Environmental Policy

It is the Vision of the Maine Department of Transportation that we will create and maintain a safe, efficient and economical transportation system that is cost effective, energy efficient, environmentally sound and responsive to the diverse needs and values of the people of Maine and the Nation. In accomplishing this, we recognize that the Department's actions can, and often do, impact environmental resources. We understand that the public expects us to deliver our services and products in a way that protects and enhances environmental resources. We appreciate that these resources are the basis our quality of life and have tremendous economic and social value.

It is therefore the policy of the Maine Department of Transportation that we continuously evaluate our actions for their impacts upon environmental resources and that we conduct our activities so as to avoid and minimize those impacts. It is our desire to deliver safe and efficient transportation systems and to protect and enhance environmental resources. It is not a question of either one or the other. It is a matter of delivering both.

To accomplish this, the Department will:

- ◊ develop and utilize an Integrated Transportation Decision-making process regarding transportation projects that incorporates environmental considerations from the earliest planning stage through construction and maintenance;
- ◊ evaluate areas that need improvement regarding protection of the environment and implement the changes necessary to make those improvements;
- ◊ conduct a review of our organizational structure and culture regarding environmental responsibilities and make the changes necessary to strengthen that structure and to change the culture where appropriate;
- ◊ Partner with federal and State environmental agencies to identify and collaborate on reaching goals of mutual interest; and
- ◊ make environmental protection part of every employee's job expectations.

As Commissioner, I am personally committed to making this policy work. It is what the public expects of us, it is an investment in our future, and it is simply the right thing to do. I will hold each employee accountable for his/her part of the Department's commitment to the protection and enhancement of Maine's environmental resources as we carry out our Transportation responsibilities.

- Initiative
- Innovation
- Integration
- = **Integrity**

John G. Melrose, MDOT Commissioner, November 5, 1998

MDOT's Commitment:

- ***Deliver consistent decisions***
- ***Provide an environmentally conscious organization***
- ***Develop a balanced transportation system***
- ***Promote well-defined policies that protect the human & natural environment***
- ***Encourage community support & involvement***
- ***Utilize collaboration & consensus building, both internally & externally***

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Integrated Transportation Decision-making

Contributing to Quality Transportation Decisions

Maine "Transportation" is on the Move!

http://www.state.me.us/mdot

Partnership

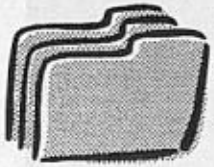
The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) has an important role to play to protect, enhance and restore Maine's environment. In partnership with other State and Federal agencies, MDOT has initiated a partnering program, building on such initiatives as the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century's (TEA-21) Streamlining and the grassroots effort of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS).

MDOT's effort is good news for Maine's environment.

It is vital that transportation managers consider new approaches for enhancing environmental protection while reducing redundancies and cost. Faced with increasing environmental issues, compliance requirements, competing resources/interests, and tightened budget constraints, agencies must seek innovative approaches for doing more with less. The diverse array of confusing and sometimes inappropriate or conflicting regulatory requirements compounds compliance complexities and increases the need to seek resourceful solutions.

Integrated Transportation Decision-making

MDOT has committed to create an environmentally conscious organization, institutionalize an environmental ethic in the organizational structures, establish an organizational culture that integrates environmental concerns in daily decisions, seek new stakeholders and partners through the use of collaboration, problem-solving, consensus building and negotiation skills, and balance transportation infrastructure development, environmental protection and community/neighborhood preservation through shared decision-making. Integrated Transportation Decision-making (ITD) interfaces planning, location, design, right-of-way, construction, maintenance, and environmental operations by fully integrating the decision-making processes of Maine's Sensible Transportation Policy Act (STPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and federal and State environmental permitting, especially the U.S. ACOE, New England, Highway Methodology. The overall goals of MDOT's Integrated Transportation Decision-making process are to solidify senior management commitment, express well-defined environmental policies and statements, establish an environmental corporate culture, institutionalize an environmental ethic, encourage communication and training, integrate the environment in daily decisions, promote environmental accountability, incentives and reporting, and support an environmental organizational structure.



ITD is multidisciplinary

Environmental Management System

Taking ITD a step further, an integrated NEPA/EMS process could increase the effectiveness and uniformity of implementing NEPA at the early planning stage, while reducing cost, delays, and redundancies. Effectively integrated, NEPA could satisfy the planning principle of EMS, and provide consistency with International Organization Standards (ISO).

NEPA's regulatory requirements not only are consistent with the objective of an EMS, but actually enhance the effectiveness of an EMS. An integrated approach could provide the added benefit of increased environmental coordination and heightened communications that translates into further cost reduction and fewer delays. The strategy is to balance the rigors of an international standard with the need to efficiently implement an integrated NEPA/EMS system, given a diverse set of challenging circumstances and constraints.

Strong parallels exist between the goals and requirements of NEPA and those of an ISO-consistent EMS. Both exist to protect the environment; identifying impacts and ensuring environmental factors are considered and associated impacts reduced. Importantly, ISO goes on to promote continual improvement in environmental protection.

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