Introduction

The ***Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual*** provides Project Managers (PMs) with a framework for the consistent development of transportation projects to comply with federal and state laws, regulations, and requirements. The 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 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.***, and associated federal and state laws and regulations. *NEPA* established a national environmental policy focused on Federal activities and mandated Federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their actions, document the analysis, and provide this information to the public prior to implementation.

The PD&E PM should follow from scope development through completion of a PD&E study.

State Projects

Project funding sources is one of the primary considerations in defining the PD&E study's process. PD&E projects receiving only state funding are documented by either a Non-Major State Action (NMSA) or State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and are approved on the district level. For more information on non-federally funded project delivery, see Part 1, Chapter 10 of the PD&E Manual.

Federal Projects

Projects receiving federal funding, in whole or in part for any project phase, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are required to follow the PD&E Process that is outlined in Part 1, Chapters 2-9 of the PD&E Manual. Projects receiving Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding follow the process documented in Part 1, Chapter 14 of the PD&E Manual.

Federally funded projects receive a Class of Action determination based on the significance of the project's impact on the social, physical, or natural environment defined at *40 CFR 1508.27*. The Class of Action determination identifies the level of environmental documentation required for a project, which can be a Categorical Exclusion (Type 1 or Type 2), an Environmental Assessment (EA), or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). More information on Class of Action determination can be found in in Part 1, Chapter 2 of the PD&E Manual. Type 1 Categorical Exclusions do not have a PD&E phase. Environmental analysis for Type 1 Categorical Exclusions is completed and documented in a checklist during the Design Phase and approved at the district level.

PD&E

The FDOT project development process includes five phases: Planning, PD&E, Design, Right of Way, and Construction. Application of the PD&E process carries the transportation project from the Planning Phase into the Design Phase. Adherence to the PD&E Manual assures compliance with NEPA and its related laws and implementing regulations, and Executive Orders. The PD&E process gives consideration for:

- Purpose and need of the project
- Avoiding and mitigating potential environmental impacts
- Public and resource agency input for the project

There are three key chapters of the ***PD&E Manual*** that each project manager needs to be familiar with to effectively coordinate project delivery. These chapters include the ***Project Development Process***, ***Engineering Analysis***, and ***Commitments***.