

# NEBRASKA

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Pete Ricketts, Governor

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Public Invited to Comment on NDOT/Federal Highway Administration Agreement for Environmental Review Responsibility

July 16, 2018 (Lincoln, Neb.) — The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), as part of a process to streamline environmental reviews for certain projects while fulfilling all federal requirements, has initiated the process to assume environmental authority and review responsibility required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 for many federally funded transportation projects statewide.

A draft [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between NDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, under which the Federal Highway Administration would assign its environmental review authority and responsibility to NDOT, is now available for review and comment.

The public comment period runs through **August 15, 2018**.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding addresses projects found not to have significant environmental impacts, commonly referred to as Categorical Exclusions. Under NEPA Assignment, the state assumes the process, decision-making and legal responsibility for the National Environmental Policy Act requirements that the Federal Highway Administration carries out during assigned project review and delivery. Learn more on NDOT's [NEPA Assignment webpage](#): <https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/environment/nepa-assignment>

Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Ohio, Texas and Utah have taken similar action, as it may enable states to deliver transportation project more efficiently, saving both time and money. The federal government recognizes that states can achieve environmental compliance while streamlining certain review processes without federal oversight at the project level.



NDOT will be pursuing a similar Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Highway Administration for federally funded transportation projects that require either an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. That process is expected to begin in 2019.

Formal notice in the *Federal Register*: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2018-15099>

Review the proposed Memorandum of Understanding:

<https://www.regulations.gov/searchResults?rpp=25&po=0&s=FHWA%2B2018-0033&fp=true&ns=true>

#NDOT#

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