



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2021

TO: District Planning and Environmental Administrators, District Environmental Managers, and District Environmental Project Development Engineers

FROM: Jason Watts, Director, Office of Environmental Management 

COPIES: Courtney Drummond, P.E., Will Watts, P.E., Directors of Transportation Development

SUBJECT: Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) review and the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) approval process occurring within the Environmental Screening Tool (EST)

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BULLETIN 21-01

This bulletin provides information regarding the use of the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) to document reviews and approvals of Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) project reviews within the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process. FDOT uses the ACE process to identify, evaluate, and eliminate alternative corridors on qualifying projects, prior to Project Development and Environment (PD&E). These analysis, results, and decisions may be incorporated into the environmental review process when they meet the conditions of Title 23 U.S.C. § 168(d)(4). FDOT's ACE process meets these conditions. We have enhanced the EST to provide a consistent method of documenting these approvals and including them in the project record. The following reviews and/or approvals of both the **ACE Methodology Memorandum (MM)** and **ACE Report (ACER)** will occur within the EST:

- Office of Environmental Management (OEM) review prior to public and Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) review
- ETAT review
- OEM approval

The Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Manual, Topic 650-000-002 (September 6, 2019), and the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual, Topic No. 650-000-001 (July 1, 2020) will be updated to reflect this online review and approval process. The general content and requirements of the ACE process or its products have not changed. ACE MM and ACER reviews and approvals after February 4, 2021 (release date), should use the forms in the EST.

Training and Quick Guides can be found on the EST under the Help menu. On-demand videos are also available on the OEM website at: <https://www.fdot.gov/environment/sched/track7.shtm>.

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