USCG/FHWA Procedures for Handling Projects which Require a USCG Bridge Permit

In our October 25, 1982, memorandum, we provided information regarding coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard in developing projects which require a U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Permit. The need for early and continuing coordination with the Coast Guard throughout the project development process was stressed.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed and approved a programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation for certain federally assisted highway projects that affect bridges on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation and approval was distributed with Mr. Sevin's July 20, 1983, memorandum. We have met with the Coast Guard Washington headquarters staff and discussed how the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation will be used. The Coast Guard Headquarters staff has indicated it will accept the programmatic Section 4(f) approach as complying with Section 4(f) requirement; however, it would like to be fully apprised of the status of the project as it moves from planning to the permit stage. Accordingly, we have modified Attachment A to the October 25 memorandum to add two additional steps. A revised copy of Attachment A is attached. Step 3(e) requires the FHWA/State to advise the Coast Guard as early as possible in the process when a project is being developed and it is anticipated the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation will be used. Step 8 was modified to ensure that the Coast Guard is provided with information to support FHWA's use of the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation.

This memorandum is not intended to require additional information to be developed but rather to keep the U.S. Coast Guard fully informed of the FHWA activities with regard to the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation.
USCWFHWA Procedures for Handling Projects Which Require a USCG Bridge Permit

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA/State) Activities

1. System Planning Activities

2. Project Initiation Activities

3. Preliminary Environmental/Location Studies
   
   (a) Data gathering
   
   (b) Determine if a USCG permit is required (see FHWA Notice N5140.19).
   
   (c) If a permit is required, initial coordination with USCG, and request USCG (District) to be cooperating agency as per CEQ Regulations.
   
   (d) Assess navigation needs in cooperation with USCG; provide information to USCG if preliminary notice is to be issued; i.e., plans, clearances, description of project, etc. Clarify environmental review scoping responsibilities as necessary.
   
   (e) Advise the USCG district ASAP of proposed programmatic Section 4(f)

4(a) Issue draft EIS or EA and include discussion of navigation needs and potential highway impacts; continue coordination with Coast Guard.

4(b) Consider joint FHWA/State and Coast Guard public notice and hearing(s), especially in controversial cases.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Activities

3(d) Assess navigational needs and assist FHWA/State with draft EIS or EA; consider, as appropriate, preliminary public notice of project location(s) and evaluation of possible effects on waterways. Advise FHWA/State whether proposed project meets the reasonable needs of navigation or is controversial.

4(a) Comment on navigational and environmental aspects of draft EIS or EA, concentrating on the bridge(s) and approaches, with particular emphasis on adequacy of proposed clearances.

4(b) Participate in joint public notice and hearing(s):

   (1) where requested by FHWA/State,

   (2) where sufficient information is available on a given bridge to separate USCG hearing.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA/State) Activities</strong></th>
<th><strong>U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Activities</strong></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>5. Select highway location and prepare final EIS or FONSI; respond to comments received on navigation and environmental aspects of highway bridges. If the USCG has not provided comments on the navigation aspects, contact the USCG and obtain their views on the adequacy of the proposed clearances.</td>
<td>5. Upon request, assist in preparing responses to any navigational issues received on environmental document.</td>
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<td>6. Furnish preliminary final EIS or FONSI to USCG for review, as appropriate</td>
<td>6. Review preliminary final EIS or FONSI and comment, as appropriate.</td>
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<td>7. Whenever practicable submit application for USCG permit. (Permit application(s) may include alternate bridge designs.) Resolve any outstanding issues.</td>
<td>7. When permit application is included, review for completeness and issue formal public notice.</td>
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<td>8. FHWA approval of final EIS or FONSI. Complete submission for permit application as required. If Programmatic Section 4(f) is used, provide USCG with the supporting information for determining its applicability including alternatives, mitigation measures, and FHWA/SHPO agreement.</td>
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<td>9. If permit has not been previously submitted, apply for permit as soon as practicable after design work commences.</td>
<td>9(a) For applications submitted after approval of final EIS or FONSI, District reviews application and issues formal public notice.</td>
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<td>9(b) District concurs in resolution of any outstanding issues; forwards permit application with recommendation to Washington Headquarters or acts on permit application where appropriate.</td>
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<td>10. Complete bridge design. If alternate designs submitted, notify USCG of alternate selected within 30 days of bid award.</td>
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