

## Environmental Classification Document (ECD) For the Department of Transportation

Prepared Pursuant to Section 22a-1a-4  
of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA)

**I. Typical Actions For Which Environmental Impact Evaluations Shall Always Be Prepared.**  
Such actions may include, but are not limited to, instances where the State is obligating the following types of development through State funding or agreements:

- a. Construction of new expressway;
- b. Construction of new rail facility;
- c. Construction of new exclusive bus facility; and
- d. Construction of new airport.

**II. Typical Actions Whose Degree of Impact Is Indeterminate, But Could Have Significant Environmental Impacts.** When any of the following actions are proposed, including, but not limited to, instances where the State is obligating the following types of development through State funding or agreements, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) shall conduct an early public scoping process in accordance with Section 22a-1b(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). CTDOT shall take into consideration comments received and shall prepare a written memorandum that documents its findings and subsequent determination of the proposed action's environmental significance using the criteria set forth in Section 22a-1a-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Said memorandum shall be posted in the Environmental Monitor, unless CTDOT determines that an environmental impact evaluation shall be prepared pursuant to CGS Section 22a-1b(c).

- a. Construction of, addition to, or major alteration involving a change in use of a State leased, licensed, or owned facility involving 100,000 sq. ft. or greater of floor space if the facility is located in a Regional Center or Neighborhood Conservation Area, or 25,000 sq. ft. or greater of floor space if the facility is located outside of such areas as defined by the locational guide map of the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut. A facility is defined as one or more concurrently planned or envisioned structures on a site, the sum total floor space of which would equal or exceed the applicable square footage for the project location;

- b. Construction of new paved roads on a new alignment;
- c. Construction of new parking lots, garages, or additions thereto, that provide for an increase in capacity of 200 vehicles or more;
- d. Construction of new, or changes to, dams on watercourses resulting in a permanent change in normal water level of more than four (4) inches;
- e. Construction of new or expanded sewage treatment plants, hazardous waste or low level radioactive disposal facilities and coal fired heating plants;
- f. Demolition or major alteration of any building, structure or site listed or eligible to be listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places as determined by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO);
- g. Replacement or construction of a new bridge or culvert with a span length of greater than six feet which includes additional vehicular lane capacity; and
- h. Any other action that may significantly affect the environment in an adverse manner. The significance of a likely consequence of an action should be assessed by CTDOT in connection with its setting, its probability of occurring, its duration, its irreversibility, its controllability, its geographic scope, its magnitude, and regulatory requirements.

**III. Any and all joint federal/state actions for which Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements are prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, shall be recognized as meeting the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) requirements provided that such NEPA documents meet, and are circulated in accordance with, the CEPA document-equivalent requirements.**

**IV. Actions which do not warrant a review pursuant to CEPA. Notwithstanding the provisions of II (f) above, the following actions have been shown by past CTDOT experience to have impacts which are determinate, sufficiently limited in scope or covered under specific state or federal requirements other than CEPA or NEPA, and include a determination by the SHPO, whenever appropriate, that there is either *No Effect* or *No Adverse Effect* to historic, architectural or archaeological resources.**

#### **Roadway Related Projects**

1. Routine maintenance on the existing roadway, such as highway markings, crack sealing, joint repair, pavement milling or grooving, surface treatments, and resurfacing or repair of existing ramps or roadways.
2. Reconstruction activities on the existing roadway, such as roadway restoration and roadway rehabilitation.

3. Lane additions less than ½ mile in length to existing roads.
4. Correcting existing substandard roadway geometrics and intersections, such as turn lanes, improved turning radii, correcting vertical or horizontal slopes, channelization, divisional, and refuge islands, acceleration/deceleration lanes, and installation of curbs and gutters.
5. Modifications to or addition of sidewalks, curbs, and streetscape amenities.
6. Removal of trees for safety purposes.
7. Replacement, repair or relocation of existing utilities and existing utility poles.
8. Rehabilitation, reconstruction or refurbishing of existing active at-grade railroad crossings including installation of railroad warning signs and devices, such as flashing lights and gates.
9. Construction of wetland mitigation areas.

#### **Bridge/Culvert Related Projects**

10. All work to existing bridge and culvert crossings up to and including replacement along the existing alignment that does not include additional vehicular lane capacity.

#### **Roadside Safety Related Projects**

11. Highway safety improvement projects including installation, replacement, modification, or removal of safety appurtenances, such as impact attenuators, median glare screens, roadway delineators, guiderails, and safety barriers. These improvements also include pole countermeasures (reflectors, breakaway devices, and shielding systems), installation of reflective object markers, and removal of fixed objects (utility poles, non-breakaway signs, and pipe headwalls).

#### **Drainage Related Projects**

12. Routine cleaning, maintenance, and repair of existing drainage system elements, such as catch basins, pipes, stormwater management, and water quality facilities and devices. Retrofitting or redesign of existing drainage system elements. Safety-related improvements involving drainage system elements, such as converting existing drop inlets to traversable designs; installation, replacement, or removal of pipes and headwalls; installation, replacement, and extensions of pipes, addition of pipe end sections; and installation of stormwater treatment retention and detention basins.

#### **Electrical Related Projects**

13. Traffic Signal Projects, such as, the replacement, upgrade, and revision of existing signals, and the installation of new traffic control signals.

14. Intelligent Transportation System projects, such as installation of ramp metering systems; installation of closed circuit television cameras or highway advisory radio systems, such as remote controlled flashing signs, support structures, and variable message signs; and installation of computer links to monitor and control traffic volumes throughout the roadway system.

### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects**

15. Projects involving construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, and multi-use paths, such as handicapped access ramps and ways, designations of certain highways as bike routes, painting of existing paved shoulders as bike lanes, and bikeway/pedestrian ways.

### **Lighting and Signage Projects**

16. Restoration, replacement, upgrading, or addition of highway lighting systems (includes under-deck, conventional, high mast and offset lighting systems).

17. Installation or replacement of highway signs (including overhead and electronic variable message signs).

### **Airport Related Projects**

18. Routine maintenance and reconstruction, i.e. rebuilding of pavement structure, of existing runways, taxiways, ramps and aprons, such as pavement markings, crack sealing, joint repair, pavement milling or grooving, surface treatments, lighting and signing.

### **Miscellaneous Projects**

19. Removal and disposal of any hazardous waste materials from the existing right-of-way.

20. Replacement or repair of highway fencing.

21. Emergency actions necessary to restore essential travel as declared by the Commissioner or Governor.

22. The installation of noise barriers or alterations to existing buildings to provide for noise reduction.

23. Track and railbed maintenance and upgrades when carried out within the existing right-of-way.

24. Railroad signal system projects, such as, the replacement, upgrade, and revision of existing signals, and the installation of new railroad signals within the existing right-of-way.

25. Environmental remediation at facilities or property.

26. Demolition of structures or buildings.

27. Landscaping.

28. Routine maintenance and repair of existing port and ferry infrastructure.

29. Maintenance, renovations and improvements to existing facilities, rest areas, parking lots, weigh stations and other transportation-related maintenance, storage, and office buildings.

30. New construction of transportation-related maintenance, storage, and office buildings that are under the threshold as specified in Section II. a. of the ECD for the Department of Transportation.