



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

Sent by email

April 15, 2019

To: County Administrators/City and Town Managers

RE: Transportation Enhancement/Alternatives Projects (TAPs) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents

In 2008 VDOT notified Transportation Enhancement/Alternatives Program sponsors that beginning with new projects awarded funding after July 1, 2008, VDOT Environmental staff would assume the environmental coordination and preparation of NEPA environmental documents for all locally administered Enhancement/TAP projects. VDOT has continued to provide this service, but determined that some clarification is necessary.

It appears there has been some confusion regarding whether this applied to Urban Construction Initiative (UCI) localities. Even though UCI localities have assumed the responsibility for their entire construction program, VDOT remains prepared to complete the NEPA documents for all TAP projects regardless of the locality administering the project.

Moving forward, for all new projects, the initial assumption in the planning process will be that VDOT will perform the environmental coordination and prepare the NEPA document. As with all locally administered projects, your locality will be given an estimate of VDOT charges which will include the estimate associated with the environmental work VDOT will be performing. Please understand, however, that your locality may prepare the NEPA document for these projects if you coordinate with VDOT through the VDOT project coordinator to request assignment of that task to your locality in writing. VDOT will respond in writing to these exception requests and the Appendix A of the agreement will be modified to note that exception. All existing executed agreements should already include the language assigning NEPA document responsibilities to VDOT in the Appendix A and again any agreed to changes must be reflected in the executed agreement.

The overall goal of this change years ago was to streamline the environmental process for these smaller Transportation Alternatives projects that still must meet all federal requirements including NEPA and move these projects along as quickly as possible. This approach should assist localities in meeting the NEPA document requirements in the most efficient manner possible. Of course the locality remains responsible for any permit acquisitions or other environmental approvals, clearances and resulting commitments.

Please feel free to contact either of us with questions (Julie 804-786-7314 or Julie.Brown@VDOT.Virginia.gov; Angel 804-371-6756 or Angel.Deem@VDOT.Virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

Angel Deem
Environmental Division Director

Julie R. Brown
Local Assistance Division Director