

ENV-15 - Render Permit Decision and Approve Avoidance and Minimization

Description

At this final step in the environmental review phase, the Record of Decision is issued and a final permit decision is rendered.

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

Purpose

To approve, approve with conditions, or deny permit(s) for the project.

Outcome

Permit(s) required for the transportation project.

Partner	Role Type	Description
MPO	No Role	No action required on the rendering of permits.
FHWA/FTA	Observer	Observes the issuance of permits.
State DOT	Advisor	Provides support for approval of the permit as needed.
Resource Agency	Decision Maker	Approve a permit that contains all mitigation agreements as appropriate.
Public Transportation Operator(s)	No Role	No action required on the rendering of permits.

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 will this impact any advance mitigation agreements?
- What comments were received from reviewing agencies and how have they been addressed?
- Will the private sector have a role in project mitigation?

Questions about stakeholders, including modal and operational partners

- What comments were received from the public and how have they been addressed?

Questions about the transportation process supporting the decision

- Has a sufficient Final EIS been completed?

Questions about other phases

- Were any strategies related to advance mitigation from long range or corridor planning implemented?

Questions about non-transportation sectors/processes

- Are final sites identified for compensatory mitigation consistent with current land use plans?
- Are final sites identified for compensatory mitigation consistent with ecological plans?

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	Advance mitigation strategies and agreements
	Programming	No Specific Data.
	Corridor Planning	Advance mitigation strategies and agreements
	Environmental Review	Approved final EIS
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	Comments from reviewing agencies	
	Permit application(s) including compensatory mitigation requirements, permit drawings and right of way plans	
From stakeholder collaboration	Summary of comments from the public	
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
From Long Range Transportation Planning		
LRP-10 - Adopt LRTP by MPO	Advance mitigation strategy and agreements from the adopted LRTP	To inform avoidance and minimization as well as compensatory mitigation incorporated with permit conditions
From Corridor Planning		
COR-9 - Adopt Priorities for Implementation	Advance mitigation strategy and agreements from the Corridor Plan	To inform avoidance and minimization as well as compensatory mitigation incorporated with permit conditions

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	None.	None.
Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	Decision Between IEF Step 7 - Develop Programmatic Consultation, Biological Opinion or Permit	MOUs, agreements, programmatic 404 permits or ESA section 7 consultation for transportation projects. Agreed upon performance monitoring strategy for mitigation sites.
	Analysis Between IEF Step 8 - Implement Agreements, Adaptive Management & Deliver Projects and ENV-15	If an MOU, programmatic agreement or other strategy related to advance mitigation was reached as part of the long range or corridor planning process, ensure agreements are implemented and determine whether any special conditions need to be included in the individual permit.
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
Public-Private Partnerships	Consider Options - Decide how the private sector stakeholder's potential role in obtaining environmental permits and providing mitigation impacts advance mitigation, MOUs, or programmatic agreements already in place.
	Decision Transfer - Inform partners, stakeholders and private sector participants of agreements reached on roles and responsibilities for permitting and mitigation.