Assistant Chief Engineer

Update of Stewardship Implementation Manual (October 2021)

This bulletin announces the approval and availability of an updated (October 2021) Stewardship & Oversight Implementation Manual.

The Implementation Manual provides details for applying the general assignment of roles and concepts set forth in the Stewardship and Oversight (S&O) Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Department. The S&O Agreement is included in the Implementation Manual as Appendix F. No hard copies will be distributed.

This update of the S&O Implementation Manual includes minor revisions to the Design/Build tables, the deletion of the reference to “full oversight” and various other minor clarifications. The only significant change included in the updated document is a revised Projects of Division Interest (PODI) determination process. The existing PODI determination process, that occurs at project initiation, will now be slightly revised to allow FHWA to make this determination as part of the Design approval process. A revised PODI Determination (which should still be completed at project initiation) and Design Approval template is available on the Office of Engineering's SharePoint template page.

For those projects that meet or exceed the PODI determination criteria, set forth in the form, the PODI determination will be made by FHWA as part of the Design Approval document. Each Design Approval document, on projects that meet or exceed the PODI criteria, will have a check box indicating a PODI or non-PODI for FHWA. FHWA will make the PODI determination by checking the appropriate box and returning the Design Approval to the Department.

For projects meeting or exceeding the PODI criteria, set forth in the PODI Determination form, and require a Design Exception prior to Design Approval, the FHWA will exercise their discretion as to when to make the PODI determination.

The October 2021 version of the Stewardship & Oversight Implementation Manual is effective immediately.