

**Programmatic Agreement
between
The Federal Highway Administration-Nebraska Division
and
The Nebraska Department of Roads
for
Pavement Marking Activities**

The Federal Highway Administration-Nebraska Division (FHWA) and the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), have developed this Programmatic Agreement (PA) to outline the policy and procedure for environmentally approving certain federally-funded actions that involve the installation of pavement markings where no land acquisition or road closures exceeding 24 hours will occur.

WHEREAS, the Division Administrator, FHWA, is the “Agency Official” responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations (23 CFR 771);

WHEREAS, NDOR and FHWA have jointly been invited to concur in this PA;

WHEREAS, NDOR, as the statewide recipient of the federal-aid program, is responsible for compliance with all federal laws and regulations pursuant to 23 CFR 1.36;

WHEREAS, this PA is consistent with the Statewide Long Range Plan, the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and applicable Metropolitan or Rural Planning Organizations’ Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP’s) and Long Range Transportation Plans, and is exempt from regional air quality conformity determinations (40 CFR parts 51 and 93);

WHEREAS, the FHWA has delegated approval authority of certain Categorical Exclusion (CE) activities to NDOR, as described in the *Programmatic Agreement for the Review and Approval of the NEPA Categorically Excluded Transportation Projects* (PCE Agreement) between FHWA and NDOR, dated 12/17/08;

WHEREAS, Part B of the PCE Agreement allows for exceptions to the PCE Agreement by FHWA;

WHEREAS, this PA will cover action types that would be classified as a PCE under the PCE Agreement and will create an exception to the requirement to complete a NEPA Determination Form for actions covered by this PA;

WHEREAS, FHWA will monitor the use of this PA and retains the authority to revoke approval authority upon discovery of misapplication of the PA or non-compliance with any federal law or regulation or the stipulations of this PA;

NOW THEREFORE, the FHWA and NDOR agree that activities addressed by this PA, which are not part of a larger undertaking, shall be administered in accordance with the following in order to satisfy FHWA’s NEPA responsibilities.

Based on past experiences with similar actions, the FHWA has determined that pavement marking activities do not involve significant environmental impacts. Pavement marking activities include:

- Staging and/or stockpiling pavement marking equipment and/or materials,
- The preparation of the roadway surface for the placement of the new pavement marking material,
- Installing the pavement marking material,
- Traffic control necessary for the installation of the pavement markings.

Based on the nature of pavement marking activities, FHWA does not anticipate negative impacts to natural, cultural, historic, recreational resources from these activities; these activities do not negatively impact air, noise, water quality, or travel patterns, and do not present any negative cumulative impacts. FHWA has determined that these types of activities do not affect listed species, there is no potential to affect historic properties from these actions, and there is no potential to impact waters of the U.S. Furthermore, experience has demonstrated that these types of activities do not generate controversy on environmental grounds, nor do they impact Section 4(f) protected properties.

Therefore, FHWA has determined that project-specific NEPA documents and technical studies shall not be generated for this class of action in Nebraska, unless the stipulations below are not met.

Stipulation 1

NDOR agrees to review individual projects environmentally approved by this programmatic agreement to ensure unusual circumstances as outlined by 23 CFR 771.117(b) do not exist. If an unusual circumstance is identified, NDOR shall coordinate with FHWA for guidance and shall create a project-specific NEPA document, in compliance with the PCE Agreement.

Stipulation 2

This agreement does not apply to actions or activities on roadways or properties identified as eligible in the *Nebraska Historic Highway Survey* (2002), National Register eligible or listed bridges identified in the bridge database, or activities that will add striping to brick streets.

Stipulation 3

NDOR agrees to include the following commitments in the project-specific Green Sheets and/or the project agreement documents for actions approved under this agreement:

To avoid impacts to the community:

- Any closures to the roadway will be for short duration (less than 24 hours) with an alternate access route adequately signed. Emergency services shall be given adequate notice of any closures.
- Access must be maintained at all times to any and all public parks, recreation areas and wildlife refuges.

To avoid unanticipated impacts:

- The contractor shall not stage, store waste or stockpile materials and equipment in undisturbed locations, or in known/potential wetlands and/or known/potential streams that exhibit a clear "bed and bank" channel. Potential wetland areas consist of any area that is known to pond water, swampy areas or areas supporting known wetland vegetation (e.g. Cattails, bulrush, Canary reed grass, smartweed, or areas where there is a distinct difference in vegetation (at lower elevations) from the surrounding upland areas.)

To avoid Hazardous Material concerns:

- Any items that may contain hazardous materials, must be properly handled and disposed of as outlined in the standard specifications.

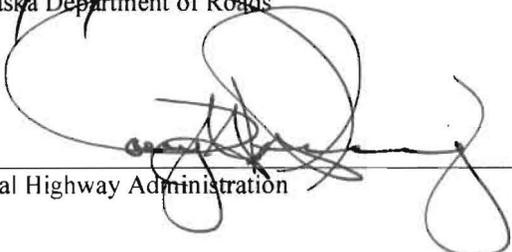
Stipulation 4

NDOR shall document that the individual projects approved under this PA were reviewed to determine if each of the stipulations outlined above could be met and that the required commitments were included in the project agreement documents and/or project green sheet. This documentation shall be added to each of the project records.

Administrative Conditions

1. This agreement becomes effective on the date of signature, below.
2. Applicability - If it is unclear what work associated with pavement marking activities applies to this PA, NDOR shall coordinate with FHWA to determine the appropriateness of utilizing this PA.
3. Monitoring – FHWA shall complete a process review of the use of this PA. Within the first year of execution, NDOR shall provide a listing of actions approved under this agreement 6 months after the signing of this PA. For subsequent years, a listing of actions approved under this agreement shall be provided to FHWA from NDOR by December 31st of each year.
4. Termination – Any party may terminate this PA by providing 30 days written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, these classes of action shall be required to have an individual NEPA document generated to demonstrate environmental approval, unless this PA is terminated due to an update to the PA or the incorporation of these activities into a different agreement document.


 Nebraska Department of Roads 6-23-10
Date


 Federal Highway Administration 6-23-10
Date