

RAP Conceptual Studies In the NEPA Process



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RAP

Provides benefits to persons and businesses displaced by projects



NEPA

National Environmental
Protection Act

Authority

- Ohio Administrative Code 5501:2-5-02(E)(1)
- Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 24.205(a)
- ODOT Real Estate Policy and Procedures section 6202
- Council on Environmental Quality Regulations which are Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500-1508.

NEPA

- On January 1, 1970 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) was signed into Law. NEPA established a national environmental policy intentionally focused on Federal activities and the desire for a sustainable environment balanced with other essential needs of present and future generations of Americans.

Environment

- Not just Natural Resources such as wetlands, rivers, plants and animals.
- Reaches broader into our cultural Resources (historical and archeological preservation), hazardous waste and brown-fields, farmland, parkland, noise, air quality, and aesthetic/visual settings.

Environment

- This also includes Regional, Community and Neighborhood factors, appropriate public involvement as well as **displacements of people and businesses.**

NEPA

- Essentially, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a federal environmental mandate that lays the framework behind ODOT's Project Development Process (PDP).

NEPA Requires Agencies To:

- To consider the potential environmental consequences of their proposals;
- Document the analysis; and
- Make this information available to the public for comment prior to implementation.

NEPA Responsibility

- ODOT's Office of Environmental Services (OES) is ODOT's office with primary NEPA responsibility.

Relocation Conceptual Study

Formal written report which addresses the relocation scope and complexity on the project. The study must recognize anticipated relocation problems and put forth possible solutions.

Timing of the Conceptual Study

- The study should be completed after potential alignments are identified and before the preferred alignment is selected.
- Step 5 of the Project Development Process (PDP) for Major Projects.
- Step 3 of the PDP for Minor Projects
- It is important to note that this study is done prior to the selection of the “Preferred Alternative”

Red Flag Information



- Basically, red-flags are locations of concerns with the study area, or sometimes known as “Area of Potential Effect” (APE). These are not necessarily locations that must be avoided, but rather locations that will entail additional study, coordination, right-of-way or construction cost.

RAP Conceptual Study

- The information gained from the RAP Conceptual Study will be used in the NEPA driven alternative analysis study, which in turn will be used as evidence of alternatives consideration in the environmental document.

Who Should Complete the Conceptual Study?

- An ODOT employee who is competent in Relocation Assistance; or
- An LPA employee or consultant who is on ODOT's pre-approved list for Relocation

Gathering Information

- Visual inspection of the project
- Occupants of structures or potential displaced persons should not be disturbed
- Secondary sources
 - Elected Officials
 - Community Leaders
 - Real Estate Professionals

Contents of the Conceptual Study

- General Description of the project
- Include a discussion about each of the proposed alignments
- Include Maps or current drawings.

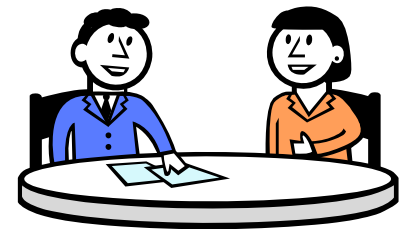
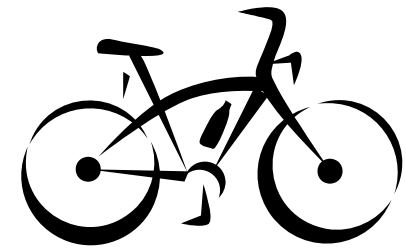
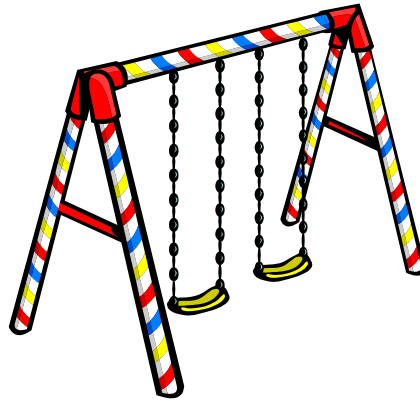


Contents of the Conceptual Study

- Estimate the number of households to be displaced including **family and neighborhood characteristics**

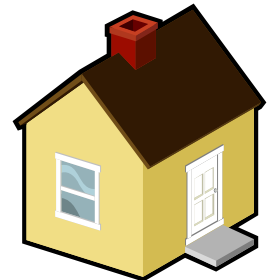


Family and Neighborhood Characteristics



Contents of the Conceptual Study

- Estimate of the number of Comparable dwellings available in the area including price ranges and rental rates
- If there is not an adequate supply of comparable replacement dwellings available, a description of actions proposed to remedy insufficient housing should be included.
- Last Resort Housing may apply



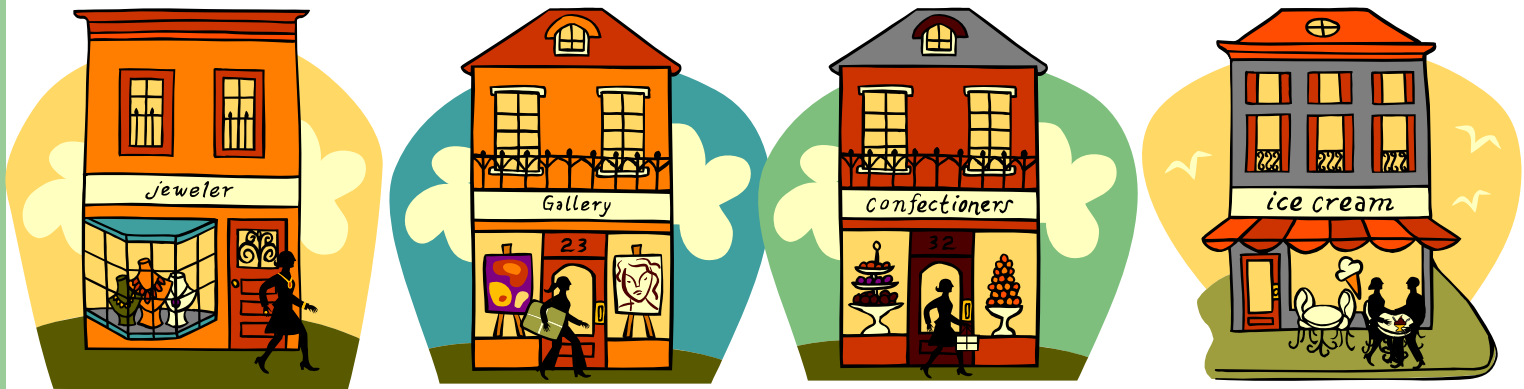
Contents of the Conceptual Study

- Estimate of the number of businesses, farms and non-profit organizations to be displaced.



Business

- Size of Business
- Type of Business
- Number of Employees



Contents of the Conceptual Study

- Estimate of the availability of replacement business sites.
- Impacts of displacing business shall be considered and addressed.
- Planning for complex or lengthy moves
- Planning for small business with limited financial resources
- Analysis of business moving problems along with possible solutions.

Contents of the Conceptual Study

- Divisive or disruptive effect on the community, such as separation of residences from community facilities. Facilities such as churches, schools, hospitals, recreation facilities, parks and senior centers.



Contents of the Conceptual Study

- Results of consultation with local officials, social agencies and community groups regarding the impacts on the community affected.

Contents of the Conceptual Study

- An estimate of the amount of time needed to clear the project for construction.



Distributing the Conceptual Study

- Copy to the Relocation Unit Manager prior to the study being submitted to the Office of Environmental Services.
- Will become part of the Environmental Document.

