

**Resolution of the
Northeastern Association of
State Transportation Officials (NASTO)**

Environmental Streamlining

WHEREAS, State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) must give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action that significantly affects the environment; and

WHEREAS, State DOTs must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act when delivering federally funded transportation infrastructure improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, State DOTs strive to protect the natural and human environment for future generations while enhancing mobility and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, many environmental laws and regulations have not been updated or modernized since their inception; and

WHEREAS, State DOTs and Federal resource agencies find that the current statutory and regulatory framework includes needless delay and duplication, and does not provide flexibility for common-sense environmental solutions; and

WHEREAS, complicated and lengthy application processes are limiting State DOTs from assuming Federal responsibilities for NEPA reviews; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) states have the oldest infrastructure, regardless of mode, in the country and have unique environmental conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NASTO states support the modernization of NEPA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act to streamline processes, improve outcomes and reduce delays; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NASTO Board of Directors urges Congress to update and revisit the underlying purposes of substantive environmental laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act, develop processes that reduce the costs and time associated with traditional environmental reviews while maintaining environmental protections and providing guidance to the local field offices issuing permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NATSO Board of Directors supports a consolidated NEPA process with a single jurisdiction review and approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NASTO states recommend that State DOTs be provided the opportunity to assume more Federal responsibilities and associated accountability through a simplified approval process.

Approved by the NASTO Board of Directors
on May 24, 2018 in Franklin, Tennessee

**NOTE: Only the NASTO Members from the United States voted on this resolution.*