

Fact Sheet for Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Considerations in NEPA Approvals Updated December 19, 2017

The requirements for federal funding prior to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval are spelled out in the [“Supplement to January 28, 2008 Transportation Planning Requirements and their Relationship to NEPA Process Completion \(2/9/2011\) Distribution Memo,”](#) and the [“Clarifying Fiscal Constraint Guidance”](#) dated May 15, 2017.

- These documents clarify when NEPA process can start and when final NEPA approval (Categorical Exclusion [CE], Finding of No Significant Impact [FONSI] or Record of Decision [ROD]) can be made in relation to specific transportation planning and air quality conformity regulations, with a particular emphasis on fiscal constraint.

The NEPA environmental review process can begin without demonstrating fiscal constraint, however, full funding for a subsequent phase of the project (e.g., final design, right-of-way (ROW) acquisition, or construction) must be included in the STIP/TIP before the Record of Decision (ROD), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or Categorical Exclusion can be signed. For projects in metropolitan planning areas, if funds are not able to be programmed for completion of construction of the entire project, then documentation that funding for the entire project is reasonably expected to become available by the end of construction of project is needed and estimated full project costs need to be shown in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Each Caltrans District has a District Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Coordinator (DFC) who can provide FSTIP programming information for projects on the State Highway System. See the following web page for the current list of DFCs by District:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/federal/fedfiles/res_publications/contactlist.pdf

For all projects seeking federal reimbursement:

- Proof of programming in the FSTIP should be provided at the Begin Environmental Studies milestone, or be a stipulation of or included prior to completion of a cooperative agreement for locally-sponsored projects.
- This proof of programming in the FSTIP must be kept in the Environmental office project files under either tab 100 or 120 of the Uniform Filing System (UFS).
- The project description contained in the FSTIP and NEPA documentation must be consistent.
- The project must be in the FSTIP prior to providing NEPA approval and full funding must be “reasonably available.” Specific requirements are detailed in the first hyperlink above.

For local assistance projects, guidance and instructions to local agencies on obtaining the FSTIP and providing FSTIP information on the Preliminary Environmental Study (PES) form are provided in the Local Assistance Procedures Manual, Chapter 6, Exhibit 6-B, at:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/lam/forms/chapter6/6b.pdf>