

FHWA & NEPA

**2005 NC Transportation Forum
Charlotte, NC
March 23-24, 2005**

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NEPA

...Declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment...

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NEPA (Section 101(a))

“...continuing policy of the Federal Government...to use all practicable means and measures...in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans”

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NEPA (Section 102)

Directs federal agencies to use an interdisciplinary approach in planning and decision-making

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FHWA Env. Policy Statement

- Coordinate environmental reviews as a single process (“umbrella”)
- Evaluate alternative courses of action
- Include public involvement and a systematic, interdisciplinary approach
- Incorporate measures to mitigate adverse impacts

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Vital Few

- Safety
- Congestion Management
- Environmental Stewardship & Streamlining

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ES&S Goal

Sets expectations, measures, and methods for advancing an improved and efficient environmental review process and for demonstrating environmental stewardship

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Environmental Stewardship

- Mindful of the environment while addressing mobility/safety needs
- Demonstrate we are responsible stewards of the environment
- Enhance environmental protection & promote ecosystem conservation

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Environmental Streamlining

- Interagency partnerships
- Programmatic agreements
- Process reinventions
- Conflict resolution
- Performance evaluation
- Better decisions v. better documents
- Concurrent v. sequential processes

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