



FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION - REGION V ENVIRONMENTAL “BASICS”

Friday, October 14, 2011

FTA – Region V

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Chicago, IL 60606

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Impacts of our work

space required to transport 60 people



car



bus



bicycle

(Source: City of Vancouver Planning Office, August 2001; Credit: Photo: City of Mexico, Germany)



What is NEPA?

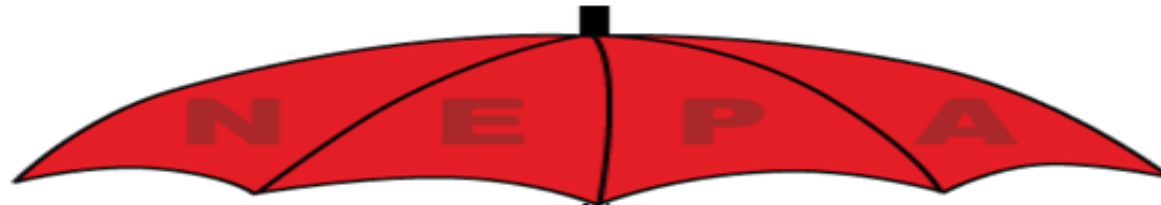
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a U.S. law signed on January 1, 1970 by President Richard Nixon
- NEPA ensures that federal agency decisions are environmentally sound
- Emphasizes public involvement in government actions affecting the environment.

Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

REGULATIONS
For Implementing The Procedural Provisions Of The
NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY ACT



Reprint
40 CFR Parts 1500-1508
(1992)



Americans with Disabilities Act
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act
Archaeological Resources Protection Act
Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities
American Indian Religious Freedom
Clean Air Act
Clean Water Act
Coastal Barrier Resources Act
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
Comprehensive Environmental Response,
Compensation and Liability Act
Economic, Social and Environmental
Effects of Transit
Economic, Social and Environmental
Effects of Highways
Emergency Planning and Community
Right to Know Act of 1986
Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986
Endangered Species Act of 1973
Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands)
Executive Order 11988 and 1214 (Floodplains)
Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)
Executive Order 13045 (Protection of Children)
Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species)
Farmland Protection Policy Act
Federal Water Pollution Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Historic Bridges (23 USC 144)
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
and Management Act (16 USC 1801)
Marine Protection Research and
Sanctuaries Act of 1972
National Flood Insurance Act
National Historic Preservation Act
National Trails System Act
Native American Grave Protection Act
Nondiscrimination (49 USC 5332)
Public Hearing Requirements
Relocation Requirements (49 USC 5324)
Resource Conservation and Recovery
Act of 1976
Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
Section 4(f) of USDOT Act (49 USC 303)
Safe Water Drinking Act
Solid Waste Disposal Act
Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964
Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real
Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
Water Bank Act
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
Wilderness Act of 1964
Wildflowers (23 USC 530) AND MORE....



NEPA's Umbrella

– Includes numerous:

laws,

rules,

regulations, and

guidance



– State and local laws are coordinated with NEPA

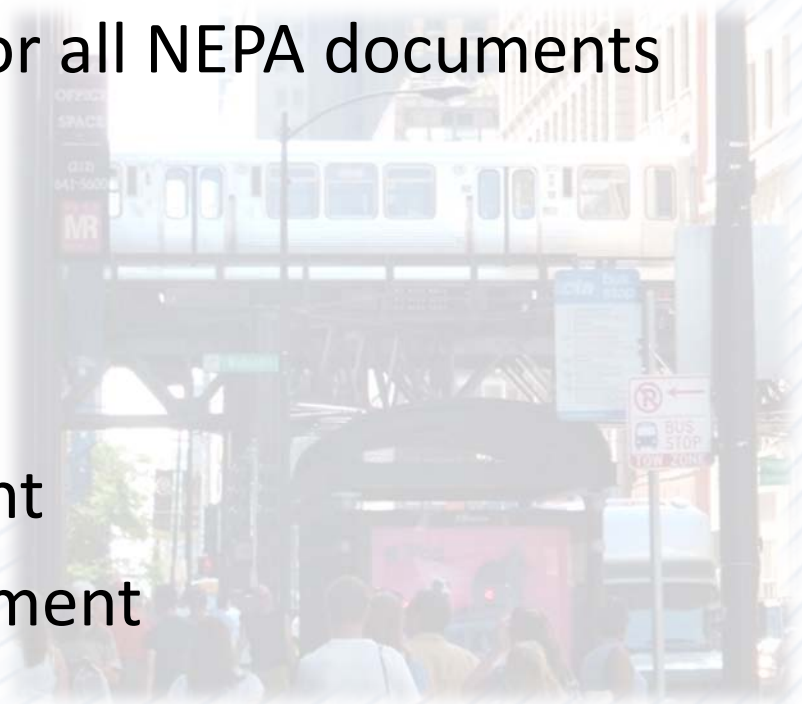


FTA Role

- Lead agency for projects seeking federal funding
- Guides project through NEPA process
- FTA approval required for all NEPA documents

Transit Agency Role

- Joint lead agency
- Prepares NEPA document for FTA review and comment
- Implements projects





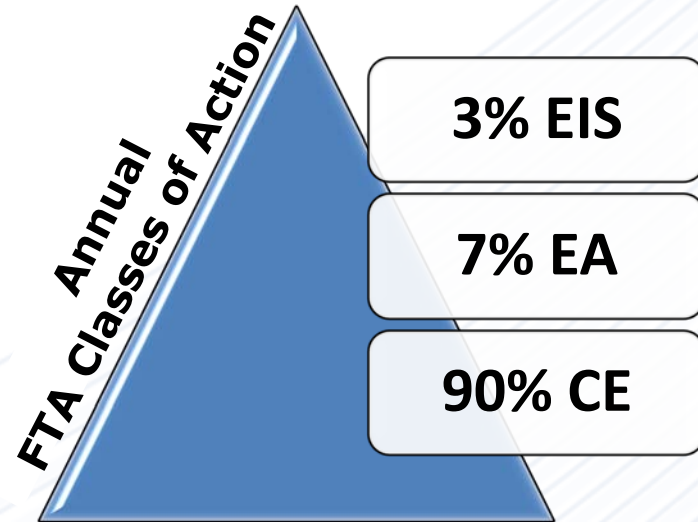
Where do you start?

- Develop a one page concise project description for FTA, we will determine class of action
- Highlight key issues and be detailed
- Note environmental benefits
- Use plain language, avoid jargon and acronyms
- Illustrate with maps, graphics and tables
- Include a project schedule



Classes of Action

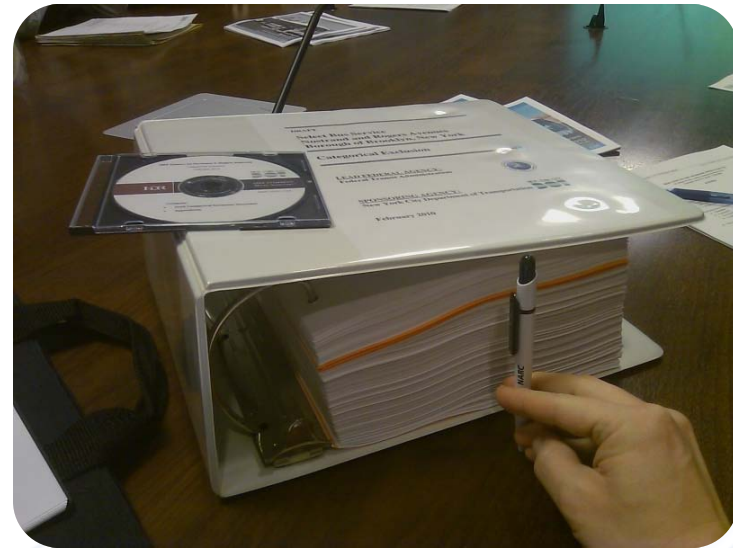
- Categorical Exclusion (CE)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





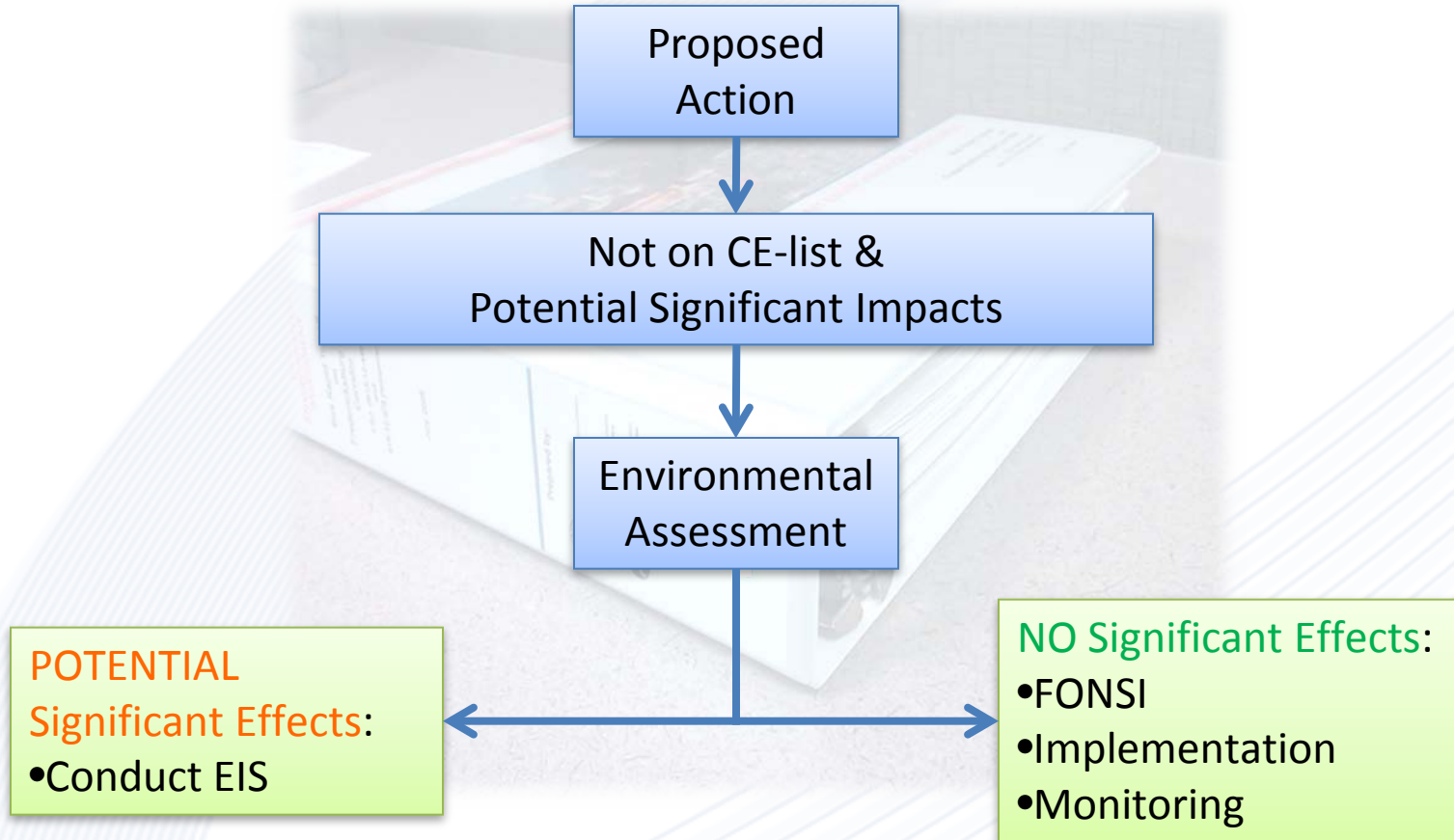
- **Categorical Exclusions (CEs)**
 - Actions with no individual or cumulative significant impact on the environment

**Significant
impact to trees**



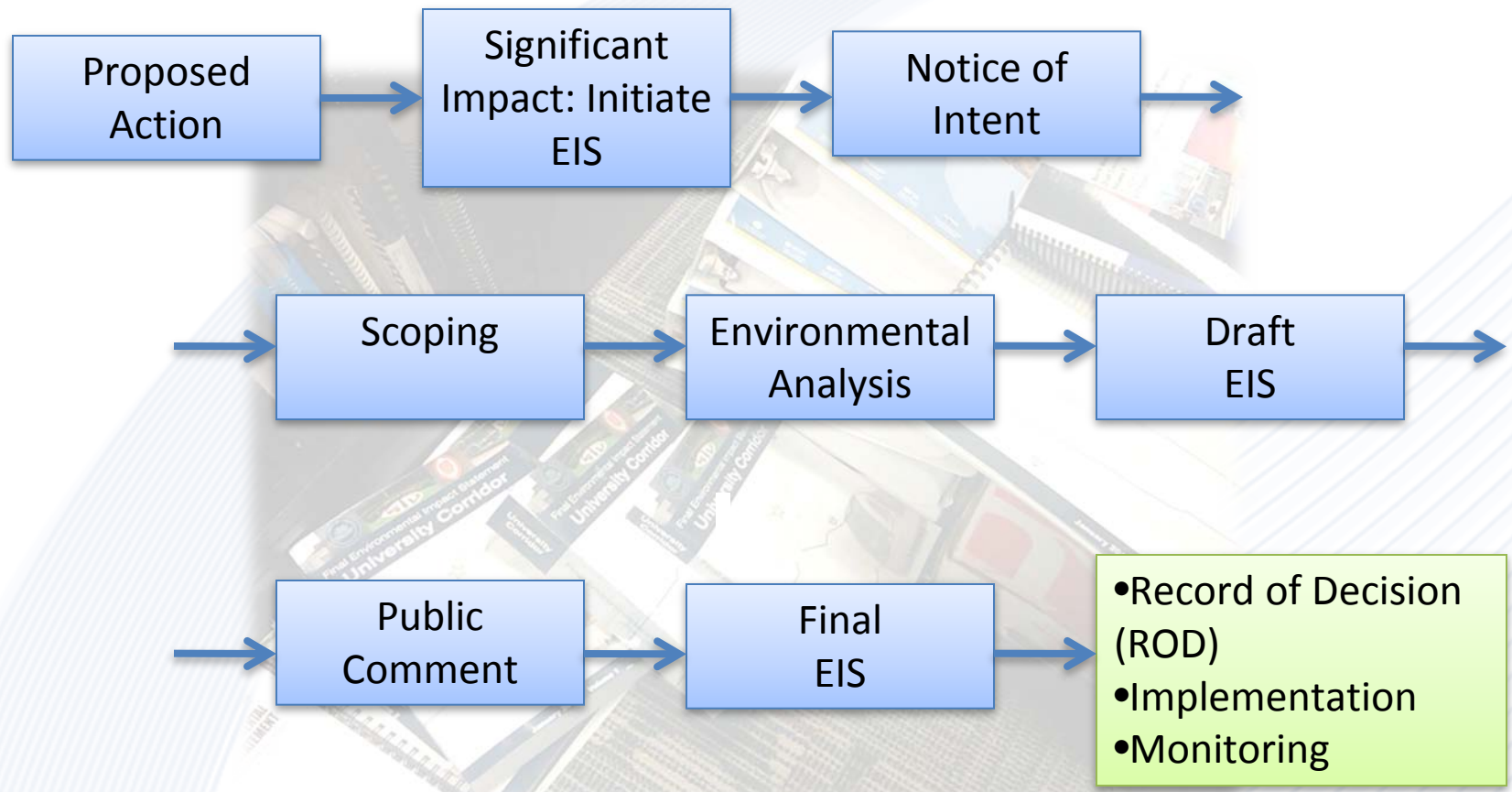


Environmental Assessment (EA)





Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





Quality NEPA Documents

- Start with clear project definition and purpose
- Know your audience and tell a story
- Highlight key issues and be concise
- Use plain language, avoid jargon and acronyms
- Illustrate with graphics and tables





Streamlining

- Reduce costs and/or time needed to complete NEPA process
- Ensure environmental protection
- Incorporate previous documents
- Websites are useful
- Go **GREEN** !



Como-Harriet Streetcar





Franklin Bridge





Milwaukee Road Depot





Cultural Resources: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Section 106 Process

- Area of potential effect (APE) is identified (with SHPO concurrence).
- List of buildings and other potentially historic resources in the area of potential effect is compiled and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places is determined.
- FTA makes final determination of effects (with SHPO concurrence).
- If adverse effects on are identified, these are resolved through resource avoidance, effects minimization, or mitigation.



SHPO Regional Procedures

- FTA sends initiation letter to SHPO
- Grantee acknowledges SHPO process and sends in required documents
- After SHPO sends determination or notification
- FTA sends no final letter



Where to find help

- Regional EPS/Planners
- <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/in-epa/id363736506?mt=8>
- NTI
- Advisory Council Historic Preservation
- CEQ Website



Thanks for Joining Us

