

# Community Impact Assessment (CIA)

*A PROCESS FOR BETTER DECISIONS*



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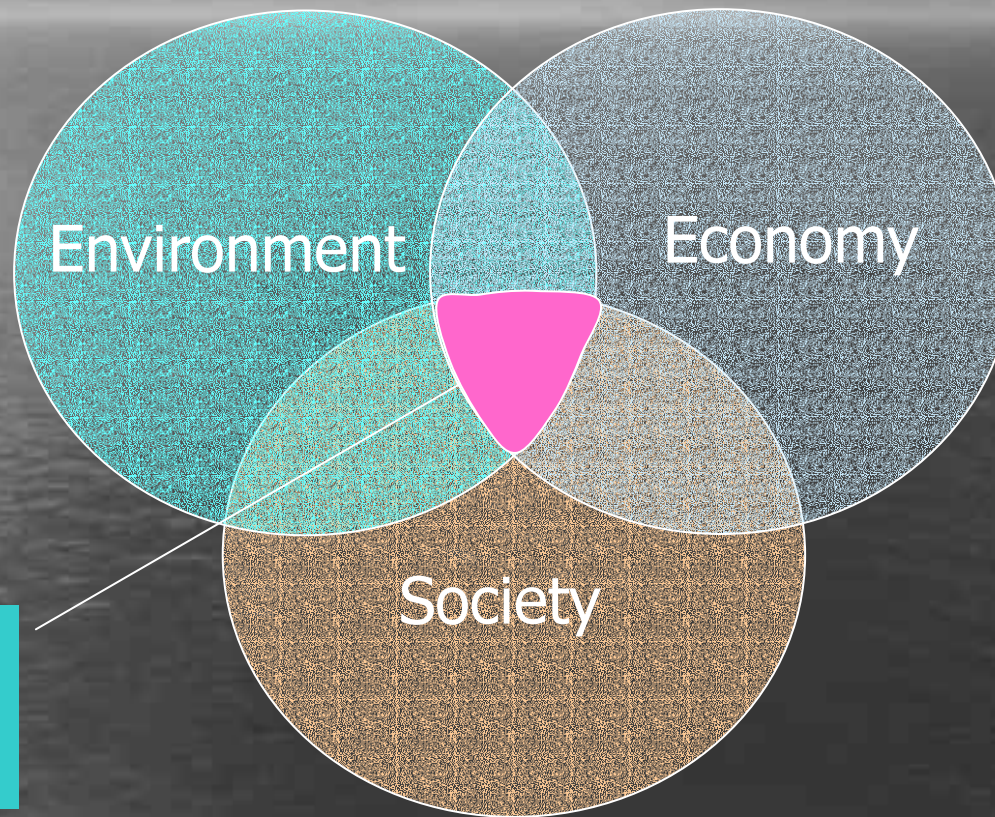
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# Community As Three Separate Spheres



Source: Hart (1999)  
Community and Quality of Life (NRC)

# Community as Three Interconnected Spheres



Quality of  
Life

Source: Hart (1999)  
Community and Quality of Life (NRC)

# Community Impact Assessment IS

A PROCESS to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life.

# CIA Process Goals

- Improve Quality of Life
- Promote Responsive Decision-Making
- Improve Coordination
- Promote Nondiscrimination

# CIA Process IS

- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Credible
- Proactive
- Integrated
- Accessible
- Continuous
- Innovative
- Open
- Participative
- Win-Win
- Flexible

# Assessment Process Components

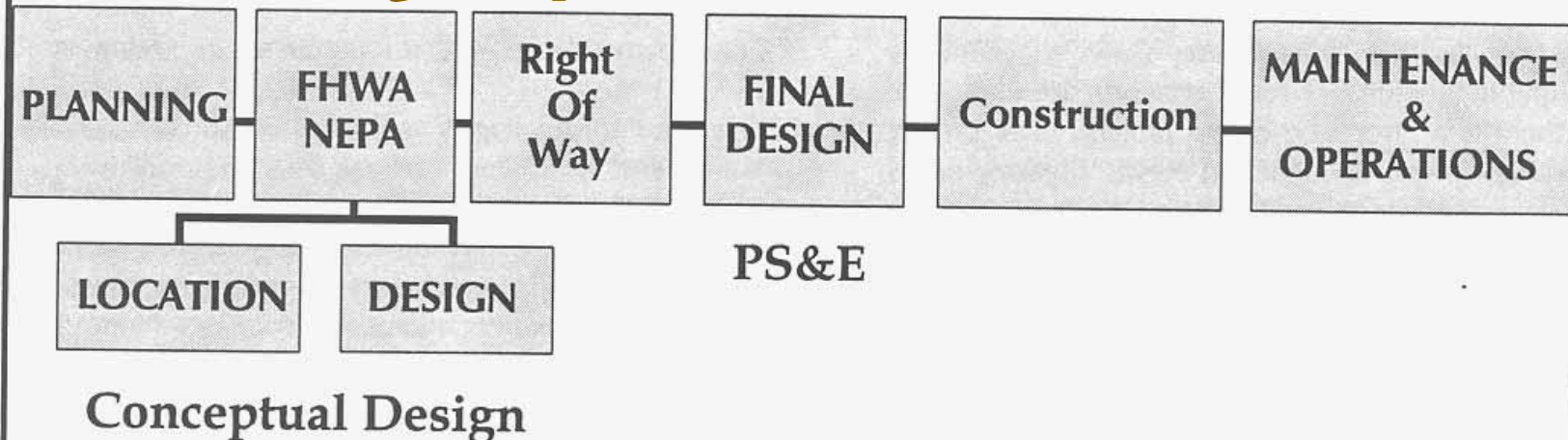
- Define the Project & Study Area
- Develop a Community Profile
- Analyze Impacts
- Identify Solutions
- Use Public Involvement
- Document Findings

**Iterative**

# THE FHWA NEPA/STATE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

NEPA AND FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY  
ACT OF 1970

*Community Impact Assessment Process*





# CIA & Streamlining Initiatives

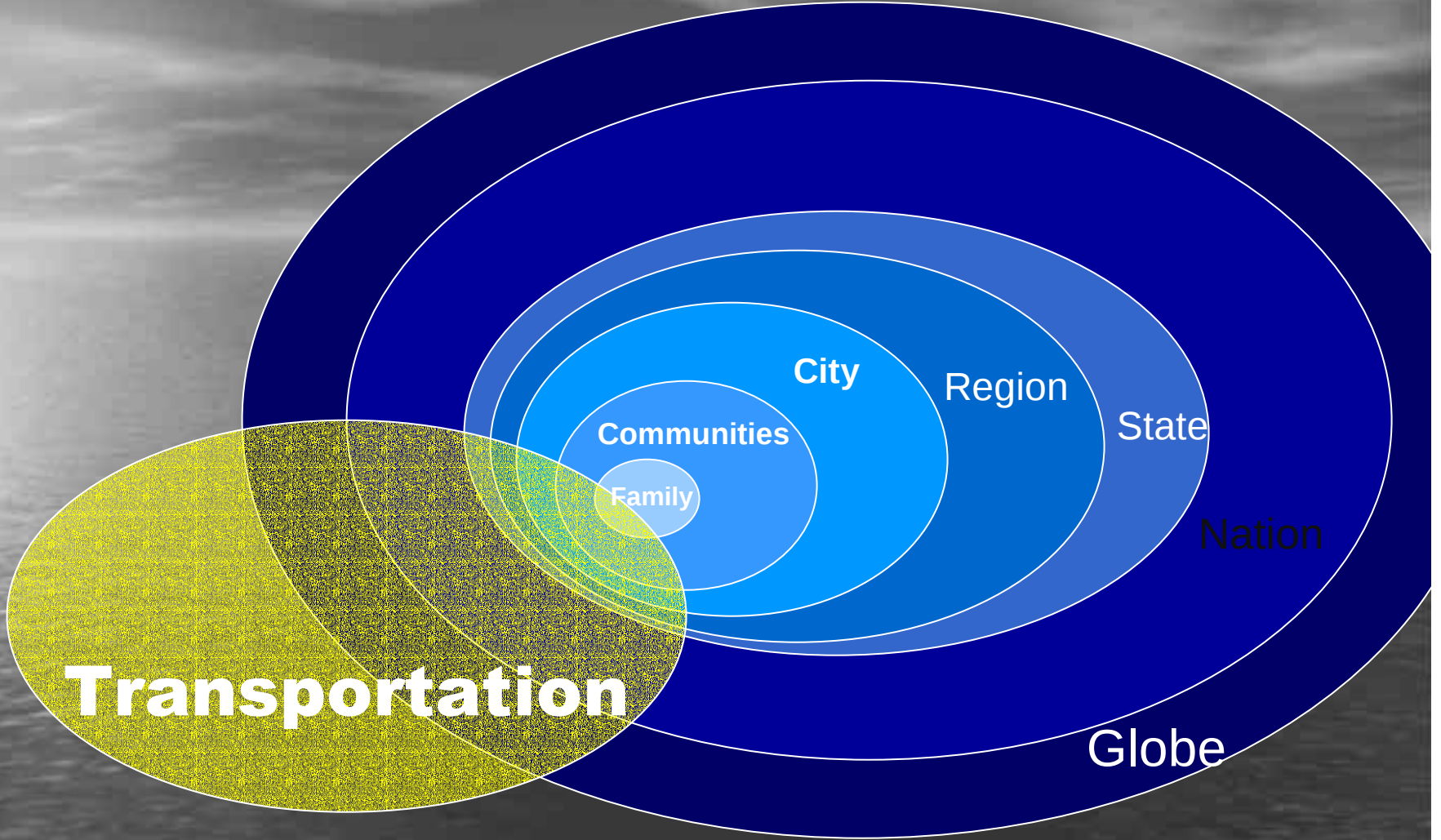
- Multidisciplinary process
- Builds coalitions with partners and liaisons with stakeholders
- Requires creative solutions and innovative methods
- Advocates “Re-Engineering the Process”
- Requires public participation
- Need each other to be SUCCESSFUL!

# CIA & Context Sensitive Design Principles

- ◌ Satisfies the Purpose and Need
- ◌ Safe for both the user and community
- ◌ In harmony with the community
- Exceeds the expectations of designers and stakeholders
- Designed and built with minimal disruption to the community
- Project adds lasting value to the community

# CIA & Smart Growth Initiatives

- Connecting Communities
- Creating Travel Choices
- Transportation Equity and Access to Transportation Decisionmaking
- Public Transportation
- Promoting Economic Competitiveness
- Preserving the Environment





*Throughout project development decisionmaking activities and until construction, the community impact analyst assures that consequences to the social fabric of an area are given consideration with other environmental impacts. The analyst plays a vital role in the project development team as a vigorous advocate for community values.*

Community Impact Assessment  
A Quick Reference for Transportation

**[Back to Circular E-C054: Third National Community Impact Assessment Conference](#)**