

For TrAMS Grant Recipients (Developers and/or Submitters) – New Categorical Exclusions Available for Use

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), updated their joint environmental regulations at 23 CFR part 771 in November 2018. The updates included a new Cross-Agency categorical exclusion (CE), which allows FTA project sponsors to apply an FHWA or FRA CE to an FTA project when the FHWA or FRA CE better reflects the project.

FTA updated TrAMS to reflect this new CE, available via 23 CFR 771.118(e). When entering an FHWA or FRA CE in TrAMS, the user will select “Class II(e)-Categorical Exclusions (Cross Agency CE Options)” under the “Project Environmental Findings” section. When the user selects Class II(e), the FHWA and FRA CE options available will appear in the dropdown menu. Note, not all FHWA and FRA CEs are listed; if an FHWA or FRA CE was duplicative of an FTA CE, it was not added to the (e) list. Any action qualifying as a CE under section 771.116 or 771.117 may be approved by FTA when the applicable requirements of those sections have been met. FTA may consult with FHWA or FRA to ensure the CE is applicable to the proposed action. The FTA CEs continue to be available via the drop-down menus for Class II(c) and Class II(d).

The table below lists the FHWA and FRA CE options that can be utilized in TrAMS. If there are questions about the application of any of the CEs to a particular project, you should contact your local FTA Regional Office for guidance.

Class II(e) – FHWA and FRA Categorical Exclusions (Cross Agency CE Options)

CE Number	Name	Description
FRA CE-1	Administrative Procurements	Administrative procurements (e.g., for general supplies) and contracts for personal services, and training.
FRA CE-3	Planning or Design Activities	Planning or design activities that do not commit to a particular course of action affecting the environment.
FRA CE-7	Financial Assistance for a Completed Activity	Financial assistance to an applicant where the financial assistance funds an activity that is already completed, such as refinancing outstanding debt.
FRA CE-8	Hearings, meetings, or public affairs	Hearings, meetings, or public affairs activities.
FRA CE-9	Maintenance of Existing Railroad Facilities	Maintenance or repair of existing railroad facilities, where such activities do not change the existing character of the facility, including equipment; track and bridge structures;

		electrification, communication, signaling, or security facilities; stations; tunnels; maintenance-of-way and maintenance-of-equipment bases.
FRA CE-10	Emergency Repair or Replacement	Emergency repair or replacement, including reconstruction, restoration, or retrofitting, of an essential rail facility damaged by the occurrence of a natural disaster or catastrophic failure. Such repair or replacement may include upgrades to meet existing codes and standards as well as upgrades warranted to address conditions that have changed since the rail facility's original construction.
FRA CE-11	Operating Assistance to a Railroad	Operating assistance to a railroad to continue existing service or to increase service to meet demand, where the assistance will not significantly alter the traffic density characteristics of existing rail service.
FRA CE-12	Minor Rail Line Additions or New Tracks within ROW	Minor rail line additions, including construction of side tracks, passing tracks, crossovers, short connections between existing rail lines, and new tracks within existing rail yards or right-of-way, provided that such additions are not inconsistent with existing zoning, do not involve acquisition of a significant amount of right-of-way, and do not significantly alter the traffic density characteristics of the existing rail lines or rail facilities.
FRA CE-13	Property Acquisition	Acquisition or transfer of real property or existing railroad facilities, including track and bridge structures; electrification, communication, signaling or security facilities; stations; and maintenance of way and maintenance of equipment bases or the right to use such real property and railroad facilities, for the purpose of conducting operations of a nature and at a level of use similar to those presently or previously existing on the subject properties or facilities.
FRA CE-14	Research Activities on Existing Facilities	Research, development, or demonstration activities on existing railroad lines or facilities, such as advances in signal communication or train control systems, equipment, or track, provided that such activities do not require the acquisition of a significant amount of right-of-way and do not significantly alter the traffic density characteristics of the existing rail line or facility.
FRA CE-16	Modifications for ADA Purposes	Alterations to existing facilities, locomotives, stations, and rail cars in order to make them accessible for the elderly and persons with disabilities, such as modifying doorways, adding or modifying lifts, constructing access ramps and railings, modifying restrooms, and constructing accessible platforms.
FRA CE-17	Rehabilitation, Reconstruction or Replacement of Bridges and other Structures	The rehabilitation, reconstruction or replacement of bridges, the rehabilitation or maintenance of the rail elements of docks or piers for the purposes of intermodal transfers, and the construction of bridges, culverts, or grade separation projects that are predominantly within existing right-of-way and that do not involve extensive in-water construction activities, such as projects replacing bridge components including stringers, caps, piles, or decks, the

		construction of roadway overpasses to replace at-grade crossings, construction or reconstruction of approaches or embankments to bridges, or construction or replacement of short span bridges.
FRA CE-18	Vehicle or Equipment Acquisition, Rehabilitation, or Maintenance	Acquisition (including purchase or lease), rehabilitation, transfer, or maintenance of vehicles or equipment, including locomotives, passenger coaches, freight cars, trainsets, and construction, maintenance or inspection equipment, that does not significantly alter the traffic density characteristics of an existing rail line.
FRA CE-19	Safety and Security Improvements	Installation, repair and replacement of equipment and small structures designed to promote transportation safety, security, accessibility, communication or operational efficiency that take place predominantly within the existing right-of-way and do not result in a major change in traffic density on the existing rail line or facility, such as the installation, repair or replacement of surface treatments or pavement markings, small passenger shelters, passenger amenities, benches, signage, sidewalks or trails, equipment enclosures, and fencing, railroad warning devices, train control systems, signalization, electric traction equipment and structures, electronics, photonics, and communications systems and equipment, equipment mounts, towers and structures, information processing equipment, and security equipment, including surveillance and detection cameras.
FRA CE-20	Environmental Restoration, Remediation, and Controls	Environmental restoration, remediation, pollution prevention, and mitigation activities conducted in conformance with applicable laws, regulations and permit requirements, including activities such as noise mitigation, landscaping, natural resource management activities, replacement or improvement to storm water oil/water separators, installation of pollution containment systems, slope stabilization, and contaminated soil removal or remediation activities.
FRA CE-21	Assembly or Construction of Facilities or Stations	Assembly or construction of facilities or stations that are consistent with existing land use and zoning requirements, do not result in a major change in traffic density on existing rail or highway facilities, and result in approximately less than ten acres of surface disturbance, such as storage and maintenance facilities, freight or passenger loading and unloading facilities or stations, parking facilities, passenger platforms, canopies, shelters, pedestrian overpasses or underpasses, paving, or landscaping.
FRA CE-22	Track and Track Structure Maintenance and Improvements	Track and track structure maintenance and improvements when carried out predominantly within the existing right-of-way that do not cause a substantial increase in rail traffic beyond existing or historic levels, such as stabilizing embankments, installing or reinstalling track, re-grading, replacing rail, ties, slabs and ballast, installing, maintaining, or restoring drainage

		ditches, cleaning ballast, constructing minor curve realignments, improving or replacing interlockings, and the installation or maintenance of ancillary equipment.
FHWA (c)(1)	Planning, Research, NEPA Studies	Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning and research activities; grants for training; engineering to define the elements of a proposed action or alternatives so that social, economic, and environmental effects can be assessed; and Federal-aid system revisions that establish classes of highways on the Federal-aid highway system.
FHWA (c)(2)	Utilities	Approval of utility installations along or across a transportation facility.
FHWA (c)(3)	Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	Construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, and facilities.
FHWA (c)(4)	Activities in State's Highway Safety Plan	Activities included in the State's highway safety plan under 23 U.S.C. 402.
FHWA (c)(5)	Transfer of Federal lands	Transfer of Federal lands pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 107(d) and/or 23 U.S.C. 317 when the land transfer is in support of an action that is not otherwise subject to FHWA review under NEPA.
FHWA (c)(6)	Noise Barriers and Reduction Actions	The installation of noise barriers or alterations to existing publicly owned buildings to provide for noise reduction.
FHWA (c)(7)	Landscaping	Landscaping.
FHWA (c)(8)	Fencing, Signs, Pavement Markings, and Small Shelters, Signals, and Warning Devices	Installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, small passenger shelters, traffic signals, and railroad warning devices where no substantial land acquisition or traffic disruption will occur.
FHWA (c)(10)	Acquisition of Scenic Easements	Acquisition of scenic easements.
FHWA (c)(11)	Payback under 23 U.S.C. 156	Determination of payback under 23 U.S.C. 156 for property previously acquired with Federal-aid participation.
FHWA (c)(12)	Improvements to Rest Areas and Weigh Stations	Improvements to existing rest areas and truck weigh stations.
FHWA (c)(13)	Ridesharing Activities	Ridesharing activities.
FHWA (c)(15)	Alterations to Facilities or Vehicles to make them ADA	Alterations to facilities or vehicles in order to make them accessible for elderly and handicapped persons.
FHWA (c)(21)	Deployment of Electronics and Technology Devices	Deployment of electronics, photonics, communications, or information processing used singly or in combination, or as components of a fully integrated system, to improve the efficiency or safety of a surface transportation system or to enhance security or passenger convenience. Examples include, but are not limited to, traffic control and detector devices, lane

		management systems, electronic payment equipment, automatic vehicle locaters, automated passenger counters, computer-aided dispatching systems, radio communications systems, dynamic message signs, and security equipment including surveillance and detection cameras on roadways and in transit facilities and on buses.
FHWA (c)(25)	Environmental Restoration and Pollution Abatement	Environmental restoration and pollution abatement actions to minimize or mitigate the impacts of any existing transportation facility (including retrofitting and construction of stormwater treatment systems to meet Federal and State requirements under sections 401 and 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341; 1342)) carried out to address water pollution or environmental degradation.
FHWA (c)(26)	Highway Modernization	Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in 771.117(e).
FHWA (c)(27)	Highway Safety or Traffic Operations	Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects, including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting, if the project meets the constraints in 771.117 (e).
FHWA (c)(28)	Bridge Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, or Replacement	Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 771.117 (e).
FHWA (c)(29)	Ferry Vessel Related	Purchase, construction, replacement, or rehabilitation of ferry vessels (including improvements to ferry vessel safety, navigation, and security systems) that would not require a change in the function of the ferry terminals and can be accommodated by existing facilities or by new facilities that themselves are within a CE.
FHWA (c)(30)	Rehabilitation or Reconstruction of Existing Ferry Facilities	Rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing ferry facilities that occupy substantially the same geographic footprint, do not result in a change in their functional use, and do not result in a substantial increase in the existing facility's capacity. Example actions include work on pedestrian and vehicle transfer structures and associated utilities, buildings, and terminals.
FHWA (d)(4)	Construction of Parking Facilities	Transportation corridor fringe parking facilities

FHWA (d)(8)	Construction of New Bus Storage and Maintenance Facilities	Construction of new bus storage and maintenance facilities in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is not inconsistent with existing zoning and located on or near a street with adequate capacity to handle anticipated bus and support vehicle traffic.
FHWA (d)(9)	Rehabilitation or Reconstruction of Rail and Bus buildings and Ancillary Facilities	Rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing rail and bus buildings and ancillary facilities where only minor amounts of additional land are required, and there is not a substantial increase in the number of users.
FHWA (d)(10)	Construction of Bus Transfer Facilities	Construction of bus transfer facilities (an open area consisting of passenger shelters, boarding areas, kiosks and related street improvements) when located in a commercial area of other high activity center in which there is adequate street capacity for projected bus traffic.
FHWA (d)(11)	Construction of Rail Storage and Maintenance Facilities	Construction of rail storage and maintenance facilities in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is not inconsistent with existing zoning and where there is no significant noise impact on the surrounding community.
FHWA (d)(13)	Miscellaneous Actions	Actions described in paragraphs (c)(26), (c)(27), and (c)(28) of this section that do not meet the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section.