



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

# Memorandum

Subject: Streamlining the Project Development Process

Date: June 10, 1985

From: Director, Office of Environmental Policy  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Reply to  
Attn of HEV-10

To: Regional Federal Highway Administrators  
Regions 1-10, and Direct Federal Program Administrator

You are aware of the concerns expressed by the Office of the Administrator about (1) the timely obligation of Federal-aid funds and (2) assuring that the environmental program and related project development activities do not cause unnecessary delays. In addition, Associate Administrator Joseph O'Connor mentioned at the March 1985 Regional Administrator's Meeting and during his recent visits with Regions 1, 3, 4, and 6 the need for Regional Administrators to become more actively involved in the environmental process to assure compatibility with other project development, decisionmaking, and funding objectives.

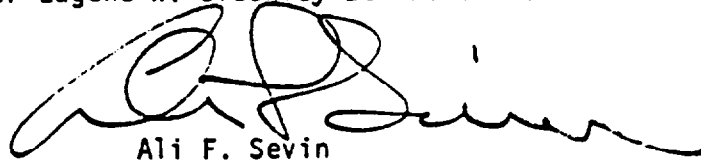
This is a follow-up to the policy direction we have received from the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and Executive Director. For FY 86, the Office of Environmental Policy will be offering the Regions, Divisions, and States assistance to help streamline the environmental process on specific projects to assure compatibility with your decisionmaking and funding objectives. This includes assistance in the early identification, coordination and resolution of issues, where appropriate, with other Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law in FHWA actions. All program reviews conducted by this office will concentrate specifically on streamlining the environmental process.

We are also continuing discussions with other Federal agencies on ways to accelerate project actions involving other agencies. To assure the most effective outcome, we need close communication with the FHWA field and State management. For the rest of FY 85 and FY 86, Messrs. Eugene W. Cleckley, Harter M. Rupert or I will be available to attend Regional Administrator, Division Administrator or District Engineers' Meetings to exchange information in appropriate detail on the following:

1. Status of numerous activities currently being promoted by FHWA in the environmental area.
2. Assuring that the operational routine and technical considerations do not create rigidity and cause delay.

3. Dealing with managerial levels of other Federal agencies.
4. Assuring proper use of Categorical Exclusions and Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI's).
5. Providing closer oversight of the development of FONSI's and Section 4(f) and environmental impact statements that require resolution of issues with Federal agencies having jurisdiction.
6. Opening up lines of communication between State, Division, Region and Washington early in the process on projects requiring special attention.

Your assistance in identifying and scheduling our participation in these meetings would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need any information please contact me at 426-0351 or Eugene W. Cleckley at 426-0119.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali F. Sevin', written in a cursive style.

Ali F. Sevin