Purpose
To establish a policy for the Utah Department of Transportation (Department) to determine the appropriate environmental process to adequately assess and minimize the environmental impacts of proposed transportation projects.

Policy
Proposed transportation projects receiving federal funding must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Proposed transportation projects not receiving federal funding will complete a State Environmental Study. The Department will evaluate potential impacts to environmental resources resulting from the proposed actions of projects where NEPA does not apply. The Department will prepare a State Environmental Study to document these impacts and any measures to be implemented to minimize harm to the affected environmental and social resources.

Proposed transportation projects not receiving federal funding but may require a major federal action will require the Department to make a determination on the appropriate environmental process.

Background

Applicability

1. NEPA documentation will be prepared for projects receiving federal funds (either allocated or anticipated).
2. A State Environmental Study will be prepared for projects not receiving federal funds.
3. The Department will make a determination on the appropriate environmental documentation for projects not receiving federal funds but may have a federal nexus or may require federal approvals. Examples of federal nexus or approvals include the following:
   a. A new interchange on an interstate highway;
   b. A project requiring the use of federal lands; or,
   c. A project that would result in impacts to Waters of the U.S., as determined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Definitions

**Impact**
Occurs when a project or action harms an element of the natural or built environment. Typically result in negative effects or consequences.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)**
NEPA is a federal law that requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.
Responsibility: Region or Central Environmental Services

Actions

1. Reference the Environmental Manual of Instruction (MOI) and applicable Code of Federal Regulations for guidance and requirements necessary to complete the environmental documentation for projects subject to NEPA.

Responsibility: Region Environmental

Actions

1. Prepare a streamlined evaluation to document the impacts if a project is likely to be non-controversial with minor or no impacts to environmental resources.
2. Reference the Environmental Manual of Instruction (MOI) for guidance and requirements necessary to complete the environmental documentation.

Responsibility: Department Director of Environmental Services

3. Provide a determination on the level of documentation required for the State Environmental Study if the project is controversial or there is a potential for substantial impacts.

Responsibility: Region or Central Environmental Services

4. Reference the Environmental Manual of Instruction (MOI) for guidance and requirements necessary to complete the environmental documentation for projects requiring further evaluation.