



# Advanced Seminar on Managing the Environmental Review Process

February 22-23, 2010 • Oakland, CA



The Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and the Environment, and the National Transit Institute are pleased to sponsor an **Advanced Seminar on Managing the Environmental Review Process**, to be held February 22-23, 2010 in Oakland, CA.



The goal of this seminar is to support the efficient and effective management of environmental processes in the development and construction of transit and multi-modal projects by providing current information on federal requirements, identifying best practices, and facilitating the sharing of information and insight among advanced practitioners.



Diana Mendes, a Senior Vice President of AECOM, will be facilitating the seminar. Ms. Mendes is a national expert in environmental review and project development, and has completed award winning projects recognized by the American Public Transportation Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She brings to the seminar over 25 years of experience in implementing sustainable transportation solutions, combined with a decade of serving as an NTI instructor.

## Who Should Attend

This is **not** an introductory course. It is intended for transportation professionals from transit agencies, MPOs, and DOTs with a minimum of three years experience in the environmental process relative to project development.



The seminar is **FREE** for public transit agency and government employees involved in planning or reviewing transportation projects. A registration fee of \$295.00 applies to consultants and contractors.



Seminar Topics Include:

## Streamlining and Stewardship for Success

Explore what streamlining really means for a successful environmental review process under NEPA. In addition to defining streamlining principles and initiatives, this section will lay the foundation for how good stewardship of the natural and human environment can expedite not only the environmental review processes, but the entire project development process. The importance of public involvement and agency coordination will also be addressed. Panelists including federal and local project sponsors, regional planning agencies, and resource agencies will review how the streamlining and stewardship principles discussed were applied in a variety of projects.

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## **Coordinating, But Not Confusing, Section 106 and Section 4(f)**

Review the differences and similarities between Section 4(f) and Section 106, the relationships between the two processes and related content, and how to avoid duplicating efforts while making sure all requirements are met. The different statutory bases for Section 4(f) and Section 106, the types of resources regulated, commonalities and differences in the analyses required to comply with both regulations, and public involvement and agency coordination requirements will be discussed.



## **Managing NEPA and New Starts Interface**

Address the key interfaces between the processes, as well as procedural and technical areas that need to be coordinated including purpose and need, definition of alternatives, travel demand forecasting, cost estimation, and environmental benefits. Common misperceptions about the role of New Starts during the NEPA process, as well as how and when to coordinate requirements during project development will be covered.



## **Addressing the NEPA and State Environmental Requirements**

Discuss how to successfully navigate the challenges inherent in managing federal and state environmental requirements (e.g., California Environmental Quality Act) during NEPA review. A panel of FTA representatives, project sponsors, and resource agencies will focus on what has worked well, what has not been successful, and what they would do “next time” in terms coordination, process management, technical analysis and documentation.



## **Enhancing Environmental Documentation**

Learn how to improve the quality of environmental documentation by considering the “dos” and “don’ts” of traditional documentation, the importance of capturing environmental benefits as part of the NEPA documentation, and innovations in documentation, including reader-friendly documents.



## **Managing Mitigation**

Focus on improving the effectiveness of how mitigation is addressed during and after the environmental review process. A review of USDOT mitigation requirements and policies will set the foundation for developing effective mitigation plans; this is followed by the opportunity for participants to apply these principles to scenarios and explore how to develop a comprehensive approach to mitigation over the course of the NEPA process. The role of effective mitigation planning and implementation in stewardship and streamlining, as well as mitigation monitoring, will be explored. A panel discussion of mitigation case studies will highlight project experiences and outcomes.



## **Future Challenges**

Assess how burgeoning initiatives such as green design, climate change, and liveable communities may be integrated into the environmental review process.

## **Register Today!**

Register online at [www.ntionline.com](http://www.ntionline.com). From the home page click on Multimodal Transportation Planning and then Advanced Seminar on Managing the Environmental Review Process. For more information, contact NTI Program Coordinator Ginny Stern at 732-932-1700 ext. 226 or e-mail her at [gstern@nti.rutgers.edu](mailto:gstern@nti.rutgers.edu)