

PART 1, CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.1 PURPOSE.....	1-1
1.2 AUTHORITY	1-1
1.3 REFERENCES.....	1-1
1.4 SCOPE.....	1-2
1.5 GENERAL.....	1-2
1.6 DISTRIBUTION.....	1-2
1.7 REVISIONS.....	1-2
1.8 TRAINING.....	1-2
1.9 FORMS.....	1-3

PART 1, CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The process outlined in the ***Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual*** is the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT's) procedure for complying with the ***National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Title 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4321, et seq.***, and other federal and state laws and regulations. This ***Manual*** provides project analysts and Project Managers (users) a framework for the consistent development of environmental and engineering analysis, technical reports, and Environmental Documents for transportation projects.

For transportation projects that require funding or other Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) action, FDOT has assumed, and FHWA has assigned its responsibilities under ***NEPA***. This includes all State Highway System (SHS) and Local Agency Program (LAP) projects. This assumption is referred to as ***NEPA*** Assignment throughout this ***Manual***.

Pursuant to ***23 U.S.C. § 327*** and the implementing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed on December 14, 2016, and renewed on May 26, 2022, ***NEPA*** Assignment includes responsibility for environmental review, interagency consultation and other activities pertaining to the review or approval of ***NEPA*** actions. Consistent with law and the MOU, FDOT is the Lead Federal Agency for highway projects with approval authority residing in the Office of Environmental Management (OEM).

1.2 AUTHORITY

Sections 20.23(3)(a) and 334.048(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.)

1.3 REFERENCES

First Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding Between FHWA and FDOT Concerning the State of Florida's Participation in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327, May 26, 2022.
https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/environment/pubs/nepa_assign/florida-327-mou---signed.pdf?sfvrsn=dbb7bb2b_1

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Title 42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.).
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-10352/pdf/COMPS-10352.pdf>

Title 23 CFR Part 771, Environmental Impact and Related Procedures.
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-H/part-771>

Title 23 U.S.C. § 327, Surface transportation project delivery program.
<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title23-section327&num=0&edition=prelim>

1.4 SCOPE

The principal users of this **Manual** are FDOT personnel and consultants who prepare and review technical reports and Environmental Documents for FDOT.

1.5 GENERAL

This **Manual** is designed to work in conjunction with FDOT handbooks, guidance documents and design criteria that are used in FDOT's project delivery process. This **Manual** contains the process for environmental review which occurs throughout the Planning, PD&E, Design, and Construction phases. This **Manual** also provides support and direction in various technical areas, including engineering analysis and environmental documentation, permitting, and public involvement.

1.6 DISTRIBUTION

The **PD&E Manual** is available online through the **OEM Website**:
<https://www.fdot.gov/environment/pde-manual/pdeman-current>.

PD&E Manual users can register to receive notification of manual updates, revisions and OEM Bulletins online through the FDOT Contact Management at:

<https://fdotewp1.dot.state.fl.us/ContactManagement/Utilities/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fContactManagement>.

1.7 REVISIONS

OEM is responsible for maintaining this **Manual**. On behalf of FDOT, OEM regularly evaluates and updates this **Manual** consistent with the procedures established by FDOT's Policy and Process Management Unit.

Revisions may be the result of District-identified issues or suggested modifications, changes in other FDOT manuals or procedures, updated standards, or changes in federal or state law, rule, policy or guidance.

Updates that require immediate implementation are made with an OEM Bulletin. **Bulletins** affecting this **Manual** remain valid until the **Manual** is revised.

1.8 TRAINING

Information on training courses pertaining to topics in this **Manual** is provided on OEM's **Training Program Website**. It is recommended that staff preparing technical reports or Environmental Documents or performing environmental review tasks take these training

courses. PD&E Process Training is required for local agencies pursuing delivery of environmental or right of way activities under LAP. See the [Local Programs Manual, Topic No. 525-010-300](#) for more information.

1.9 FORMS

Forms required by this *Manual* are identified in applicable chapters. Links are provided in manual chapters where applicable, for electronic forms that are available in FDOT's [Procedural Document Library](#).