

**DAY 1: June 28, 2004**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

***8:00-8:30AM***

**Speaker**

Don Cote, Environment Technical Service Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center

**Description:** Don Cote, on behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, will welcome all participants to the Conference and will identify the purpose, objectives, and goals of the Conference. Mr. Cote will review the agenda, identify materials found in the Conference folders, and provide logistical information related to the Conference.

**CONFERENCE KICK-OFF**

***8:30-9:00AM***

**Presenter**

Don Cote, Environment Technical Service Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center

**Speaker**

Frederick G. (Bud) Wright, Executive Director, FHWA

**Description:** Bud Wright will welcome participants to the Conference and emphasize that the Conference provides an opportunity to share and learn from others about activities in the environmental arena, including critical environmental stewardship and streamlining initiatives. A question/answer session will follow his opening remarks.

**OPENING SESSION (HEADQUARTERS)**

***9:00-9:30AM***

**Presenter**

Don Cote, Environment Technical Service Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center

**Speaker**

Cindy Burbank, Associate Administrator, Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty, FHWA

**Description:** Cindy Burbank will welcome participants to the Conference and discuss environmental stewardship and streamlining initiatives for FHWA, focusing on the Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty's (HEP) Guidance, Websites, and Training/Workshops. A question/answer session will follow her opening remarks.

**BREAK**

***9:30-10:00AM***

**OPENING SESSION (MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE FROM THE FIELD)**

***10:00-10:30AM***

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**Presenter**

Don Cote, Environment Technical Service Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center

**Speakers**

Joe Toole, Acting Associate Administrator for Professional Development, FHWA

Dan Mathis, Division Administrator, Washington Division Office, FHWA

Larry Smith, Division Engineer, CFLH

**Description:** Each of the panel members will present opportunities and challenges for environmental programs and processes. The audience will have an opportunity to discuss environmental issues with the panel.

**OPENING SESSION (COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY)**

**10:30-11:00AM**

**Presenter**

Lamar Smith, Team Leader, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Speakers**

Horst Greczmiel, NEPA Oversight, Council on Environmental Quality

**Description:** Mr. Greczmiel will welcome participants to the Conference. He will identify national initiatives, which address highway-specific issues. A question/ answer session will follow his opening remarks.

**SESSION 1 – DA PANEL**

**11:00-12:00PM**

**Moderator**

Lucy Garliauskas, Division Administrator, Rhode Island Division Office, FHWA

**Speaker**

Jan Brown, Division Administrator, Montana State Division Office, FHWA

Allen Masuda, Division Administrator, Missouri State Division Office, FHWA

Daniel Mathis, Division Administrator, Washington State Division Office, FHWA

**Description:** Division Administrators from across the country will share what steps they have taken to advance specific initiatives and address problematic issues in the field. They will discuss the role that FHWA leadership can play in the field and the importance behind the Environment Vital Few Goal.

**LUNCH**

**12:00-1:00PM**

**SESSION 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL STREAMLINING AND STEWARDSHIP: VFG AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**1:00-2:30PM**

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**Speakers**

Jim Shrouds, Director, Office of Natural Environment, FHWA  
Fred Skaer, Director, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Description:** The speakers will introduce the topic of Environmental Streamlining and Stewardship as it relates to the Vital Few Goals (VFG). They will lead and moderate an open discussion focusing on the VFG and will include discussion of some of the Agency's other performance measures, such as mobile source emissions reductions and wetland replacement goals.

**BREAK**

**2:30-3:00PM**

**SESSION 3A – THE INTERACTION OF ROADS AND NATURE**

**3:00-5:00PM**

**Moderator**

Mary Gray, Environmental Program Specialist, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

**Speakers**

Paul Garrett, Ecologist, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA  
Pat Cazenias, Water and Ecosystem Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA  
Dick Gersib, Stormwater, Washington State DOT  
Connie Hill, Water and Ecosystem Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA  
Bonnie Harper-Lore, Vegetation Specialist, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

**Description:** The purpose of this session is to disseminate new and exciting studies and information that when applied will make projects more environmentally friendly. The session will focus on several practices that are contributing to streamlining the environmental process, and the linkage between transportation infrastructure and the environment, including: Stream Restoration and the National Mitigation Action Plan; Stormwater Research/Regulatory Changes; Innovative Stormwater Mitigation Strategies; Brownfields and Waste Management; and Invasive Plant Species.

**SESSION 3B – STATE OF THE PRACTICE IN FEDERAL LANDS**

**3:00-5:00PM**

**Moderator**

Brian Allen, Environment Discipline Leader, FLH

**Speakers**

Larry Smith, Division Engineer, CFLH  
Jack VanDop, Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist, EFLH  
Jennifer Corwin, Environmental Compliance Specialist, CFLH  
Terri Thomas, Senior Environmental Manager, WFLH

**Description:** Twenty percent of FHWA employees currently manage the \$706 million FLH Program where 480 projects, valued at a total of \$2 billion, are currently in development. Responsibility for environmental compliance and permits falls to 23 environmental specialists.

The session will begin with introductory comments from Larry Smith, Division Engineer for the Central Federal Lands Highway Division. Each Federal Lands Division will provide a 15-minute presentation relating to projects or environmental compliance practices within their respective Divisions, and the final presentation will highlight results from the environmental streamlining and collaboration workshops conducted with the Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003.

**SESSION 3C – MAKING RIGHT-OF-WAY WORK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE: EVOLVING PROCESS  
INTEGRATION AND CORRIDOR PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES  
3:00-5:00PM**

**Moderator**

Janet Myers, Program Manager, Office of Real Estate Services, FHWA

**Speakers**

Dick Henry, Right-of-Way Team Leader, Ohio Division Office, FHWA

Mark Hasselmann, Right-of-Way and Environment Program Manager, Maine Division Office, FHWA

**Description:** This session is designed to foster a better understanding of some useful, but not necessarily well-used or fully-developed, right-of-way methodologies that can be applied to achieve better project results for individuals, communities, and our transportation agency partners. The session will focus on process integration and the use of tiered EISs to support acquisitions.

**DAY 2: June 29, 2004**

**SESSION 4A – APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES/GIS: TOOLS FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSPORTATION  
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS  
8:00-9:30AM**

**Moderator**

Randall Looney, Environmental Coordinator, Arkansas Division Office, FHWA

**Speakers**

Elizabeth L. Lanzer, Environmental GIS Manager, Washington State DOT

Robert Fuhler, GIS Section Head, Environmental Division, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Sharon Osowski, Ph.D., Ecologist, EPA Region 6

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**Description:** The goal of this presentation is to showcase two innovative approaches to environmental problem solving that employ geospatial tools. The presentation will focus on 1) relevant and priority issues, 2) demonstrating the advantage of using geospatial tools relative to traditional ways of doing business, 3) emulation by others, and 4) the complementary mix involved in tool development (EPA/state, environmental issues, geographic focus, etc). *Visit the Technology Booth for more information.*

**SESSION 4B – SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION: THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETENCY BUILDING PROGRAM**  
**8:00-9:30AM**

**Facilitators**

Esther Lee, Program and Policy Analyst, USDOT Volpe Center  
Jennifer Bowmar, Transportation Engineer, Oklahoma Division Office, FHWA

**Description:** This session will be a facilitated discussion on the recent efforts of the FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review to improve the quality of the environmental /regulatory process by addressing the existing needs, available resources, and opportunities to assist environmental practitioners in the transportation field. The purpose of this session is to review the findings of the Needs Assessment Report and to help identify priorities for the development of an Environmental Competency Building Program.

**SESSION 4C – UPDATE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION ISSUES**  
**8:00-9:30AM**

**Moderator**

MaryAnn Naber, Federal Preservation Officer, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Speakers**

Carol Legard, Liaison with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, FHWA  
MaryAnn Naber, FHWA Preservation Officer, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Description:** Compliance with Sections 106 and 4(f) are perennially identified as major hurdles in the environmental review and planning process. The purpose of this session is to bring attendees up to date on a number of recent developments affecting historic preservation practice in transportation. Speakers will present the latest information on Section 106 regulatory revisions, duties of the FHWA Liaison, and developments in the approach to address potential National Register eligibility of the Interstate System. It is anticipated the session will end with at least 30 minutes to address questions from the audience.

**BREAK**  
**9:30-10:00AM**

**SESSION 5A – CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS/DESIGN**  
**10:00-12:00PM**

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**Moderator**

Harold Peaks, Project Development Team Leader, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Speakers**

Mark Taylor, Project Development Engineer, Central Federal Lands Highway Division, FHWA  
KLynn Berry, Community Impact Specialist, FHWA Resource Center  
Keith Moore, Community Planner, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Description:** Presentations during this session focused on examples and methods for considering the total context within which a transportation improvement project exists. Case studies and experiences from both the Federal Lands and the Federal-aid programs were presented.

**SESSION 5B – TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**10:00-12:00PM**

**Moderator**

Tim Penney, Native American Coordinator, Office of Planning, FHWA

**Speakers**

Tim Penney, Native American Coordinator, Office of Planning, FHWA  
David Grachen, Project Development manager, Georgia Division Office, FHWA  
Sharon Love, Environmental Program Manager, Washington Division Office, FHWA

**Description:** This session will provide an understanding of FHWA's role with Indian tribes and transportation project environmental issues. Examples from Division Offices will be shared. The session will include presentations from Headquarters and Division Offices and will allow time for open discussion.

**SESSION 5C – AIR QUALITY INNOVATIONS**

**10:00-12:00PM**

**Moderator**

Victoria Martinez, Air Quality Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

**Speakers**

Diane Turchetta, Air Quality Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA  
Becky Dennison, Air Quality Specialist, Texas Division Office, FHWA  
Kathy Daniel, Air Quality Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA  
Reggie Korthals, Director, Environmental Planning and Programs, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
Mike Koontz, Air Quality Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA  
Rob Kafalenos, Air Quality Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

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**Description:** This session will update participants on recent innovations in reducing mobile source emissions. It will provide new information on freight/idle-reduction/diesel retrofit efforts, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air, the DOT/EPA public outreach/education initiative. This air quality session is important to FHWA's on-going commitment to researching, implementing and distributing mobile source emission reduction techniques, innovations, and applications. The session will focus on emerging air quality issues related to freight transport; public education tools that can assist state and local organizations; and, how the CMAQ program is evolving.

**LUNCH**

**12:00-1:00PM**

**SESSION 6 – AIR QUALITY AND NEPA - THE SLEEPING VOLCANO**

**1:00-2:30PM**

**Moderator**

Mike Savonis, Air Quality Team Leader, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

**Speakers**

Bob O'Loughlin, Air Quality Technical Service Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center

Jim Cramer, Transportation Planning Group Leader, Michigan Division Office, FHWA

Gary Jensen, Transportation Conformity Team, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

Cecilia Ho, Transportation Conformity Team Leader, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

**Description:** This interactive session will provide participants an opportunity to learn about air quality opportunities and challenges that occur during project development. The discussion will focus on the environmental impact and decision documentation phases of project development and will address issues raised in NEPA document comments and challenges, including air toxics, greenhouse gases, active living, cross boarder air-quality protocol, and other emerging issues. Implications of the new National Ambient Air Quality Standards will also be presented.

**BREAK**

**2:30-3:00PM**

**SESSION 7 – REAUTHORIZATION AND/OR LEGAL ISSUES**

**3:00-5:00PM**

**Moderator:**

Ed Kussy, Deputy Chief Counsel, FHWA

**Speakers**

Jim Kilbourne, Chief, Appellate Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice (Invited)

Jack Gilbert, Assistant Attorney General, State of Texas (currently has IPA assignment with the FHWA Office of Chief Counsel)

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Harold Aikens, Assistant Chief Counsel, FHWA, Program Legal Services Division  
David Ortiz, Assistant Chief Counsel, FHWA, Office of the Chief Counsel, Resource Center  
Bob Black, Attorney Advisor, FHWA, Office of the Chief Counsel, Program Legal Services Division  
Glenn Harris, Attorney Advisor, FHWA, Office of the Chief Counsel, Resource Center  
Dave Sett, Senior Attorney, FHWA, Office of the Chief Counsel, Resource Center

**Description:** This session will be divided into three parts: (1) Important pending environmental litigation and recent decisions that relate to FHWA programs; (2) A roundtable discussion by FHWA field and headquarters attorneys on key environmental issues, with a focus on how and when to best serve program officials in meeting their responsibilities and further agency goals regarding environmental stewardship and project delivery; and (3) A presentation of new (or proposed) provisions relating to FHWA's environmental programs in the surface transportation reauthorization bill. New or pending legislation will be discussed.

**DAY 3: June 30, 2004**

**SESSION 8 – INDIRECT AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**  
**8:00-9:30AM**

**Moderator**

Dave Sullivan, Environmental Program Specialist, FHWA

**Speakers**

Jaclyn Lawton, Environmental Programs Engineer, Wisconsin Division Office, FHWA  
Larry Pesesky, Senior Vice President, The Louis Berger Group

**Description:** Progress continues to be made to address the complex subject of indirect and cumulative impacts. This session will highlight the current state of the practice by showcasing certain state DOTs and Division Offices that are leading the way in analysis process development and training.

**BREAK**  
**9:30-10:00AM**

**SESSION 9A – SECTION 4(F) – LIVE, LOCAL, LATE-BREAKING**  
**10:00-12:00PM**

**Moderator**

Dave Gamble, Environmental Program Specialist, FHWA Resource Center

**Speakers**

Betsy Merritt, Associate General Counsel, National Trust on Historic Preservation  
Harold Aikens, Assistant Chief Counsel for Program Legal Services, Office of Chief Counsel, FHWA  
Dan Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, Maryland Division Office, FHWA  
Dave Gamble, Environmental Program Specialist, FHWA Resource Center

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**Description:** This session will provide participants with the latest available updates on a number of topics related to Section 4(f), which requires the protection of parklands, recreation areas, refuges, and historic sites and has been in existence for nearly 40 years. Participants will be able to discuss specific aspects of the proposed SAFETEA language, and debate flexible approaches to project-level solutions.

**SESSION 9B – SOLUTIONS TO THE DELAYS RESULTING FROM SECTION 7 CONSULTATION**  
**10:00-12:00PM**

**Moderator**

Brian Yanchik, Ecologist, FHWA Resource Center

**Speakers**

Paul Garrett, Ecologist, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

Alex Levy, Ecologist, FHWA Resource Center

Paul Wagner, Biologist, Washington State DOT

Mary Gray, Environmental Program Specialist, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

**Description:** Consultation required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act has resulted in both significant time delays and expensive modifications to project designs. Work is being done around the country to streamline consultations. This session will describe several innovative approaches, including: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Washington State's Aquatic Species; Wildlife Crossings; and the "Lance Memo."

**SESSION 9C – LINKING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**10:00-12:00PM**

**Moderator**

Larry Anderson, Planning Oversight and Stewardship Team Leader, FHWA Office of Planning

**Speakers**

Janet D'Ignazio, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Transportation and Environment

Ed Studor, Administrative Manager, Riverside County Transportation Department

Carolyn Ismart, Manager, Environmental Management Office, Florida Department of Transportation

**Description:** This session will discuss developed processes, systems, and specific methods that incorporate environmental and community values into transportation decisions early-on in planning, and are carried out through project design and construction. The integration of planning and the environment can allow environmental elements to receive stronger consideration during the planning process.

**LUNCH**  
**12:00-1:00PM**

**SESSION 10A – RE:NEPA LIVE**  
**1:00-2:30PM**

**Facilitator:**

Lamar Smith, Team Leader, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Speakers**

Fred Skaer, Director, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

Lamar Smith, Team Leader, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

Pam Stephenson, Project Development Specialist, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

David Ortez, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, FHWA

Carol Adkins, Project Development Specialist, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Description:** Re:NEPA (<http://nepa.fhwa.dot.gov/ReNepa/ReNepa.nsf/home>), FHWA's online community of practice, has been a tremendous success. The purpose of the session is to address controversial, complex issues and questions generated by the conference participants. Questions will be collected from pre-submitted written questions (placed in the "Re:NEPA" box throughout the conference) and additional "brainstormed" questions from the audience. The session will illustrate how the Re:NEPA site can and should be used.

**SESSION 10B – EARTH FILL AND WATER**  
**1:00-2:30PM**

**Moderator**

Paul Garrett, Ecologist, FHWA

**Speakers**

Fred Bank, Water and Ecosystems Team Leader, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA

Dennis Durbin, Environmental Compliance Specialist, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division

Brian Smith, Biology/Water Quality Specialist, FHWA Resource Center

**Description:** Successfully obtaining a Section 404 permit requires understanding not only the law and regulations, but also what is new and changing that could affect a state DOT's ability to obtain a permit in a timely manner. This session will address project-specific location issues and will include a discussion on the National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan. The Rapid Wetland Assessment Primer, a brief course on wetland assessment, will also be introduced.

**SESSION 10C – THE PEOPLE, THE PROCESS, AND THE PRODUCT**  
**1:00-2:30PM**

**Moderator**

Rob Ritter, Planning Capacity Building Team Leader, Office of Planning, FHWA

**Speakers**

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Tashia Clemons, Environmental Program Specialist, FHWA Ohio Division Office  
Deborah Suci-Smith, Environmental Specialist, FHWA Pennsylvania Division Office  
Erika Thompson, Environmental Program Coordinator, FHWA New York Division Office  
KLynn Berry, Community Impact Specialist, FHWA Resource Center

**Description:** Learn the requirements and successful techniques for addressing the public's community impact concerns of projects and for including everyone in the process. This discussion will highlight a variety of related topics, including: public involvement, community impact assessment, Title VI/environmental justice, and visual quality/aesthetics - all of which must be considered in the NEPA process.

**BREAK**

***2:30-3:00PM***

**CLOSING REMARKS**

***3:00-5:00PM***

**Speakers**

Don Cote, Environment Technical Service Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center  
Lamar Smith, Team Leader, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

**Description:** To conclude the Conference, participants will (1) summarize events of the conference; (2) highlight important guidance or questions raised during the conference; (3) agree on next steps for both headquarters and the field offices; (4) develop agenda items for subsequent meetings, workshops, and the next conference (2006); and, (5) evaluate the Conference.