



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JIM BOXOLD
SECRETARY

September 03, 2015

James Christian
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration – Florida Division
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32312

RE: Statement of Interest – Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program

Dear Mr. Christian:

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to protect, preserve and enhance our nation's environmental resources. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was signed into law in August of 2005. SAFETEA-LU established a five-state pilot program to delegate the Secretary of Transportation's environmental responsibilities.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into law on July 6, 2012 with an effective date of October 1, 2012 by President Obama. MAP-21 creates a streamlined and performance based surface transportation program, promotes accelerating project delivery and encourages innovation. Under MAP-21, the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program was converted into a permanent program allowing any state to apply and expanding the scope of the Secretary's responsibilities that may be assigned and assumed.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has a long history of working together to expedite the environmental process for transportation projects in Florida. Participation in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program would allow FDOT to accelerate and streamline the NEPA process to deliver transportation projects to Florida's citizens.

In accordance with 23 CFR 773.105, FDOT would like to declare our interest in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program in 23 U.S.C. 327. Under this program, FDOT will apply to assume responsibilities for compliance with NEPA and all other Federal environmental laws pertaining to the review or approval of FDOT's transportation program. Under this program, FDOT will be responsible for complying with all applicable federal environmental laws and with FHWA environmental regulations, policies.

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This letter is FDOT's declaration that we intend to submit an application to participate in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program. Under this program, FDOT will assume sole responsibility and liability for our NEPA actions and decisions and is subject to Federal court jurisdiction. We acknowledge that we will actively work to submit a draft application and meet all applicable program criteria in a timely manner. The enactment of necessary State legal authority is anticipated in early 2016.

FDOT looks forward to working closely with FHWA during the application process and implementation of this exciting program. FDOT's main point of contact will be Mr. Ken Morefield. Ken can be reached at:

Ken Morefield, PE
Manager, State Environmental Management Office
605 Suwannee Street, MS 37
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450
Phone: 850-414-4316
Cell: 850-544-2527
Email: ken.morefield@dot.state.fl.us

FDOT would like to request a 2-day NEPA Assignment Workshop with FHWA to review the program, application process and address next steps. FDOT would like to schedule this workshop on or before the first week of November, 2015. Please provide Ken with available dates.

Ken will be reaching out to your staff to set up a coordination meeting(s) or teleconference(s) prior to the NEPA Assignment Workshop to discuss the approach and process moving forward.

Sincerely,



Jim Boxold
Secretary

JB/km

cc: Owen Lindauer, FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review
Brian Blanchard, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations
Richard Biter, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development
Rachel Cone, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration
Jim Wood, FDOT State Transportation Development Administrator
Ken Morefield, Manager, FDOT State Environmental Management Office