

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW WORKSHEET FOR POTENTIAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS SOUND TRANSIT PROJECTS

**Note: The purpose of this worksheet is to assist Sound Transit in gathering and organizing materials for environmental analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), particularly for Regional Express projects that may qualify as a documented Categorical Exclusion. Submission of the worksheet by itself does not meet NEPA requirements. If the project qualifies as a Documented Categorical Exclusion it must receive written concurrence from all participating agencies (FTA, FHWA, and WSDOT). One Federal Agency could sign with e-mail concurrences from the other agencies.**

**Right-of-way, final design, and construction activities may not begin until this process is complete.**

### I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Sponsoring Agency	Date Submitted	Federal Aid Project Number(s)
Project Title		
Project Description ( <i>brief</i> )		
Project Location (Include County, City, and Street Address)		
Project Contact: Name	Phone	E-mail Address (if available)

### II. NEPA CLASS OF ACTION

Answer the following questions to determine the project's potential class of action.

**A. Will the project significantly impact the natural, social and / or economic environment?**

YES  NO

Actions that will significantly impact the environment require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. These projects typically include construction or extension of fixed transit/highway facilities.

**B. Is the significance of the project's social, economic or environmental impacts unknown?**

YES  NO

**Do other Federal regulations, such as Section 4(f) (parklands, refuges, historic properties), require consideration of alternatives?**

YES  NO

**Is the project likely to require detailed evaluation of more than a few potential impacts?**

YES  NO

**Is the project likely to generate intense public discussion or concern, even though it may be limited to a relatively small subset of the community?**

YES       NO

**Is the project included in the local Metropolitan Transportation Plan?**

YES       NO

**C. Does the project appear on the following list of potential Categorical Exclusions (Class II(c))?**

YES (if so circle the number(s) that apply and proceed to signature block IV on last page)     

NO

1. Activities not involving or directly leading to construction (e.g., technical studies, planning, preliminary engineering)
2. Utility installations along or across a transit facility
3. Construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities excluding those requiring land acquisition and construction (such as new right-of-way)
4. Activities included in the State's *highway safety plan* under 23 U.S.C. 402.  
    \* Resurfacing and Restriping
5. Transfer of federal lands pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 317 when the subsequent action is not an FTA/FHWA action
6. Installation of noise barriers or alterations to existing publicly owned buildings to provide for noise reduction
7. Landscaping
8. Installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, toll facilities, control centers, vehicle test centers, small passenger shelters, traffic signals, railroad warning devices, and signal controls with no substantial land acquisition or traffic disruption
9. Emergency repairs under 23 USC 125
10. Acquisition of scenic easements
11. Determination of payback under 23 CFR part 480 for property previously acquired with Federal-aid participation
12. Improvements to existing rest areas and truck weigh stations
13. Ridesharing activities
14. Bus, ferry, and rail car rehabilitation (including conversions to alternative fuels)
15. Alterations to facilities or vehicles to make them accessible to elderly or handicapped persons
16. Program administration (including safety programs), technical assistance, and operating assistance to continue existing service or increase service to meet routine changes in demand  
    \* Routine maintenance
17. Purchase and lease of vehicles and equipment for use on existing facilities or new facilities that are also a Categorical Exclusion (including the capital cost of contracts for transportation services)
18. Track, railbed, and wayside system maintenance and improvements when carried out in existing right-of-way
19. Installation of ITS equipment to be located solely within the transportation facility and with no significant off-site impacts

\* Mitigation banking

20. Promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives.

**These transportation projects are generally categorical exclusions under 23 CFR § 771.177 (c) and do not require further documentation unless certain circumstances exist, such as the presence of wetlands, historic buildings and structures, parklands, or floodplains in the project area. If land is to be altered and/or such circumstances exist or may exist, contact Sound Transit or the Regional Washington State DOT office.**

**D. Circle the Categorical Exclusions below that apply to your project**

**The applicant shall submit documentation which demonstrates that the specific conditions or criteria for the CEs are satisfied and that significant environmental effects will not result. Examples of such actions include BUT ARE NOT Limited to:**

1. Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders or adding auxiliary lanes (i.e. parking, weaving, turning, climbing)
2. Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting.
3. Grade separations requiring land acquisition to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings and bridge rehabilitation (including approaches to bridges and excluding historic bridges or bridges providing access to ecologically sensitive areas)
4. Corridor Fringe Parking facilities (generally located adjacent to an Interstate highway system)
5. Construction of new truck weigh stations or rest areas
6. Approvals for disposal of excess right-of-way or for joint or limited use of right-of-way, without significant impacts
7. Approval for changes in access control

\* Carpool programs and activities requiring land acquisition and construction

\* Safety improvements including seismic retrofit and mitigation of wildlife hazards

8. Construction of new bus storage and maintenance facilities and of new ITS control centers in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is consistent with existing zoning and located on a street with adequate capacity to handle anticipated traffic
9. Rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing rail and bus buildings and ancillary facilities where only minor amounts of additional land are required and there is not a substantial increase in the number of users
10. Construction of bus transfer facilities (an open area consisting of passenger shelters, boarding areas, kiosks, and related street improvements) when located in a commercial area or other high activity center in which there is adequate street capacity for projected bus traffic
11. Construction of rail storage and maintenance facilities (or other similarly sized support facilities) in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is consistent with existing zoning and where there is no significant noise impact on the surrounding community

\* Area-wide coordination of multiple ITS elements

12. Advance land acquisition including:

?? Acquisition of underutilized private railroad rights-of-way (ROW) to ensure that adjacent land uses remain generally compatible with the continued transportation use of the ROW

?? Provisions under 23 CFR Section 771.117 (d)(12)

?? Acquisition of land for hardship or protective purposes

13. Other (please describe)

*(Note: the eligibility of hardship and protective buys is very limited and must be approved, in writing, by Sound Transit or the Regional WSDOT office before proceeding with any acquisition activities. Failure to do so will render the project ineligible for Federal participation.)*

These projects may be categorical exclusions under 49 CFR § 771.177 (d), but require additional documentation in order for such a determination to be made.

### **III. INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR DOCUMENTED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS**

Provide the following information if, based on the answers in Part II, the proposed project appears to be eligible as a documented Categorical Exclusion.

The following maps are required to assist in the review:

- ?? Site Map
- ?? Zoning Map
- ?? Vicinity Map
- ?? Proposed Project Map
- ?? Flood Map

#### **A. Detailed Project Description**

**B. Location** On an attached scale map or diagram, to scale, identifying the location of the project site and surrounding land uses. Note any critical resource areas, potential historic sites, and sensitive noise receptors such as schools, hospitals, and residences.

**C. Zoning** Briefly describe the existing zoning of the project area.

**D. Traffic** – motorized and non-motorized - Describe potential traffic and parking impacts, including whether the existing roadways have adequate capacity to handle increased bus or other vehicular traffic. Include a map or diagram if the project will modify existing roadway configurations. Identify parking stall increase/decrease and replacement lots.

**E. RESOURCES** Describe any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resources that might be located in the vicinity of the proposed project. Include ESA or MSA species list(s), if applicable. Indicate whether the project will have a significant impact on the following resources:

Natural     Cultural     Recreational     Historical     Other

**F. Noise / Water / Air Quality** Describe whether the project will involve noise, vibration, air or water quality impacts. Note if the project is located in a nonattainment area.

Significant Impact (Describe):

Air Quality     Noise (Provide map identifying sensitive receptors)     Vibration     Water

Non-attainment Area:  Carbon Monoxide (CO)     Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)     Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)

Hot Spot Analysis:  Carbon Monoxide (CO)     Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)     Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)

- G. Public Notification** Briefly describe any public outreach efforts undertaken on behalf of the project. Indicate opportunities for public hearings (e.g., Board meetings, open houses, special hearings). Indicate any significant concerns expressed by agencies or the public regarding the project.
- H. Hazardous Materials** Prior to acquiring land or a facility, a hazardous materials survey must be conducted (Phase I). Describe the steps taken or planned to determine whether hazardous materials are present on the project site. Also note the mitigation and clean-up measures that will be taken to remove any hazardous materials from the project site.
- I. Property Acquisition** If property is to be acquired for the project, indicate whether the acquisition will result in relocation of businesses or individuals. **Note: to ensure eligibility for Federal participation, grantees may not acquire property with either local or Federal funds prior to completing the NEPA process and receiving written concurrence in both the NEPA recommendation and property appraisals.**
- J. Environmental Justice** Indicate whether the project will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on minority or low-income populations. Describe any potential adverse effects. Describe outreach efforts targeted specifically at minority or low-income populations.

**K. Related Federal and State/Local Actions** Indicate whether the proposed project is likely to require actions by other Agencies (e.g., permits) and attach materials submitted to them, and other Federal, State and Local regulations as applicable.

- \_\_\_ **Section 4(f)** *Parklands, Recreation Areas, Refuges, Historic Properties*
- \_\_\_ **Section 106** *Historic and Culturally Significant Properties*
- \_\_\_ **Section 404** *Wetlands and Water*
- \_\_\_ **Executive Orders** *Wetlands, Floodplains, Environmental Justice*
- \_\_\_ **Clean Air Act** *Air Quality*
- \_\_\_ **Endangered Species Act** *Threatened and Endangered Biological Resources*
- \_\_\_ **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act** *Essential Fish Habitat*
- \_\_\_ **State and Local Requirements** (Describe)

**L. Mitigation Measures** Describe all measures to be taken to mitigate project impacts.

**V. SUBMITTED BY:**

<b>Sound Transit</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Washington State DOT</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**VI: APPROVED BY:**

<b>Federal Transit Administration</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>	<b>Date:</b>