

Addendum to *Transportation Investment Act of 2010 Manual – Processes and Procedures*

Delete *Chapter 6: ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS* and substitute the following:

6 Environmental Management

6.1 Environmental Policy

GDOT and the TIA Program Manager (PgM) {Shown in 2011 TIA Manual as RPM} recognize that implementing the projects within this TIA program may affect the natural, social, and/or human environment. GDOT and the PgM are committed to identifying and documenting environmental resources; obtaining applicable permits and authorizations; and avoiding/minimizing/mitigating impacts associated with program activities or works.

The TIA projects are required to follow an environmental process commensurate with the sources of funding, potential environmental impacts, and jurisdiction of Federal and State agencies. The environmental process is a multi-disciplinary effort that often requires consultation with a number of agencies and involvement with the public.

6.2 Environmental Objectives of the TIA Program

All works for the program shall seek to enhance the built environment and, during construction, to avoid/minimize/mitigate environmental impacts by:

- Ensuring the design and construction of the projects is undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner and in full compliance with the provisions of the relevant environmental statutory requirements
- Identifying and mitigating environmental impacts
- Committing resources to comply with the requirements, as presented in this TIA Manual

6.2.1 Project-Specific Environmental Compliance

Environmental impacts associated with TIA projects may require the involvement of local, State and Federal agencies through approvals or permit obtainment. Examples include, but are not limited to, impacts to vegetative buffers of State Waters (Stream Buffer Variance [SBV] application approvals from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources [GDNR], Environmental Protection Division [EPD]), impacts to Waters of the U.S. (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act Permit approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]), and impacts to State and/or Federal protected species (coordination with the EPD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, respectively).

The funding type, letting responsibility, and location of the project (on or off the GDOT State Route system) are important in the determination of environmental documentation requirements (see Figure 6-1, TIA Environmental Flowchart). Projects that use Federal funds fall under Federal jurisdiction and are required to comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Projects that are 100% TIA funded and GDOT let, and projects that are 100% TIA funded and locally let that occur on the GDOT State Route system are required to comply with the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) process. The GDOT Environmental Procedures Manual (EPM) shall be followed for GDOT let projects and for locally let projects that occur on the GDOT State Route system. If a 100% TIA funded project shares common termini with a Federal Aid project, then consultation with the GDOT TIA Office is required to determine if NEPA must be followed to protect the environmental decision of the adjacent project. GDOT's EPM describes in detail the policies and procedures of the GEPA and NEPA processes. For projects that are 100% TIA funded and locally let that do not occur on the GDOT State Route system, the project sponsor shall obtain all necessary state and federal environmental permits and approvals

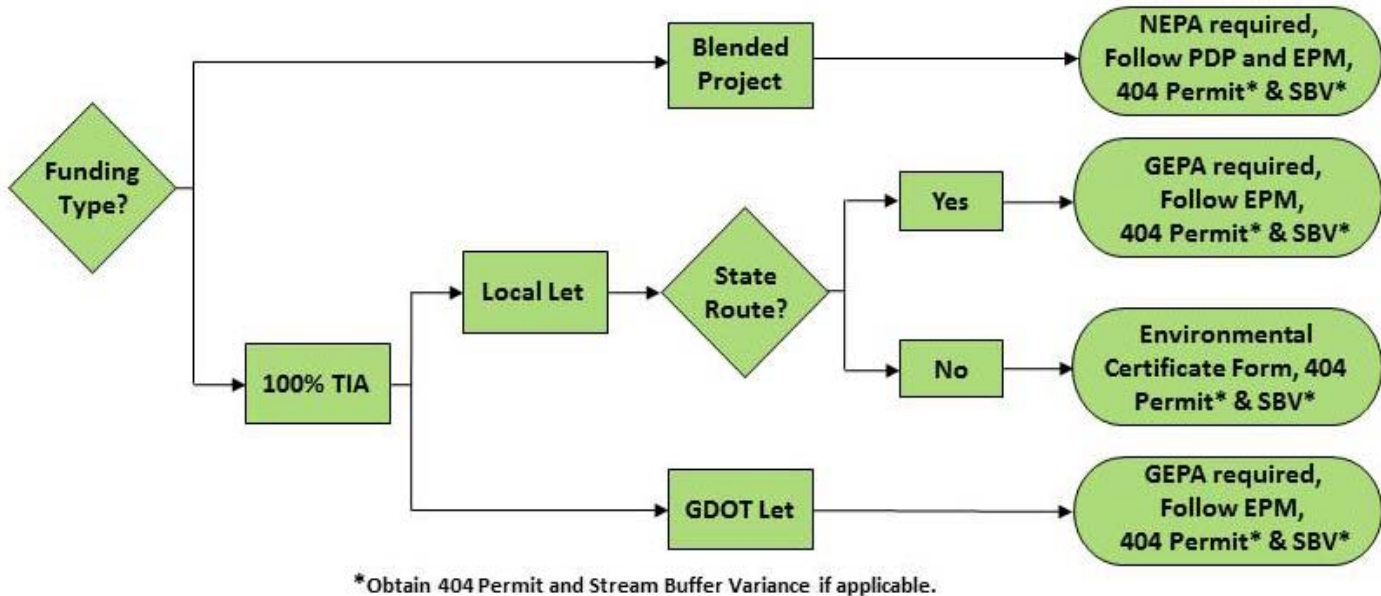


Figure 6-1 TIA Environmental Flowchart

6.2.2 Environmental Strategy

An initial screening and project background research should be conducted as early as possible to determine the potential for environmental impacts.

The preparation of environmental deliverables is one step in a series of approvals for a project to achieve construction authorization. Early coordination with parties that have jurisdiction over the project will help clarify requirements and avoid unnecessary delays. The responsible party for completion of the project's Environmental Deliverables should identify critical path tasks in the schedule and manage these tasks to expedite the delivery of the Environmental Documentation for environmental processes associated with the applicable GEPA, NEPA, and environmental permitting and approval processes. There are a variety of environmental deliverables that projects may require depending upon the funding source, letting authority, and occurrence on or off the GDOT State Route system.

Efficiencies in the process should be considered and may include, but are not limited to initiating right-of-way acquisition concurrently with the local environmental process to expedite project delivery. Elements of risk are inherent in allowing concurrent activities rather than the typical sequential activities; however, these risks must be identified and actively managed by the project sponsor.

GDOT's TIA Office will have oversight responsibility for construction projects let by GDOT. It is the responsibility of the PgM to ensure compliance with environmental commitments and NPDES permit requirements.

6.3 Environmental Responsibilities Overview

Local, State, and Federal projects, regardless of letting responsibility, are required to coordinate, as applicable, with the GDNr regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, with the EPD to obtain SBV encroachment approval for vegetative buffer impacts to Waters of the State and purchase associated mitigation credits, and the USACE to obtain the appropriate Section 404 Permit for impacts to Waters of the U.S. and purchase associated mitigation credits. If the project is locally let, then the project sponsor is the applicant for all applicable Federal and State permits and approvals (i.e., SBV, Section 404 Permit, etc.) and will purchase the appropriate mitigation credits. For GDOT let projects: 1) the project environmental consultant will prepare and obtain Section 404 Permits and/or SBV applications, 2) the PgM will review all Section

404 Permit and SBV applications prior to transmittal to the applicable regulatory agency, and 3) the PgM will facilitate the purchase of all Section 404 Permit and/or SBV mitigation credits. It should be noted that the Section 404 permit is a Federal action and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires documentation of the archaeological and historic resources within the project's study area. For GDOT let projects, all Tribal consultation for GEPA/NEPA will be coordinated through GDOT. The PgM will track the status of obtainment of applicable environmental permits and approvals relative to the project letting schedule.

The responsible party for completion of the project's Environmental Deliverables shall have the experience and qualifications, or retain the experience and area class qualifications necessary to complete local, State, and Federal processes to ensure that applicable requirements are being met. It is important to recognize the context within which the project resides to identify required documentation. For instance, projects that cross federal jurisdictions or have federal funding are required to provide documentation under the NEPA process (i.e., CE, EA/FONSI, EIS/ROD) since the project falls within the federal jurisdictional boundaries.

6.3.1 Local Let and 100% TIA Funded Projects

Projects that are 100% TIA funded and that are locally let are required to comply with local, State and Federal environmental regulations and to obtain all necessary local, State and Federal environmental permits and approvals.

For locally let projects that do not occur on the GDOT State Route system, the sponsor or the sponsor's duly authorized representative shall complete the Environmental Certification Form (attached) which certifies that compliance with applicable local, State, and Federal environmental requirements.

For locally let projects that occur on the GDOT State Route system, the sponsor is required to prepare the appropriate GEPA documentation (i.e., Type A Letter, Type B Letter, or EER/NOD). The PgM may review all applicable information and grant an exception to this requirement on a case-by-case basis. In addition to preparing the appropriate GEPA documentation, it is the local sponsor's responsibility to obtain all necessary local, State, and Federal environmental permits and approvals. Locally let projects on the GDOT State Route system occur within GDOT right-of-way. Sponsors of local let projects that occur on the GDOT State Route system shall implement appropriate construction monitoring activities to avoid environmental non-compliance.

6.3.2 GDOT Let and 100% TIA Funded Projects

Projects that are 100% TIA funded and that are GDOT let are required to follow the GEPA process. The preparation of all environmental studies, GEPA documents and applicable permits must comply with the procedures outlined in the GDOT EPM. The consultant will prepare all applicable environmental studies and GEPA documentation for the review and approval by the PgM and the GDOT TIA Administrator. The PgM will review all environmental applications prior to transmittal to the applicable resource agency. Additionally, the PgM will facilitate the purchase of all Section 404 Permit and/or SBV mitigation credits on behalf of GDOT. For GDOT let projects all pre-construction environmental commitments must be obtained in order for the PgM to complete the environmental certification for let (at least 18 weeks prior to the GDOT let date).

6.3.3 GDOT Let and Blended Funded Projects

Blended projects that use Federal funds must follow GDOT PDP and NEPA process.

6.3.4 Borrow/Waste/Stockpile Sites

Blended projects will follow the PDP and EPM.

For 100% TIA projects, if it is determined that project requires the use of a borrow/waste/stockpile sites for the placement of construction materials (i.e., soil cement base, sand clay base, base, etc), or disposal of excess material, common fill, and inert waste, the letting authority determines the process by which sites achieve environmental clearance by the local sponsor or by GDOT and the TIA PgM.

For locally let projects, the local sponsor shall provide confirmation to the PgM indicating that environmental clearance work has been completed and no significant environmental resources (i.e., waters of the U.S., state waters, cultural resources, and protected species) would be affected. This confirmation can be achieved by a letter or copy of report documentation from the local sponsor.

For GDOT let projects the GDOT contractor shall submit to GDOT and the PgM a request for environmental survey and approval to use an area for a borrow/waste/stockpile site. Upon receipt of the request of approval form, the PgM shall conduct environmental survey and prepare an environmental survey results memo. It is the responsibility of the contractor to obtain all local, State, and Federal permits and approvals. Within 45 calendar days/30 business days, the PgM shall issue an environmental approval memo to the contractor if the site would not impact historical, archaeological, or federally protected species.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT (TIA) PROJECT

Environmental Certification

P.I. NO.:

LOCATION [*City or County*]:

PROJECT BAND:

DESCRIPTION:

I hereby certify that I am a principal and duly authorized representative of _____
whose address is _____ and also that compliance
with applicable local, state, federal environmental requirements has been completed for the subject project.
There are no additional environmental commitments and/or requirements that would require notations in the
plans. Construction activities will be limited to areas within the designated project construction limits.

Duly Authorized Representative

Date

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