GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT
for 100% State Funded Projects

The environmental document must be completed for all projects receiving Multimodal Transportation Fund grants that are 100% state funded.

Underlined blue text in this document are links to additional information.

COVER SHEET

Provide the applicant contact information and the assigned PennDOT personnel's information, as indicated.

EVALUATION

Project Information:

Complete this section by filling in all applicable information. Contact the PennDOT personnel assigned if there is any question as to which fields to complete.

Project Description:

> *Project Purpose* – Include a description of the purpose of the project. The purpose is what the project is intended to accomplish. A project's purpose is an overarching statement as to why the proposal is being pursued and the objectives that will be met to address the transportation problem or deficiency. Refer to Publication 319, Needs Study Handbook for additional guidance on the project purpose statement.

- *Why the project is needed? Project Need(s)* – The need describes the key problem(s) to be addressed by a project and, to the extent possible, explains the underlying causes of those problems. The need provides the factual foundation for the statement of project purpose. A need for a project is a tangible, fact-based problem. A project need does not mention a solution.

    Refer to Publication 319, Needs Study Handbook for additional guidance on project need statements.

- *Description of Activity* – Include a detailed description of the proposed project.

- *Are temporary easements required?* – If yes, include a description of the location and size of temporary easements.

- *Will there be any permanent acquisitions required?* – If yes, include a description of the location and size of any permanent acquisitions.

Resource Analysis:

For each environmental resource, check "yes" if that resource is present in the project area or "no" if it is not present. If a resource is present, briefly discuss potential impacts to that resource and any commitments to be made in order to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts. It is important to document these commitments clearly in order for them to be fulfilled for the project. Attach additional documentation as appropriate related to the project impacts and mitigation measures.

PennDOT's GIS website, PennDOT One Map, is a helpful resource identification tool that includes environmental resource information. After identifying the project location on the map, check the box next to the applicable Environmental Resources layers so they are visible. Once resources are mapped, you can click on each resource in the project area for additional information.

Each section below provides insight into the resources included on the form and where to find additional information on background, identification, and how to mitigate impacts on each.

- *Water Resources (Questions #1-6, 14, 15)* – PennDOT One Map includes data layers for wild or stocked trout streams, high quality/EV streams, and wetlands.

  For additional information on wetlands refer to PennDOT's Wetland Resources Handbook, Publication 325.

  Additional resources for information on water resources include:
  - PA Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards
  - PA DEP's eMapPA – relevant layers include Streams Designated Use and Scenic Rivers
  - PA Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) Trout Water Classifications
  - National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
  - PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) list of State Scenic Rivers and Streams

  A qualified environmental professional should physically visit the project area to determine if any resources are present that were not previously identified, especially wetlands.

- *Federally Proposed, Candidate, or Listed; or State Listed Threatened & Endangered Species (Question #7)* – Critical habitat areas and Federal and State threatened and endangered (T&E) species should be identified through the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Tool and agency coordination (instructions for using the review tool are available on the website). Field studies to confirm the presence of a species, its habitat or critical habitat may or may not be necessary depending on the results of the database search and agency coordination. If the PNDI tool receipt includes a potential impact, further coordination with the listed agency should take place as indicated on the receipt. Attach the PNDI receipt and any additional correspondence received from agencies to the form, if applicable. Agencies with jurisdiction over protected species in Pennsylvania include DCNR, PFBC, PA Game Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Refer to PennDOT's [Threatened and Endangered Species Desk Reference, Publication 546](#) for additional information.

- *Agricultural Resources (Question #8)* – Impacts to agricultural resources should be evaluated in accordance with PennDOT's [Agricultural Resources Evaluation Handbook, Publication 324](#). [PennDOT One Map](#) includes layers for soils of local importance, prime farmland soils, soils of statewide importance, and agricultural easements. Indicate if any of these resources are present in the project area and also indicate if any active agricultural lands or farms are present in the project area and if they will be impacted by the proposed project. If productive agricultural land will need to be acquired for the project by PennDOT, and the project does not meet the exemption clauses in PA Act 1989-100, then a Farmlands Assessment Report may need to be prepared and Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB) hearing may need to be held for approval to condemn the land.

- *Historic Properties or Archaeological Resources (Question #9)* –The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which is part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), maintains the [Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS)](#), an online tool that can assist in identifying known or potential historic properties within the project area; historic properties (e.g. archaeological resources and historic structures) are ones that have been evaluated by qualified professionals as meeting National Register of Historic Places (NR) Criteria for Evaluation (see https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/National-Register/Pages/default.aspx for more information). The CRGIS contains information on properties that have been determined to be NR eligible, or determined to be not NR eligible; the CRGIS also includes many properties that have been surveyed but were not evaluated for NR eligibility. Many properties in Pennsylvania have not been surveyed or evaluated. All properties that are more than fifty years old, that might be affected by the project, must be evaluated for National Register eligibility. A property that exists in the CRGIS as not NR eligible may require re-evaluation if the determination was made more than five years ago. The sponsor is encouraged to coordinate with the SHPO prior to completing any studies to determine what studies, if any, are required based upon the nature of the project and its potential to affect historic properties.

- *Public Controversy on Environmental Grounds (Question #10)* – Indicate if the proposed project is anticipated to have public controversy based on impacts to environmental resources in the project area. This goes beyond just not generally wanting a project at a location. The controversy needs to be about specific environmental issues and concerns.

- *Resources Protected Under Section 2002 (Question #11)* – Section 2002(a)(15) of Pennsylvania Act 120 of 1970 (71 P.S. 512(a)(15)) states that,

  > *"No highway, transit line, highway interchange, airport, or other transportation corridor or facility, shall be built or expanded in such a way as to use any land from any recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, historic site, State forest land, State game land, wilderness area or public park unless (i) there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land, and (ii) such corridor or facility is planned and constructed so as to*

> *minimize harm to such recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, historic site, State forest land, State game land, wilderness area or public park."*

Section 2002(b)(2) indicates that it must be shown that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the effects of the project and that all reasonable steps have been taken to minimize the effects. Guidance for the completion and circulation of a Section 2002 Evaluation is contained in [Publication 349, Section 4(f)/Section 2002 Handbook](#).

[PennDOT One Map](#) includes GIS layers for Section 4(f) properties including trails, protected federal lands, state forests, state parks, and state gamelands. Although Section 4(f) only applies to projects with federal action, Section 2002 applies to the same types of properties as Section 4(f) so the Section 4(f) layers should be used to identify Section 2002 properties for Act 89 projects. *These layers do not include local or county parks or historic sites* which are also protected under Section 2002, so consult other sources of information for the presence of those resources.

- *Water Trails (Question #12)* – Water trails are also protected under Section 2002. [PennDOT One Map](#) includes a layer of water trails as does PFBC's [Water Trail Guides](#). Refer to [Publication 349, Section 4(f)/Section 2002 Handbook](#) for information on documenting water trails in a Section 2002 Evaluation.

- *Hazardous, Residual, or Municipal Waste Sites (Question #13)* **–** The potential for encountering waste materials on a project should be evaluated by reviewing background information and observing the site conditions. Guidelines for conducting waste site evaluations are included in [Publication 281, Waste Site Evaluation Procedures Handbook](#). [PennDOT One Map](#) includes data layers for known commercial waste operations, EPA waste sites, land recycling cleanup, municipal waste, storage tanks, and captive hazardous waste. PA DEP's [eMapPA](#) includes data on waste sites, mainly listed under the Facilities tab on the left of the viewer.

- *Regulated floodplain within or beyond the project limits (Question #14)* – [PennDOT One Map](#) includes a data layer for 100 year floodplains for many Pennsylvania counties. An additional resource for information on floodplains is PA DEP's [eMapPA](#) which includes a FEMA floodplains layer.

- *Navigable watercourses which require U.S. Coast Guard coordination or a waterway which requires an Aid to Navigation Plan (Question #15)* – [PennDOT One Map](#) includes a data layer for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) navigable waterways. Additionally, [PFBC's designated Water Trails](#) require an Aid to Navigation Plan.

- *Noise Impacts (Question #16)* **–** Project level noise analysis is directed toward evaluation of impacts to human activity or sensitive receptors such as residences, schools, libraries, etc. In general, there will be no noise impacts if there are no sensitive receptors. It is anticipated that the majority of the 100% state funded Act 89 projects will be exempt from detailed noise analysis. Refer to [Publication 24, Project Level Highway Traffic Noise Handbook](#) for additional information.

- *Section 6(f), Project 70, Project 500, and other Recreation Grants (Question #17)* – Federal and state grants may have been used to purchase and/or improve some recreational properties such as state parks, state forests, state game lands, local parks, PFBC lands, and PHMC lands. These properties are afforded extra protection by these

grants and require additional coordination if they will be impacted by a project. PennDOT One Map includes layers identifying Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Section 6(f) properties. Refer to Publication 745, Section 6(f), Project 70, Project 500, and Other Recreation Grant Guidance for additional information.

Additional resources for information on recreational grant properties include:
- National Park Service's list of LWCF grants by county
- DCNR's interactive map of Grant Acquisition and Development Projects
- Contacting DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

- **DEP/USACE PERMIT REQUIRED?** Indicate if any water resources permits are required for the proposed project. Coordinate with the assigned PennDOT personnel for questions on what types of permits are required. Commonly required permits include:
  - The USACE Section 404 and/or Section 10 Permit is required if construction or fill activities take place in waters of the United States, including wetlands.
  - A DEP Waterway Encroachment Permit (Chapter 105) is required for any structure or activity which changes, expands, or diminishes the course, current, or cross section of a watercourse, floodway or body of water (including wetlands).
  - A DEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required to obtain a USACE Section 404 permit. Water Quality Certifications have been integrated with other required approvals and permits. Separate Water Quality Certifications are issued for activities that do not need approvals or permits under other programs.
  - NPDES permits are required from DEP if a project will have one (1) or more acres of earth disturbance. Some exclusions apply.

- **MITIGATION OR OTHER COMMITMENTS INCLUDED?** Describe all mitigation or other commitments that have been made for the proposed project. This should be a compilation/summary of mitigation or commitments for all resource impacts for the entire project, even if they were noted in a previous resource section.

Prepared By: Include the name and title of the form preparer and the date the form was prepared.

Approved By: The reviewer of the form will include his or her name and title along with the date of approval.

Additional Information:

- *Remarks, Footnotes, Supplemental Data* – Include any additional pertinent information related to the project that does not fit in one of the prior questions/categories.

- *Attachments*: Include a list of attachments included with the environmental document. Note that some attachments are required as indicated on the form.