



At the Intersection of Project Delivery and the Environment

The Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO offers diverse products and programs for technical assistance, training, information exchange, partnership-building opportunities, and quick access to environmental tools. The Center helps practitioners incorporate environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship into transportation planning, design, construction, maintenance, operations, project delivery and multimodal systems. For more information, please visit <http://environment.transportation.org>.

How do Project Delivery and Environmental Issues Intersect? Transportation agencies work to avoid or minimize potential impacts from their projects prior to project delivery. Agencies consider potential impacts of their projects to the natural and social environment, ranging from stormwater runoff to air emissions to habitat disruption and community impacts.



Agencies document potential impacts in carrying out the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, analyzing both the potential direct impacts as well as indirect effects and cumulative impacts. These analyses include consultation with stakeholders and the public, identification of important trends and issues, and analysis of the potential for land use change

and related environmental and social impacts. Transportation agencies also consider potential impacts of changing climate conditions and extreme weather as a consideration in the project development and review process. The Center provides a range of useful resources related to project delivery, including the **Multimodal NEPA Peer Exchange**, **State DOT NEPA Assumption Peer Exchange**, and **Project Delivery/Streamlining Topic**. (Image: AASHTO Peer Exchange Summary)

Protecting the Natural and Human Environment: Prior to project delivery, transportation projects are subject to over 40 separate federal laws and regulations. In addition to NEPA, specific laws include the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and Section 6(f) of the Land and

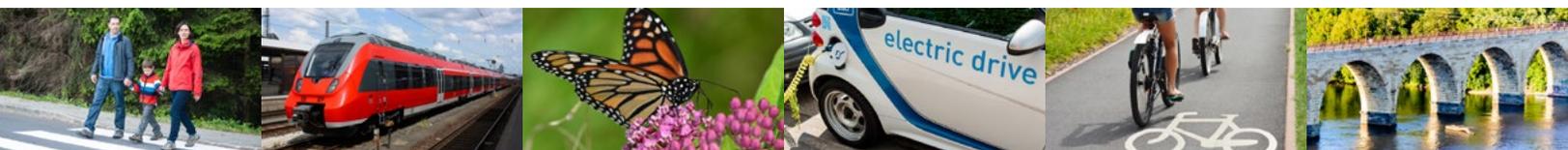
Water Conservation Act. Under NEPA, agencies analyze issues such as traffic and construction noise, potential impacts to environmental justice populations, and other social impacts. Resources to help practitioners navigate compliance with NEPA and related laws are provided in the Center's **Practitioner's Handbook series** and through **webinars, publications, and peer exchanges**. (Image: AASHTO)



Expediting Project Delivery: Efforts to help streamline environmental reviews and expedite project delivery have been adopted in federal transportation law in recent years and have been implemented under the Federal Highway Administration's Every Day Counts initiative and other efforts. Effective approaches include linking the planning and environmental review processes, use of in-lieu fee and mitigation banking approaches, and simplifying environmental document production. Agencies also are developing



“programmatic” agreements to comply with environmental requirements. For example, Oregon DOT's Endangered Species Act Programmatic Consultation, highlighted in a Center **Case Study**, helps streamline projects such as this innovative culvert design to facilitate fish passage. Examples of these and other resources are provided on the Center's **Project Delivery/Streamlining Topic**, **NEPA Process Topic**, and **Planning and Environment Linkages Topic**. (Image: Oregon DOT)





Resources for Project Delivery Practitioners

The Center web site at <http://environment.transportation.org> offers access to a range of products and services for practitioners. The following resources are relevant to Project Delivery Practitioners.

The Center website includes 21 separate environmental topics pertinent to transportation. Information can be sorted by discipline, mode, or state. **Topics of interest include:**

- Air Quality
- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Energy/Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Management Systems
- Geographic Information Systems
- Health & Human Environment
- Historic Preservation/Cultural Resources
- Indirect Effects/Cumulative Impacts
- Infrastructure Resilience
- Invasive Species/Vegetation Management
- MAP-21
- NEPA Process
- Noise
- Planning & Environment Linkages
- Project Delivery/Streamlining
- Section 4(f)/Section 6(f)
- Sustainability
- Waste Management/Recycling
- Water Quality/Wetlands
- Wildlife & Ecosystems

- **Practitioner's Handbooks:** These comprehensive resources provide practical advice on a range of environmental issues that arise in transportation projects and programs including a range of practical advice for project delivery and environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- **The Case Law Updates on the Environment Database:** CLUE provides summaries of NEPA-related case law related to transportation projects, organized by date, topic, and statute.
- **Transportation and Environmental Research Ideas (TERI) database:** TERI provides a storehouse for tracking and sharing transportation and environment research ideas in over 20 topic areas.
- **Conference & Workshop Materials:** The Center hosts a number of conferences and workshops for technical assistance, training, information exchange, partnership-building opportunities.
- **Webcasts/Webinars:** These recordings and materials provide training to advance the state-of-the practice on

important topics and are archived on the Center web site, including the 2016 peer exchange on navigating multi-agency NEPA processes to advance multimodal transportation projects.

- **Original Reports and Publications:** A range of useful resources are provided on the Center website, including "Examples of Effective Techniques for Preparing High-Quality NEPA Documents."
- **Communities of Practice:** The Center facilitates an on-going dialogue with transportation practitioners in the topic areas of air quality, storm water management, and historic bridges.
- **Roadmap for Developing and Implementing Programmatic Agreements and the Programmatic Agreement Tracking Tool:** The Roadmap is a user-friendly web-based tool that guides practitioners through the process to develop and implement a programmatic agreement. The Tracking Tool provides a web-based template for state DOTs to track the benefits of programmatic agreements.

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Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO Contact Information

How can we assist you? If you have a particular need for environmental information, technical assistance, partnership-building, or training, please contact us at environment@transportation.org.

