



Summary of SAFETEA-LU Provisions

Cathy Kendall, Federal Highway Administration

SAFETEA-LU Overview

- ❖ Promotes more efficient and effective Federal surface transportation programs
- ❖ Addresses existing and future challenges facing our transportation system including
 - ▶ Safety
 - ▶ Traffic congestion
 - ▶ Freight movement
 - ▶ Intermodal connectivity
 - ▶ Environmental protection



SAFETEA-LU Planning Provisions

Promotes consistency between transportation improvements and planned State and local growth patterns



SAFETEA-LU Planning Provisions

Long-Range Transportation Plans

- ❖ MPOs and States are encouraged to consult with state and local agencies responsible for:
 - ▶ Land use management
 - ▶ Economic development
 - ▶ Natural resources
 - ▶ Environmental protection/ conservation
 - ▶ Historic preservation



SAFETEA-LU Planning Provisions

Long-Range Transportation Plans

- ❖ MPOs must develop a “Participation Plan” – allow interested parties to provide input
 - ▶ Tribal representation
 - ▶ Advocates of bicycle and pedestrian interests
 - ▶ Disabled persons



SAFETEA-LU Planning Provisions

Long-Range Transportation Plans

- ❖ Identify potential environmental mitigation strategies
- ❖ Identify strategies to preserve and improve performance of existing system
- ❖ Identify strategies to provide for multimodal capacity increases based on regional priorities



SAFETEA-LU Environmental Provisions

Streamlines NEPA environmental review process for highway, transit, and multimodal projects



SAFETEA-LU Environmental Provisions

- ❖ Requires involvement by “participating agencies” and public in defining:
 - ▶ Project Purpose and Need
 - ▶ Project Alternatives
- ❖ Requires development of a coordination plan and schedule – available to agencies and public
- ❖ Allows continuance of approved State review process (ETDM)
- ❖ Allows projects to be exempted from Section 4(f) requirements if “de minimis” impact is determined



SAFETEA-LU Environmental Provisions

Purpose and Need Statement

- ❖ Clear statement of project objectives
- ❖ May include:
 - ▶ Transportation objectives identified in statewide or metropolitan transportation plans
 - ▶ Land use, economic development, or growth objectives identified in Federal, State, local or tribal plans
 - ▶ National defense, national security, or other national objectives identified in Federal laws, plans or policies



SAFETEA-LU Environmental Provisions

Purpose and Need Statement

❖ Elements to be addressed (as applicable):

- ▶ Project Status
- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ System Linkage
- ▶ Legislation
- ▶ Transportation Demand
- ▶ Modal Interrelationships
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Roadway Deficiencies
- ▶ Social Demands/
Economic Development

“Consistent with Guidance in ETDM Manual”



SAFETEA-LU Environmental Provisions

Project Alternatives

- ❖ Identified after required agency and public involvement
- ❖ Methodology and level of detail determined in collaboration with participating agencies
- ❖ Preferred alternative is developed in detail to facilitate mitigation measures and compliance with applicable laws



SAFETEA-LU Environmental Provisions

Florida's ETDM Process

- ❖ Grandfathered in SAFETEA-LU
- ❖ Allows participating agencies and public to assess and comment on potential project effects
- ❖ Continues funding to resource agencies participating in ETDM process

