

Why did NYSDOT institute an Environmental Initiative?

The New York State Department of Transportation is the state's largest public works agency. As such, the Department excels in building infrastructure to safely and efficiently move people and products across the state.

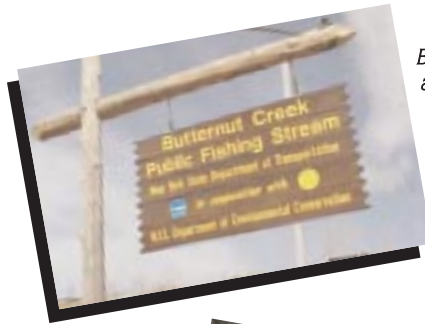


Today, however, it is evident that the Department's capabilities as a builder should expand beyond traditional transportation to more broadly serve the goals of the resource agencies, communities, and the general public.



Partnerships with agencies and communities enable others to utilize NYSDOT capabilities.

How does NYSDOT implement the Environmental Initiative?



By communicating and cooperating with environmental resource agencies and the public.

By planning, designing & building environmentally sound transportation facilities.



By including innovative environmental components in our transportation projects.

NYSDOT is a Recognized Leader

In 1999, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) judged NYSDOT to be "Best in the Nation" for its Environmental Initiative.

AASHTO awarded NYSDOT with its:

- Environmental Best Practices Award AND
- AASHTO President's Award

New York State DOT's Environmental Initiative

NYSDOT has much that it can and should do to protect, enhance and restore the environment.



The Environmental Initiative is an ethic that requires a public agency to do more than simply minimize and mitigate environmental damage.

It is DOT's effort to do its part for a better environment.

<http://www.dot.state.ny.us/eab/envinit.html>

JOSEPH H. BOARDMAN
Commissioner

GEORGE E. PATAKI
Governor

Through the cooperative development of environmental enhancements as an inexpensive, routine part of our normal work, we at NYSDOT are acting in the spirit of environmental law, the wishes of our customers, and the values we hold as public servants.

Project enhancements: projects can include added features without adding significant costs.

Scenic overlooks, recreational crossings, and wetland improvements are incorporated into NYSDOT projects.



Cost-effective enhancements, such as streetscape amenities, become part of project design.

Economies of scale: environmental elements or facilities funded by others (such as a community, agency or environmental group) may be incorporated into NYSDOT projects to deliver environmental amenities at lower costs.

At the request of environmental agencies, NYSDOT protects a bird sanctuary and the Lake Ontario State Parkway from shoreline erosion.



Community support and involvement: by considering community needs and encouraging public involvement, the Department strives to satisfy all its customers.

Local garden clubs plant bulbs and wildflowers along NYSDOT rights-of-way to add color and beauty.



Schoolchildren study New York State history during a NYSDOT archeological dig.

Quality of life improvements: Environmental Initiative projects may enhance the visual, aesthetic, and natural character of an area and provide facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Alternative modes of transportation are encouraged by providing multi-use trails.



Habitat improvements: transportation projects provide opportunities to improve wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat.

NYSDOT restores streams and provides a fish ladder for spawning trout.



NYSDOT provides nesting platforms for peregrine falcons on a bridge overpass.

Innovative solutions: NYSDOT explores innovative solutions to ensure a cleaner and safer environment.

NYSDOT utilizes recycled tires in this tire shred embankment.



This automatic bridge deicing spray system may reduce hazardous substance use.