

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On Federal-Aid projects, the final environmental document must be completed before location and/or design approval is granted by the FHWA. If the document was approved at the [Location Public Hearing stage](#), environmental requirements will have been satisfied (except as noted below in FHWA Approval) and no further action need be taken on the environmental document. If a Combined Location and Design Public Hearing was held, the Public Involvement Section will advise the Environmental Engineer of the Board Action and request that the final environmental document be completed. The designer is to furnish the Environmental Division with updated plans that reflect all modifications resulting from the public hearing process for their use in completing the environmental document.

FHWA APPROVAL

Approval of the Final Environmental Document is the FHWA's concurrence with the project. If this was done at the [Location Public Hearing stage](#) for a Certification Acceptance Project, and following adoption of the major design features, the project may now be advanced to the Right of Way Acquisition Stage.

An update of the environmental document is required if significant changes in the project have taken place.

If a Combined Location and Design Hearing was held, the Public Involvement Section will forward the hearing transcript and report (as noted in Section 2D-13- Processing Data to Public Involvement Section) to the FHWA for their review prior to approving the Final Environmental Document. Following approval of the Final Environmental Document by the FHWA, the public is notified and the project may be advanced to the Right of Way Acquisition Stage.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MAJOR DESIGN FEATURES (FOR NON-CERTIFICATION ACCEPTANCE PROJECTS WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT WAS APPROVED AT LOCATION PUBLIC HEARING STAGE)

Following approval, the updated Final Environmental Document (if updating is necessary) is forwarded by the Environmental Division to the FHWA.

Public Hearing Certification, the study report and report (as noted in Section 2D-13- Processing Data to Public Involvement Section) are forwarded to the FHWA along with the request for approval of major design features. The public is notified through the office of Public Affairs of the Department's request for approval and is also notified of the FHWA's response to the request*.

* Rev 7/06