

NEPA OVERVIEW

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a policy followed to use practicable means and measures to create and maintain conditions where man and environment can exist in harmony and fulfill social and economic requirements. NEPA defines a special process that should be followed when evaluating the impact of a proposed activity or developmental action. NEPA's framework consists of:

- Fully describing the project
- Justify the purpose and need
- Study the existing environment
- Describe and analyze project alternatives
- Describe input from citizens, agencies, government, and provide responses
- Announce decision and reason the preferred alternative was selected.

NEPA ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) established a Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program that allowed the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation to assign to certain states the USDOT Secretary's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the USDOT Secretary's responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, or other action required under any Federal environmental law with one or more highway projects within the State.

The FDOT has assumed Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for highway projects on the State Highway System (SHS) and Local Agency Program (LAP) projects off the SHS.

FDOT's assumption includes all highway and roadway projects in Florida whose source of federal funding comes from FHWA or which constitute a federal action through FHWA. This includes responsibilities for environmental review, interagency consultation and other regulatory compliance-related actions pertaining to the review or approval of NEPA projects. Whereas FHWA was previously identified as the Lead Federal Agency, this function is now served by FDOT with approval authority resting in the Office of Environmental Management (OEM).

This streamlines Florida's environmental review process and project delivery time. Through the NEPA Assignment program, FDOT assumes legal responsibility and liability to ensure compliance with all environmental requirements.