

## Cooperative Agreement on Environmental Streamlining and Interagency Cooperation on Environmental and Transportation Issues

The undersigned agencies agree to work cooperatively to carry out the provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). This agreement sets forth the following overall goals for coordinating the transportation planning and project development processes in accordance with TEA-21, the National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant statutes and initiatives.

### Goals:

- ▶ Develop a process that assures the timely, cost-effective development of environmentally sound transportation plans and projects. Emphasize the use of concurrent rather than sequential development and review of plans and projects.
- ▶ Work towards removing the constraints on agency manpower and budget which affect the success of the streamlined process.
- ▶ Recognize effective and successful coordination processes and use them as a basis for improving coordination and cooperation among stakeholders.
- ▶ Develop state specific interagency agreements and mutually agreed upon standard operating procedures. Particular attention will be given to identifying state priorities, and establishing review time frames.
- ▶ Identify and share information on transportation and environmental priorities.
- ▶ Encourage the participation of all stakeholders, including the Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the public, throughout the transportation planning and project development processes.
- ▶ Continue interagency dialogue on land use, growth, and transportation relationships to identify opportunities for environmental protection and community enhancement offered by TEA-21 and other initiatives.
- ▶ Establish a mutually acceptable conflict resolution process that considers the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques.

We the undersigned agree to work together to achieve the above goals to the fullest extent possible.

  
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Date 3/18/99