



Transportation Planning Requirements and Their Relationship to NEPA

FHWA / FTA

Let's Talk Planning Videoconference

March 19, 2008

Today's Discussion

- Context
- Overview of the January 28, 2008 Guidance from Gloria Shepherd
 - Starting a NEPA Study
 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan Requirements
 - Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan
 - STIP and TIP Requirements
- Some State Examples (PA, MD, CO)
- Feedback

Context

- Guidance on Transportation Planning Requirements and Their Relationship to NEPA
- Increased emphasis on Oversight on Fiscal Constraint in NEPA, Planning and Major Projects
- Need for Fiscal Stewardship Planning and NEPA



Starting a NEPA Study

- A corridor or NEPA Study should be Included in the Metropolitan Plan before putting NEPA in TIP/STIP
- NEPA study should be consistent with the Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan if in a rural area.
- If NEPA study is Federally funded, include NEPA/PE in the STIP/TIP before funds can be authorized/obligated.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Requirements

- Project must be in the MPO's fiscally constrained plan prior to FHWA approval of a ROD, FONSI, or CE.
- NEPA approvals should only be given for those projects that have independent utility and logical termini, while contributing to the function of the overall project.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Requirements

- Conformity – Before a ROD or FONSI can be signed or a CE approved, a project level conformity determination shall be made for all projects that are subject to conformity.

Effectively, this means the project must come from a conforming Plan.

Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan (LRSTP)

- Before FHWA/FTA can sign a ROD/FONSI, or approve a CE, a project in a non-metropolitan area must be found to be consistent with the LRSTP
- LRSTP May be a policy plan.
- LRSTP does not have to be fiscally constrained.

Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan (LRSTP)

- Conformity Requirements – Before FHWA/FTA can sign a ROD/FONSI or approve a CE for a project that is in a nonattainment or maintenance area, the project must be found to conform.

STIP and TIP Requirements

- Federal Actions – STIP shall contain all regionally significant projects requiring an action by FHWA or the FTA regardless of funding source.
- For all projects, include at least one subsequent phase in the STIP/TIP prior to NEPA approval.

Division Examples

- PA
- MD
- CO

Questions & Discussion

- Questions???
- What additional information could help you implement this guidance or make it more effective?

**FHWA Divisions, FHWA Resource Centers,
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