



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION X  
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,  
Washington

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## **REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 06-10**

SUBJECT: Managing the Environmental Process

PROGRAM AREA: Environment

DATE: March 17, 2006

The National Transit Institute (NTI) will be conducting the course "Managing the Environmental Process" in Sacramento, CA on April 26-28, 2006. The course can be accessed at <http://www.ntionline.com/CourseInfo.asp?CourseNumber=ID810>. Please see details below.

### **Audience:**

This course is intended for practitioners with prior NEPA training or experience in both the NEPA process and the other environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect Federal transit programs. These include employees of organizations that have responsibility for, or interest in, transit related projects, including, but not limited to: transit agencies, state departments of transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), state/county/local planning or environmental agencies, consultant firms, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and other Federal agencies.

### **Description:**

This course will build on the National Highway Institute's introductory course on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), with special emphasis on transit and multimodal projects. This course will assume the participant's basic familiarity with NEPA and major environmental laws including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. To be successful, the environmental process must involve a myriad of stakeholders and decision-makers that include numerous Federal, State and local agencies, the public, and various legal and political representatives of these stakeholders. Practitioners involved in transportation project planning and development are often not sufficiently familiar with the broad reaching ramifications of either NEPA or the other environmental laws, regulations and policies invoked when evaluating a federally funded project.

Managing the processes associated with successfully completing Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments can represent a major challenge for even the most experienced project managers and agencies. This course will focus on the management of environmental processes under NEPA and other environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect Federally-assisted transit programs. Particular emphasis will be placed on approaches, tools and techniques to conduct an integrated, streamlined process from initial planning through project development to foster transportation decision-making in a manner that is effective, efficient and environmentally sound.

**Objectives:**

- Provide the historical background and policy goals of NEPA and the approach to achieving those goals as stated in the CEQ regulations.
- Outline the other Federal environmental laws, regulations and executive orders that relate to transportation decision making.
- Explain the roles, responsibilities (i.e., legal, ethical, and contractual), and authority of the participants in the NEPA process, including the lead Federal agency, the lead non-Federal transportation agency, the MPO and other transportation agencies, consultants, the various Federal and State resource agencies, local governments, and the general public.
- Review the implications of various approaches to NEPA process coordination with resource agencies, local governments, elected officials and the public in terms of project responsiveness, project budgets, and project schedules.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of the NEPA process as an open, flexible, multidisciplinary evaluation tool for assessing and selecting alternative courses of action and developing community responsive projects.
- Describe how to use the NEPA process to support decision making and build consensus at all stages in the planning project development continuum.
- Provide an update on emerging or evolving impact assessment issues such as accounting for environmental justice considerations, integration of Section 106 considerations, etc.
- Analyze the management of the NEPA process, emphasizing techniques and lessons learned for how to streamline the process and conduct the process in a cost-effective and environmentally responsive manner.
- Address risk management techniques to address uncertainties in project definition, impact assessment, and funding.

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**Fee:** Tuition shall be waived for federal, state and local government employees who work in transportation or related areas.

Fee for contractors and consultants: \$450.00

If you have any further assistance, please contact Bill Ramos, 206-220-4319 or email [bill.ramos@fta.dot.gov](mailto:bill.ramos@fta.dot.gov).

Sincerely,



*for*  
R. F. Krochalis  
Regional Administrator