



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

October 16, 2002

Dear Governor:

President Bush issued Executive Order 13274 on September 18, 2002, to enhance environmental stewardship and streamline environmental review of transportation infrastructure projects. The Executive Order establishes an interagency Transportation Infrastructure Streamlining Task Force (Task Force), which I have been asked to chair, to promote common sense streamlining and responsible environmental stewardship in transportation projects. Toward this end, the Department of Transportation (DOT) will develop an initial list of priority projects for the Task Force to tackle immediately.

In addition, I invite you to nominate projects for consideration by the Department. Each project you nominate will be included in a Project Review Register, from which additional priority projects chosen for expedited review will be selected. Priority projects will be selected from among those projects that are of national or regional importance, have a high level of support among State and local elected officials, and are being unduly delayed due to slow Federal agency review or coordination.

Nomination forms can be submitted electronically by downloading the form from the Transportation Policy Website, <http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/>, and emailing a completed nomination form to ProjectStreamlining@ost.dot.gov. They can also be submitted in writing by fax to 202-366-7618 or by mail to the office of Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Nominations will be accepted through November 12, 2002. I will announce additional priority projects, selected from nominations, in December. As expedited reviews are completed, additional projects from the Project Review Register will be added to the priority list.

The Department is currently soliciting suggestions for additional criteria to be used in selecting projects. To facilitate the receipt and review of suggestions, a workshop is being held in Washington, DC at DOT Headquarters on November 1, 2002. Workshop participants will discuss "best practices" in environmental stewardship and review recommendations received for project selection criteria. We have invited the National Governors Association to participate in the workshop.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Y. Mineta', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Norman Y. Mineta

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



**400 SEVENTH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590
(202) 366-4000**

5b. PURPOSE AND NEED:

5c. STAGE OF THE NEPA PROCESS:

6. FEDERAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PROPOSED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT:

7. FEDERAL REVIEW ACTIONS REQUIRED:

8. EXISTING OR ANTICIPATED CONTROVERSIES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL OR OTHER REVIEW ISSUES:

9. SUPPORT OF LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES:

10. REASON PROPOSED PROJECT IS BEING NOMINATED INCLUDING NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL IMPORTANCE:

11. PROJECT NOMINATOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please send completed nomination forms to:

By Email: ProjectStreamlining@ost.dot.gov

By Fax: 202-366-7618

By Mail: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
US Department of Transportation, P-1
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Nominations must be received on or before November 12, 2002. As regular mail may be delayed, we encourage submission by fax or Email.