



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Regional Agreements on NEPA and Section 404 Merger
(Reply due: November 30)

Date: November 6, 1995

From: Executive Director

Reply to: HEP-31
Attachment:

To: Regional Administrators

We have retained the goal for the environment in our 1996 FHWA National Strategic Plan. The first initiative under Objective 1 calls for us to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that NEPA and Section 404 merger agreements are fully implemented by June 1996.

We should be reminded that the purpose for the merger of NEPA and Section 404 is to expedite project development and decisionmaking and the timely and orderly obligation of Federal-aid construction funds. Merging the common elements of the FHWA/NEPA and Section 404 processes will help us to make a single overall public interest decision.

It should be pointed out that initiatives to implement merger agreements have been in our strategic plans since 1994. Even so, these agreements have been implemented to varying degrees by the regions. What you may not be fully aware of is that the initiative for the merger agreements is also included in Administrator Slater's FY 1995 performance agreement with Secretary Peña.

Even though June 1996 is the scheduled due date in our 1996 National Strategic Plan, I strongly urge you to do everything within your power to put the completion of this initiative on a fast track. I would like to receive a monthly status report of progress. The first report is due November 30, 1995, to Mr. Eugene W. Cleckley, Chief, Environmental Operations Division, HEP-30, 202-366-0106.

Anthony R. Kane



FHWA:Revised:EW.Cleckley:kas:60106:10/25/95

Copies to:

HOA-2, HOA-3, HEP-1, HEP-30, HEP-31, HEP-32
HEP-40, HEP-41, HEP-42