



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

# FHWA REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL "ACTION" POINTS IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

ACTION POINTS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
PROJECT CATEGORY	PE/ENVR AUTHOR	DESIGN CRITERIA	REASONABLE & FEASIBLE ALTERNATES	ALTERNATE FUNCTIONAL DESIGNS	TECH MEMOS	PRE-DEIS /DEA	DEIS OR EA	PREFERRED ALTERNATE SELECTION	GEOMETRIC & ENVIRON APPROVAL	DRAFT FEIS/ FONSI	HEARING TRANSCR /CERTIF	FEIS ROD FONSI	FULL PE	STR REC	PRELIM FIELD REVIEW	PRELIM PLANS	ROW CONSUL-TATION	ROW AUTHOR-IZATION	FINAL FIELD REVIEW	PRE - PS & E	CONSTR CONSUL-TATION	PS & E	CONTRACT AWARD
NHS STEP-BY-STEP	AUTHOR	R & C	CONSULT	R & C	APPR	R & C	APPR	CONSULT	GEO & ENVIRON APPR	R & C	ACCEPT	APPR	AUTH	APPR	R & C	APPR	APPR	AUTHOR	R & C	R & C	APPR	APPR	CONCUR
NON-NHS	NCDOT	R & C	CONSULT	R & C	APPR	R & C	APPR	CONSULT	ENVIRON APPR	R & C	ACCEPT	APPR	NCDOT	NCDOT	NCDOT	NCDOT	APPR	NCDOT	NCDOT	NCDOT	APPR	NCDOT	NCDOT

NOMENCLATURE: R & C - REVIEW AND COMMENT    APPR - APPROVE    NCDOT - APPROVAL BY NCDOT DIV OF HIGHWAYS    AUTH - AUTHORIZE    THIS CHART IS NOT APPLICABLE FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

POINT 1 AUTHORIZE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING TO COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (POINTS 1 THRU 12)

POINT 2 FUNCTIONAL DESIGN CRITERIA - TYPE OF FACILITY, ACCESS CONTROL, DESIGN SPEED, TYPICAL SECTION (MEDIAN, LANE & SHOULDER WIDTHS), ETC.

POINT 5 TECHNICAL MEMORANDUMS ARE NORMALLY PREPARED FOR AIR QUALITY, NOISE, NATURAL RESOURCES, TRAFFIC, CULTURAL RESOURCES

POINT 9 GEOMETRIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN APPROVAL - MAY BE DELAYED PAST POINT 12

GEOMETRIC INFORMATION - LARGE SCALE PRELIMINARY PLANS, GRADES, TYPICAL SECTION, CURVE DATA, LANES, INTERCHANGE AND/OR INTERSECTION DESIGN, TRAFFIC AND CAPACITY ANALYSIS  
 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION - PRELIMINARY PLANS SHOULD DELINEATE ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES SUCH AS WETLANDS, HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES, AFFECTED 4(F) PROPERTIES, FLOODPLAINS, OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIR. FEATURES  
 IF THERE ARE ANY SUBSTANTIAL GEOMETRIC DESIGN CHANGES INCLUDING ANY NEW OR REVISED INTERSTATE ACCESS APPROVAL REQUESTS, DUE TO ADDITIONAL OR BETTER DATA ON DESIGN OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PRIOR TO THE PRELIMINARY FIELD REVIEW, REVISED GEOMETRIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN APPROVAL WILL BE REQUESTED FROM FHWA. NCDOT'S PROJECT ENGINEER SHOULD DISCUSS WITH FHWA'S AREA ENGINEER IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOR NON-NHS PROJECTS FHWA WILL ONLY REVIEW THE PRELIMINARY GEOMETRICS FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDPOINT ONLY UNLESS COMPLEX GEOMETRICS AFFECT ENVIR. ISSUES OR INTERSTATE ACCESS APPROVAL IS INVOLVED.

POINT 16 APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLANS BY FHWA IS FORMAL DESIGN APPROVAL

THIS CHART WAS DEVELOPED FOR NEW LOCATION PROJECTS. THE PROCESS IS THE SAME FOR WIDENING PROJECTS EXCEPT THAT POINTS 3, 4, 5, AND 8 ARE USUALLY NOT REQUIRED.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ACCESS POINTS WILL BE HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT BASIS. NORMALLY, THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO OR WITH THE REQUEST FOR GEOMETRIC AND/OR ENVIR. DESIGN APPROVAL.

**NEPA/PERMIT COORDINATION THRESHOLD CHECKPOINTS:**

POINT 3 COORDINATE WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES ON PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT AND THE ALTERNATES TO BE CARRIED FORWARD AND STUDIED IN DETAIL IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT.

POINT 8 COORDINATE WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES ON THE SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATE. THIS POINT IS CRITICAL IN SATISFYING THE AVOIDANCE CRITERIA.

POINT 10 COORDINATE WITH THE RESOURCE AGENCIES ON MINIMIZATION OF WETLANDS IMPACTS AND CONCEPTUAL MITIGATION AS PART OF THE DRAFT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT.  
 CIRCULATE DRAFT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT TO THE COOPERATING AGENCIES FOR COMMENTS.

POINT 16 PIPELINE PROJECTS WITH AN APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT SHOULD BE REVIEWED PRIOR TO PRELIMINARY PLAN APPROVAL OR ROW AUTHORIZATION TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR RESOURCE AGENCY COORDINATION PRIOR TO ROW ACQUISITION

PROPER COORDINATION WITH THE RESOURCE AGENCIES ON WETLANDS SHOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO APPROVAL AT THE DESIGNATED KEY POINTS.  
 COMPLETED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE RE-EVALUATED AS NECESSARY WITH REGARD TO WETLANDS.

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