

# NEPA

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National Environmental Policy Act

# NEPA

- NEPA of 1969 (signed January 1, 1970)
- Established Nat'l environmental policy & goals
- Required agency disclosure of impacts of proposed actions and possible mitigation
- Created Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)- monitors Federal actions, provides overall guidance, tracks trends and resources.
- Created basis for environmental impact statements (EIS) for major Federal actions

## When Does NEPA Apply?

- For FHWA, basically when a project is proposed for Federal-aid Highway Funding
- Action-highway or transit project proposed for FHWA funding, but...
- ...actions must also include activities such as multiple use permits or changes in access control that may or may not involve commitment of funds

## What must be considered?

- Natural and “built” environments
- Agencies must take a “hard look” at consequences of actions and keep public informed
- NEPA goal: Promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment

# What are Classes of Actions?

- **Categorical Exclusion (CE)**-actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment
- **Environmental Assessment (EA)**-significance of environmental impact is not clearly established; to determine the appropriate environmental document required
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**-detailed written statement on major Federal actions significantly affecting the human environment

# Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Documentation Requirements and Approval Procedures  
for Federal-Aid Projects Classified as Categorical Exclusions

US Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
North Carolina Division Office

And

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Approved:

10/21/2019  
Date



Christopher M. Wemer, PE,  
Director of Technical Services  
NCDOT, Division of Highways

10/21/2019  
Date



John F. Sullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

- Current Version is October 2019
- General Documentation
- Consultations

# What will be needed to receive the Federal Funds?

- Completed/approved environmental document (PCE/CE/EA/EIS)
- Approved change in access if building/modifying and Interstate interchange.

# Additional NEPA Resources

- Federal Aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies
  - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/>
- 4(F) Policy Paper
  - <https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/legislation/section4f/4fpolicy.aspx>
- NCDOT Local Projects Administration
  - <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/funding/Pages/default.aspx>
- Local Programs Management (LPM) Handbook Updates
  - <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/Funding/Pages/LPM%20Handbook.aspx>



**Questions????**

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# Suzette Morales, FHWA NC

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[suzette.morales@dot.gov](mailto:suzette.morales@dot.gov)

919-747-7351