



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**



## **Application of Travel and Land Use Forecasting in the National Environmental Policy Act Process Guidance Workshop**

SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

**Texas Department of Transportation**

Building 200  
200 East Riverside Drive  
Austin, TX 78704

Classroom A

**Learn how to improve the use of forecasting in the project development and NEPA processes**

The Federal Highway Administration is offering a free one-day workshop to transportation project development, planning, and forecasting staff to aid in implementation of the March 2010 Interim Guidance on the Application of Travel and Land Use Forecasting in NEPA. This will be an interactive workshop offering opportunities for participants to exchange ideas and learn about best practices.

The guidance is intended to encourage improvement in the state-of-the-practice in project-level forecasting as it is applied in the context of the NEPA process. This guidance shares key considerations, collective lessons learned and best practices regarding how to apply forecasting in NEPA. These can be used to help DOTs avoid common issues and improve the quality of forecasts, resulting in faster and more effective project delivery. While technical guidelines for producing forecasts for projects have been documented by others, guidance has not been provided on the procedural or process considerations in forecasting. This guidance attempts to fill that gap.

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Michael Culp, the Team Leader for the Sustainable Transport and Climate Change Team in the FHWA Office of Natural Environment, will lead the workshop. Michael leads efforts that relate to sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Previously, he was a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist where he worked on policy and compliance issues related to NEPA. He led FHWA's efforts on how forecasting is applied in the context of the NEPA process. He also led policy coordination and technical efforts related to the integration of the NEPA and transportation planning processes. He has 17 years of experience with FHWA, focusing primarily on planning and environmental programs and policy. Michael holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.A. in Transportation Policy.

**For additional  
information, please  
contact:**

Theresa Claxton,  
FHWA TX Division at  
(512) 536-5943 or  
theresa.claxton@dot.gov

## DETAILED WORKSHOP AGENDA

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### **Session 1: 9:00 – 10:15**

Introduction and Overview: Material presented by workshop leader and group-wide facilitated discussion

Learning objectives

Project Overview & FHWA Motivation

Opening discussion on status of forecasting in the region

Guidance Section 1: Project Conditions and forecasting needs

Guidance Section 2: Suitability of modeling methods, tools, and underlying data

Guidance Section 3: Scoping and collaboration on methodologies

Short individual exercise

### **Session 2: 10:30 – 12:00**

Last four sections of the guidance: Material presented by workshop leader and individual exercise

Guidance Section 4: Forecasting in the alternatives analysis

Guidance Section 5: Project management considerations

Guidance Section 6: Forecasting for noise and air emissions analysis

Guidance Section 7: Documentation and archiving

Short Individual exercise

### **Session 3: 1:00 – 2:45**

Mock peer review: Material presented by workshop leader and group exercise

Introduction and instructions for mock peer review

Breakout into up to four groups, each focusing on a different mock project scenario.

Report back in the form of a sequence of short presentations presented by the breakout groups

Closing discussion of the recommendations made during the report back presentations

### **Session 4: 3:00 – 4:30**

Implications for forecasting in the region: Material presented by workshop leader and breakout group discussions

Breakout groups to aggregate and briefly discuss the key themes from the 10 points written down by each person in the morning

Report back to full group those key themes including practical recommendation about how to implement those key themes

Closing discussion of the results of the exercise

Review of learning objectives

# RSVP FORM

Space is limited to 30 attendees—  
please return completed form  
to guarantee your seat

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Org: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please complete this form by  
**September 15, 2010**

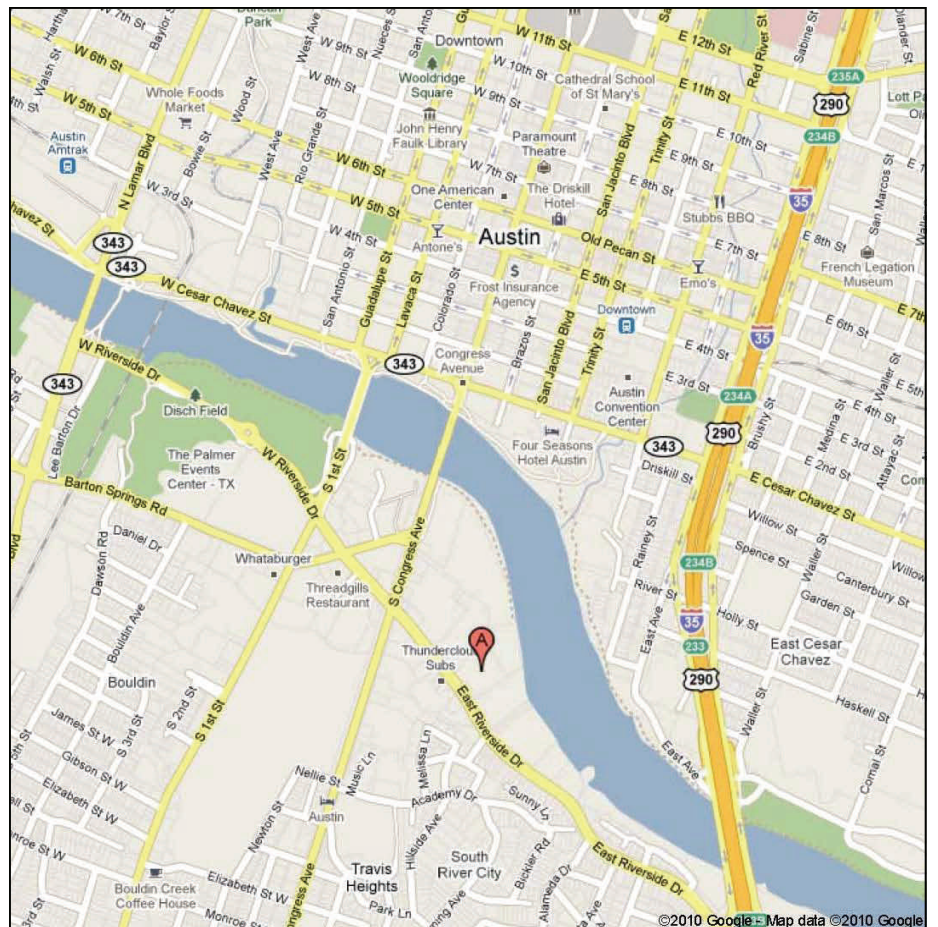
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Facility location map



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