

grass roots meetings to better understand community-based environmental justice concerns and to provide training on the transportation decisionmaking processes; (2) a secretarial level meeting of experts, traditional DOT stakeholders and environmental justice representatives to recommend specific policies and actions to implement Executive Order 12898 and the Department's Environmental Justice Strategy; and (3) regional workshops for state and local officials on implementing the Strategy.

2. DOT Order on Environmental Justice

A key component of the DOT Environmental Justice Strategy is a proposed DOT Order providing guidance to be followed by the Department and its operating administrations to implement Executive Order 12898. The DOT Order will apply to all appropriate DOT regulations, policies, guidance, and program activities as well as to any program, project, or activity undertaken by DOT or that receives financial assistance or permits from DOT, which may have environmental justice implications. The proposed DOT Order would ensure that all appropriate components of the Department will apply this strategy to appropriate aspects of their programs, policies, and activities in a way that integrates environmental justice considerations into existing agency operations rather than creating a separate set of requirements.

While the precise contents of the proposed DOT Order have not yet been fully developed, the Department anticipates that the Order will achieve several objectives. First, under the proposed Order, the Office of the Secretary and operating administrations of DOT would review their regulations, programs, policies, guidance, and procedures that affect human health or the environment to identify those that should be revised and revise them, as appropriate, to comply with Executive Order 12898. This review will include, but not be limited to, regulations, programs, policies, guidance, and procedures related to short and long-range planning and programming, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), pollution prevention, worker safety, environmental compliance, hazardous materials transportation, research, data collection, training, public participation, and relocation.

Second, the proposed DOT Order would set forth guidance to be used by DOT, its operating administrations, the recipients of DOT financial assistance, and state and local officials to determine whether a DOT or a DOT-funded

program, policy, project, or activity (DOT action) is likely to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income or minority populations. As part of this process, DOT, its operating administrations, and recipients of Federal financial assistance will provide appropriate and meaningful opportunities for comment by representatives of affected communities.

Third, under the proposed DOT Order, DOT would develop potential strategies and measures to address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse effects of their actions and those of recipients of DOT funds, consistent with requirements of other statutes and procedures. These measures may include pollution prevention, and health and safety measures, as well as mitigation and compensatory measures. This process would include procedures to provide meaningful opportunities for public involvement by low-income and minority populations, including community input in identifying potential mitigation measures for DOT actions.

The proposed DOT Order also would provide for data collection or research as needed to provide information to comply with Executive Order 12898. Public input will be solicited regarding these activities.

The DOT Order will provide guidance on how to achieve compliance with Executive Order 12898 under existing environmental and civil rights laws in cases where disproportionate impacts have been identified. (The DOT Order was distributed for public review in draft form on May 11, 1995, at an environmental justice conference in Atlanta, Georgia.)

3. DOT Training on Environmental Justice

In order to ensure that DOT managers are fully aware of their responsibilities under Executive Order 12898 and pre-existing statutory mandates, DOT will hold information seminars on environmental justice for selected program managers throughout the Department. Representatives of the environmental justice community will be consulted in the planning of these seminars.

In addition, in keeping with the Department's philosophy of integrating environmental justice considerations into all appropriate departmental programs and activities, DOT operating administrations will review and modify existing training courses to ensure adequate coverage of environmental

justice principles and to use training examples that include environmental justice aspects. These courses include such subjects as compliance with environmental mandates, infrastructure planning and development, public involvement, and management of departmental facilities and resources. The audience for these training courses includes DOT employees and recipients of DOT funding.

Role of Key DOT Elements in Complying With Environmental Justice Executive Order

Each element of the Department will undertake specific actions needed to implement the DOT Order on environmental justice. The actions undertaken will be developed and refined as the Department's strategy evolves. The following organizations will have key roles to play in the implementation process:

a. Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy maintains liaison with various elements of the Department in an effort to ensure that each appropriate element examines its programs and activities and takes appropriate actions to comply with Executive Order 12898. This office is also responsible for monitoring implementation of the DOT environmental justice strategy to help keep the strategy relevant and foster consistency and comprehensiveness in complying with the principles embodied in the Executive Order. In addition, the office will work to keep high-level Departmental officials properly involved in achieving the strategy's objectives and in maintaining liaison with non-DOT departments and agencies as well as the environmental justice community.

The Department will review and update, as appropriate, its Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts, DOT Order 610.1C, to ensure that it is consistent with Executive Order 12898 and DOT's proposed order on environmental justice. Attachment 2 to Order 5610.1C sets forth guidance on the format and content of environmental review documents and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental statutes, regulations, and executive orders, such as Section 4(f) of the DOT Act (49 U.S.C. 303). This attachment will be updated to reflect the requirements of Executive Order 12898 and to outline the need to address potential disproportionately high and adverse health, or environmental impacts on affected