

ENV-13 - Approve Final EIS

Description

A final EIS is approved that meets all legal requirements and addresses comments received on the Draft EIS. This should include a draft project-level conformity determination, if applicable.

There is information developed in prior key decisions that informs this step.

Purpose

To formally respond to public and agency comments, approve the Final EIS, including commitments affecting permit conditions, and submit for regulatory approval.

Outcome

An approved Final EIS that meets all legal requirements.

| Partner | Role Type | Description |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| MPO | Observer | Observes final NEPA document approval for consideration of impact to the LRTP, fiscal constraint, and air quality conformity. |
| FHWA/FTA | Decision Maker | Approves the final EIS as meeting all federal requirements. Makes project-level conformity determination. |
| State DOT | Advisor | Provides support for the final EIS as needed. |
| Resource Agency | Decision Maker | <p>USACE approves a Final EIS that satisfies the USACE regulatory process in order to issue a Section 404 permit.</p> <p>Other resource agencies advise the approval of a Final EIS that fully represents the process followed and agreement of all partners.</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, USEPA reviews a Final EIS if a Draft EIS was given a rating of "Environmental Objections", "Environmentally Unsatisfactory", if the DEIS was inadequate, or if other changes or conditions warrant a detailed review. If the action agency is unresponsive to EPA's comments, EPA can refer the matter to the Council on Environmental Quality. A project cannot proceed until a referral is resolved.</p> |
| Public Transportation Operator(s) | Advisor | Provides support for the final EIS as needed. |

Policy Questions

Questions are a way to elicit information and to validate that the information has been considered. The partners should discuss the listed questions to ensure a broad array of interests is considered at a key decision. Discussions arising from these questions support collaborative decision making.

Questions Partners Discuss

Questions about purpose and roles

- How were comments received from partners addressed in the FEIS?

Questions about stakeholders, including modal and operational partners

- Have we notified engaged stakeholders of the final outcome?
- How were comments received from stakeholders addressed in the FEIS?

Questions about the transportation process supporting the decision

- Does the project conform?
- Is the document legally sufficient; including sufficient justification for the preferred and eliminated alternatives?

Questions about other phases

- No specific questions

Questions about non-transportation sectors/processes

- No specific questions

Stakeholder Inputs

'Questions to Gather Stakeholder Interests' allow staff to determine which stakeholders have interests at a key decision and to collect those interests for partner consideration. 'Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests' ensure the interests of stakeholders are included in the decision. For more help with stakeholder collaboration visit the Stakeholder Portal

Questions to Gather Stakeholder Interests

- None

Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests

- None

Data

The following is a list of data needed to support the key decision. Practitioners collect this information for decision makers to consider.

| Supporting Data for the Key Decision | | |
|---|--|---|
| From other phases of transportation decision making | Long Range Planning | Conformity analysis for comparison to project alternative |
| | Programming | No Specific Data. |
| | Corridor Planning | No Specific Data. |
| | Environmental Review | No Specific Data. |
| From other sectors and processes | Land Use | No Specific Data. |
| | Transportation Conformity | No Specific Data. |
| | Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical | No Specific Data. |
| | Capital Improvement | No Specific Data. |
| | Safety and Security | No Specific Data. |
| | Human Environment | No Specific Data. |
| | Economic Development | No Specific Data. |
| | Greenhouse Gas Emissions | Not applicable. |
| Freight | No Specific Data. | |
| From the transportation technical process supporting this key decision | No Specific Data. | |
| From stakeholder collaboration | Input received from stakeholders since the DEIS | |
| From public private partnership | No Specific Data. | |

Links to Decisions

This table identifies how a key decision is connected to other key decisions. The linkages are a two-way transfer of information. Understanding and applying these linkages means that partners will recognize how a decision will impact other specific key decisions. Recognizing that the transportation processes are linked will: (1) encourage practitioners to produce information that can be used later and (2) remind them to look at information from previous key decisions.

linkages to other phases of transportation decision making

| Key Decision | What is Linked? | Purpose of Linkage |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| None | | |

Examples

In-depth case studies of successful practices in collaborative decision making were used to develop the Decision Guide. Links in this table point to a specific paragraph or section of a case study that supports a key decision. It is not necessary to read through an entire case study to find the example; however, full versions are available in the Library.

PlanWorks Case Study Examples

- None

Other Examples

- None

Integrated Planning

Integrated Planning looks at the interaction between the transportation decision making process and other processes. Considering these inputs will ensure that important values and goals outside the transportation process are recognized and considered. For a full understanding of a specific process and how it influences transportation decisions, visit Applications.

| Process | Integration Type | Integration Description |
|--|------------------|---|
| Land Use | None. | None. |
| Transportation Conformity | Analysis | Project-level conformity determination and associated public comment period. For conformity practices, please see: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/practices/ |
| Natural Environment and Implementing Ecological | None. | None. |
| Capital Improvement | None. | None. |
| Safety and Security | None. | None. |
| Human Environment | None. | None. |
| Economic Development | None. | None. |
| Greenhouse Gas Emissions | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| Freight | None. | None. |
| Bicycles and Pedestrians | None. | None. |

Special Topics

This table provides an overview of the relationship between a key decision and individual special topics. A special topic may be an external process, a new regulation, or any emerging issue requiring collaboration. For a full understanding of a specific topic and how it influences transportation decisions, visit Applications.

Key Decision Relationship to Other Topics

| Topic | Description |
|--|---|
| Streamlining a Congestion Bottleneck Project | Approve Final NEPA Document - Conclusion of NEPA process |
| | Data Transfer - From PRO-6 available funding for implementation. To PRO-4 for impact to project prioritization |