

FOREWORD

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Highway Administration – Louisiana Division (FHWA-LA) proudly present this Manual of Standard Practice for Stage 1 of the Department’s Project Development Process. This guidance is another step in DOTD’s ongoing commitment to Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining and to developing environmentally responsible transportation solutions in a fiscally responsible, schedule conscious, and environmentally sound manner.

This manual has been prepared as a guidance resource for DOTD Project Managers advancing transportation improvement projects through the Stage 1 Planning/Environmental process for Federal-aid projects, or state-funded projects that do not require a federal action or permit, requiring an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The manual includes information from many sources including the DOTD, the FHWA, and a variety of federal and state agencies. Every effort has been made to make this information as current as possible. However, it is the user’s responsibility to ensure that any action taken to comply with the excepted or referenced material is based on the most current information available from these resources.

The information contained in this document does not supersede nor replace technical guidance provided in other DOTD documents, other agency procedures, regulations or statutes. It presents an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related procedures, discusses project management tools and techniques, provides general discussion and direction on moving a project through the NEPA process, and lists references for further information.

Updating this Manual is a continuing process, due to the ever-changing status of environmental regulations, Executive Orders, and other guidance. For convenience, the latest version of the Manual is available on the DOTD’s website (www.dotd.louisiana.gov).



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