

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BROWNFIELDS STRATEGY

Action Plan

The Department is committed to supporting successful transportation-related brownfields redevelopment. DOT can contribute by: (1) funding brownfields cleanup as part of its infrastructure development efforts; (2) working with transportation and economic development agencies and industries to consider the redevelopment of brownfields for transportation-related uses; (3) encouraging consideration of transportation access in redevelopment planning; and, (4) identifying policies that discourage transportation-related brownfields redevelopment. Over the next few years, funding will be available from a variety of programs to target brownfields assessments, inventories, and cleanup. The transportation industry is in an exciting position to participate in and contribute to the unfolding opportunities.

The Departmental Strategy is an action plan to incorporate the Brownfields Initiative in DOT programs. The strategy was developed by a Brownfields Task Force, led by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and comprised of representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), and the Departmental Office of Civil Rights. Each agency has a set of action items -- Since each has different constituents, some of members' action items focus more on outreach, while others focus more on incorporating brownfields redevelopment into transportation planning and programs. (Implementation will begin immediately. Actions will be completed within six months unless otherwise noted.)

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION ITEMS:

DOT will:

Project Funding

- Explore opportunities to share funding and project development responsibility with other governmental agencies and the private sector to facilitate innovative financing. (timeframe: 1-2 years)
- Examine current guidance and clarify, in no uncertain terms, that brownfields cleanup is an eligible activity for funding in transportation projects.
- Encourage transportation providers to partner with existing and future brownfield pilots and agencies, where appropriate, to leverage cleanup funding and development for transportation-related projects.

Process Streamlining

- Compile a compendium of best practices that support State and local exploration of transportation strategies that support brownfields redevelopment. (timeframe: within 1-2 years)
- Work with States to identify State laws and procedures which support brownfields redevelopment through cooperatively acquiring, managing, and utilizing right-of-ways. (timeframe: within 1-2 years)