

Environmental documentation

Minimum Requirements

Work must be completed under the direct supervision of a Minnesota professional engineer in the appropriate discipline.

Description

Preparation of environmental documents begins once a project is in a recognized plan (Transportation Plan, Work Plan, State Transportation Improvement Plan, etc.), and Hennepin County decides to begin work on the environmental document. This work involves the study and evaluation of the social, environmental effects on the human and natural environment by transportation systems and alternate transportation modes in meeting identified transportation needs. Such work may involve the evaluation of alternate transportation corridors, and location/design alternatives within viable corridors. Additionally, the work entails the detailed study and preparation of environmental reports and documents that evaluate the physical, natural, social, cultural, economic, and human impacts of the alternatives under consideration upon the human and natural environment. Public involvement and interagency coordination are integral parts of the assessment process. Potential mitigations identified based on the studies and public involvement are evaluated and incorporated into the alternatives as appropriate.

This work type includes environmental documents that identify:

- Project purpose and need
- Alternatives considered
- Environmental and social impacts
- Mitigation of impacts
- Public involvement process
- Section 4(f) Evaluation, Section 6(f) Evaluation, Section 7 Report, etc.

Environmental documentation – Class I actions:

(Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]): The following are the minimum reports. Other special environmental studies in support of these reports may be required.

- Scoping document/draft scoping decision document
- Scoping decision document
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
- Record of Decision (ROD)
- Adequacy determination

Environmental documentation – Class II actions:

(Categorical Exclusions)

- Categorical exclusion determination document

Environmental documentation – Class III actions:

(Environmental Assessments [EA])

- Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)
- Findings of Facts and Conclusions
- Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- Negative Declaration (ND)

Standards and specifications

May include the following:

- Transportation Project Development Process (TPDP); Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents; TA 6640.8A, Federal Highway Administration
- Guide to Minnesota Environmental Review Rules (2010; Minnesota Environmental Quality Board)
- EAW Guidelines: Preparing Environmental Assessment Worksheets (2013; Minnesota Environmental Quality Board)
- 23 CFR 771.115
- Minnesota Administrative Rules, Chapter 4410, Environmental Review
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared when thresholds at Minn. R. 4410.4400 are exceeded. Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) are frequently prepared when no specific threshold is exceeded.
 - EAW (likely an EA) must be prepared when the threshold of Minn. R. 4410.4300 are exceeded.
 - Categorical Exclusion Determination documents are prepared when the above noted thresholds are not exceeded, following guidance in Project Report Decision Tree for “Smaller” MnDOT Projects. Report Decision Tree for “Larger” MnDOT Projects provides additional guidance on determining which environmental document is appropriate relative to the proposed Hennepin County project.

Provided by Hennepin County

Hennepin County will furnish data or material in its possession relating to the project that may be of use to the consultant in performing the work, which may include the following:

- Electronic survey files
- Wetland delineations
- Field exploration, investigation, and preliminary materials recommendations
- Public meeting notes and/or public hearing transcripts
- Environmental evaluations performed
- Preliminary and proposed project details to the extent that they have been developed

Typical services

Project deliverables may include the following:

| Levels of Deliverables | | |
|--|--|---|
| Class I actions (EIS) | Class II actions (Categorical Exclusions) | Class III actions (EA) |
| 1.11 | 1.12 | 1.13 |
| <p>A. Projects with significant impacts or the potential for significant effects.</p> <p>B. Many studies required* (e.g., traffic, wetland, noise, air, water quality, drainage, relocation, economic, community impacts, wildlife, etc.).</p> <p>C. Requires preparation of several reports, as noted above.</p> <p>D. Requires a certain level of public involvement including public meetings and hearings.</p> | <p>A. Projects that fairly clearly do not have the potential for significant effects. The purpose of the report is to provide evidence on that point, and to obtain environmental approval as required from state and federal agencies.</p> <p>B. Several studies* possible (e.g., traffic, wetland, noise, air, water quality, drainage, etc.).</p> <p>C. Requires preparation of one report (Categorical Exclusion Determination).</p> | <p>A. Projects with potential, or that may have the potential, for significant impacts.</p> <p>B. Several studies* likely (e.g., traffic, wetland, noise, air, water quality, drainage, relocation, economic, community impacts, wildlife, etc.).</p> <p>C. Requires preparation of two reports (EA or EAW, and Findings of Facts and Conclusions).</p> |