of or by the September 30, 2013, statutory deadline, and that any unexpected delays will not put TIGER Discretionary Grant funds at risk of expiring before they can be fully obligated. Applicants should submit a reasonable schedule of when right-of-way (if applicable), design, and any other required approvals can be obtained. Applicants may expect that DOT may obligate TIGER funds for right-of-way and design completion only after planning and environmental approvals are obtained. Completion of Obligation: Applicants should plan to have all necessary pre-construction or other approvals and activities completed by June 30, 2013, so that the TIGER Discretionary Grant funds will be fully obligated in advance of the September 30, 2013, statutory deadline, and that any unexpected delays will not put TIGER Discretionary Grant funds at risk of expiring before they can be fully obligated.

Issued on: August 9, 2011.

Ray LaHood,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011–20577 Filed 8–11–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–9X–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP)

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 5207 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) established the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP). The FHWA anticipates that the STEP or a similar program to provide resources for national research on issues related to planning, transportation, and environment, and realty will be included in future surface transportation legislation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, the FHWA expects to seek partnerships that can leverage limited research funding in the STEP with other stakeholders and partners in order to increase the total amount of resources available to meet the Nation’s surface transportation research needs. The purpose of this notice is to announce the STEP implementation strategy for FY 2012 and to request suggested lines of research for the FY 2012 STEP via the STEP Web site at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/step/index.htm in anticipation of future surface transportation legislation.

DATES: Suggestions for lines of research should be submitted to the STEP Web site on or before November 10, 2011.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Lucy Garliauskas, Director, Office of Human Environment, (202) 366–2047, 
Lucy.Garliauskas@dot.gov or Adam 
Sleeter, Office of the Chief Counsel, 
(202) 366–8839; Federal Highway 
Administration, 1200 New Jersey 
Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. 
Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 
p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, 
extcept Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Electronic Access
An electronic copy of this notice may 
be downloaded from the Office of the 
Federal Register’s home page at http:// 
www.archives.gov/ and the Government 
www.access.gpo.gov/.

Background
Section 5207 of the Safe, Accountable, 
Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity 
Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) 
established the Surface Transportation 
Environment and Planning Cooperative 
Research Program in section 507 of Title 
23, United States Code. The FHWA 
anticipates that the STEP or a similar 
program to provide resources for 
national research on issues related to 
planning, environment, and realty will 
be included in future surface 
transportation legislation. The general 
objective of the STEP is to improve 
understanding of the complex 
relationship between surface 
transportation, planning, and the 
environment.

The SAFETEA–LU provided $16.875 
million per year for FY 2006–2009 to 
implement this cooperative research 
program. Due to obligation 
limitations, rescissions, and congressional 
designation of Title V Research in 
SAFETEA–LU, on average $14.5 million 
of the $16.875 million authorized was 
available each fiscal year.

The STEP is the primary source of 
funds for FHWA to conduct research and 
develop tools and technologies to 
advance the state of the practice 
regarding national surface 
transportation and environmental 
decisionmaking. In FY 2012, the FHWA 
expects to seek partnerships that can 
leverage limited research funding in the 
STEP with other stakeholders and 
partners in order to increase the total 
amount of resources available to meet 
the nation’s surface transportation 
research needs.

The FY 2012 STEP will support the 
implementation of a national research 
agenda that includes:

(1) Conducting research to develop 
climate change mitigation, adaptation 
and livability strategies;
(2) Developing and/or supporting 
accurate models and tools for evaluating 
transportation measures and developing 
indicators of economic, social, and 
environmental performance of 
transportation systems to facilitate 
alternative analysis;
(3) Developing and deploying 
research to address congestion 
reduction efforts;
(4) Developing transportation safety 
planning strategies for surface 
transportation systems and 
improvements;
(5) Improving planning, operation, 
and management of surface 
transportation systems and rights-of-
way;
(6) Enhancing knowledge of strategies 
to improve transportation in rural areas 
and small communities;
(7) Strengthening and advancing 
State/local and tribal capabilities 
regarding surface transportation and the 
environment;
(8) Improving transportation 
decisionmaking and coordination across 
international borders;
(9) Improving state of the practice 
regarding the impact of transportation 
on the environment;
(10) Conducting research to promote 
environmental streamlining/

stewardship and sustainability;
(11) Disseminating research results 
and advances in state of the practice 
through peer exchanges, workshops, 
conferences, etc;
(12) Meeting additional priorities as 
determined by the Secretary; and
(13) Refining the scope and research 
emphases through active outreach and 
and in consultation with stakeholders.

The FHWA is issuing this notice to:
(1) To announce the STEP 
Implementation Strategy for the FY 
2012 STEP in anticipation of future 
transportation legislation, and 
(2) to solicit comments on proposed 
research activities to be undertaken in 
the FY 2012 STEP via the STEP Web 
site. The STEP Implementation Strategy 
can be found at http:// www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/about/step/

/That Strategy updates 
information on the graphs and charts 
regarding historical planning and 
environment research funding, and adds 
information about the proposed FY 2012 
STEP including proposed funding 
levels, goals, and potential research 
activities. We invite the public to visit 
this Web site to obtain additional 
information on the STEP, as well as 
information on the process for 
forwarding comments to the FHWA 
regarding the STEP implementation 
plan. The URL for the STEP Web site is: 

The FHWA will use this Web site as 
a major mechanism for informing the 
public regarding the status of the STEP.


OMB Approval for Specific Forms, 
Surveys, Questionnaires: Burden 
Statement
This collection of information is 
voluntary and will be used to identify 
potential research for the creation of a 
research plan for the FHWA STEP 
Program. Public reporting burden is 
estimated to average 30 minutes per 
response, including the time for 
reviewing instructions, searching 
existing data sources, gathering and 
maintaining the data needed, and 
completing and reviewing the collection 
of information. No confidential 
information will be collected; therefore, 
no assurances of confidentiality will be 
provided. Please note that an agency 
may not conduct or sponsor, and a 
person is not required to respond to, a 
collection of information unless it 
displays a currently valid Office of 
Management and Budget (OMB) control 
number. The OMB control number for 
this collection is 2125–0627 (Expiration 
6/30/14). Send comments regarding 
this burden estimate or any other aspect 
of this collection of information, including 
suggestions for reducing this burden to: 
Information Collection Clearance 
Officer, Federal Highway 
Administration, 1200 New Jersey 
Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Authority: 5 CFR 1320.8.

Issued on: August 8, 2011.

Vicor M. Mendez, 
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2011–20506 Filed 8–11–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety 
Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2011–0177]

Agency Information Collection 
Activities; Request for Comment; 
Extension of an Information Collection: 
Hours of Service (HOS) of Drivers 
Regulations

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety 
Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for 
comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the 
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995