



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
Capital Projects Department

April 7, 2009

TO: PROJECT MANAGERS/STAFF

FROM: STEVE DEAN
MANAGER, CAPITAL PROJECTS

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR FHWA AND FTA

COMPASS has notified us that a final rule has been issued regarding environmental review for both FHWA and FTA sponsored projects. The rule goes into effect on April 23, 2009. All project managers and consultants for federal projects need to be aware of the changes. I've included the language as it was issued for your information below.

Federal Register - FTA/FHWA - Final Rule Environmental Impact

Federal Register: March 24, 2009 (Volume 74, Number 55)]
[Rules and Regulations]
[Page 12517-12530]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr24mr09-17]

[[Page 12517]]

Part III
Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

23 CFR Part 771
Federal Transit Administration

49 CFR Part 622

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

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Federal Transit Administration

49 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. FTA-2006-26604]
RIN 2132-AA87

Environmental Impact and Related Procedures

AGENCIES: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issue this final rule that modifies our regulations to make certain changes mandated by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU prescribes additional requirements for environmental review and project decision making that are not appropriately reflected in the existing FHWA-FTA joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures. Additionally, this final rule creates certain new categorical exclusions (CE) allowing proposed actions to proceed without an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), and makes other minor changes to the joint procedures in order to improve the description of the procedures or to provide clarification with respect to the interpretation of certain provisions.

DATES: Effective Date: April 23, 2009.

END OF MEMO