



ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES MANUAL

JULY 2026

This document supersedes the SDDOT Environmental Procedures Manual (EPM) dated July 2019.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Abbr	Abbreviation
ACEC	American Council of Engineering Companies
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AMMs	Avoidance and Minimization Measures
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARC	State Archeological Research Center
ARSD	South Dakota Administrative Rules
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BMP	Best Management Practice
BO	Biological Opinion
C2C	Concept to Contract
CAA	Clean Air Act
CE	Categorical Exclusion
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIA	Community Impact Assessment

CO	Carbon Monoxide
CSV	Comma-separated Value
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	A-weighted Decibel
DOT	Department of Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECC	Environmental Commitments Checklist
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
eNOI	Electronic Notice of Intent
EO	Environmental Office
EPC	Environmental Project Coordinator
EPM	Environmental Procedure Manual
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FQI	Floristic Quality Index

GIS	Geographic Information System	NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
HGM	Hydrogeomorphic	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
IPaC	Information for Planning and Conservation	NLEB	Northern Long Eared Bats
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems	NOI	Notice of Intent
JD	Jurisdictional Determination	NOT	Notice of Termination
LE	Federally Endangered	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
LT	Federally Threatened	NPS	National Park Service
LT (S/A)	Federally threatened due similar appearance	NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
LOS	Level of Service	NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
L RTP	Long Range Transportation Plan	NWPR	Navigable Waters Protection Rule
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act		
MOA	Memoranda(um) of Agreement	OHWE	Ordinary high-water elevation
MOE	Measures of Effectiveness	OWJ	Official with Jurisdiction
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization	P2D2	Project Planning Development and Delivery
MSAT	Mobile Source Air Toxics	PCE Agreement	Programmatic Agreement between FHWA and SDDOT Regarding the Processing of Actions Classified as Categorical Exclusions for Federal-Aid Highway Projects
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System		
N/A	Not Applicable		
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	PCN	Project Control Number
		PD	Project Development

PIP	Public Involvement Plan	SPC	State Plane Coordinate System
PM	Particulate Matter		
PRJ	Project	STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control	SWD	Stormwater Discharge
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
RIBITS	Regulatory In-Lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System	TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
ROD	Record of Decision	THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
ROW	Right-of-Way	TNM	Traffic Noise Model
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users	TPE	Transportation Planning Engineers
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act	U.S.	United States
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
		USC	United States Code
		USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
		USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
SDDENRSDDANR	South Dakota Department of Environment Agriculture and Natural Resources	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
		USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
		USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
SDDOT	South Dakota Department of Transportation	v/c	Volume-to-Capacity Ratio
		VHT	Vehicle Hours of Travel
SDGFP	South Dakota Game, Fish and & Parks	VMT	Vehicle Miles of Travel
SHSP	South Dakota Strategic Highway Safety Plan	VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office	WQEPDM	Water Quality Enhancement Program Design Manual

Foreword

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) Environmental Procedure Manual (EPM) has been developed to provide guidance to SDDOT, consultant, and contractor personnel performing environmental services associated with SDDOT transportation projects, including appropriate local government projects. The goal of the EPM is to effectively communicate preferred environmental processes and procedures, evaluate environmental impacts due to projects, and implement subsequent environmental commitments in an efficient and effective manner. The manual also provides the public, contractors, consultants, stakeholders, and other agencies an overview of the SDDOT environmental processes in an open and transparent way. This manual is an overview of the environmental procedures to be followed for projects funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It is not inclusive of all FHWA environmental policies and requirements or the environmental requirements of other agencies. This manual is not intended to reinterpret federal or state laws; it should be used in conjunction with all applicable laws, regulations, guidance, and internal coordination procedures.

The EPM presents information normally required for the environmental analysis and documentation of SDDOT projects; however, it is impossible to address every situation that a user will encounter. Therefore, users must exercise good judgment on individual projects and, frequently, be innovative in their approach to addressing environmental concerns and impacts. This may require different approaches than described in the following chapters. Where questions exist regarding the appropriate approach, users should seek guidance from the Environmental Office staff, FHWA Environmental Engineer, and other experienced individuals with knowledge in the specific environmental field.

It is also important to recognize that environmental rules and regulations continue to evolve with changes in environmental requirements (e.g., Section 4(f), Clean Water Act 404(b)(1), Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act), new transportation reauthorization laws, issuance of presidential Executive Orders, as well as court case decisions. With these changes, new methods of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation will be identified adding to the methods described in this EPM and reinforcing the nature of this dynamic document.

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