

**AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION**  
**FACT SHEET**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER ON PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND**  
**RESTORING SCIENCE TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS**  
*January 20, 2021*

On January 20, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed [\*Executive Order 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis\*](#) (Order). This Order made headlines for revoking the federal permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline, but it also has implications for public transportation and other infrastructure permitting.

Specifically, the Order rescinds three Trump Administration Executive Orders concerning infrastructure permitting:

- Executive Order 13766, Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects (January 24, 2017)
- Executive Order 13807, Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects (August 15, 2017)
- Executive Order 13927, Accelerating the Nation’s Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities (June 4, 2020)

The Trump Administration’s Executive Orders 13766 and 13927 set policy goals for expedited environmental reviews for certain projects. Executive Order 13807 established the “One Federal Decision” policy, including a coordinated permitting timetable, a single environmental impact statement (EIS), a single record of decision (ROD), and all authorization decisions made within 90 days of issuance of the ROD.

The Biden Administration Order requires that following revocation of Executive Order 13807, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality “shall jointly consider whether to recommend that a replacement order be issued.”

The Order also establishes broad environmental, public health, preservation, and conservation goals.<sup>1</sup> It instructs all agencies to immediately review all existing regulations and agency actions issued during the Trump Administration and “consider suspending, revising, or rescinding” them if they conflict with the Biden Administration’s national objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> The Order states that: “It is, therefore, the policy of my Administration to listen to the science; to improve public health and protect our environment; to ensure access to clean air and water; to limit exposure to dangerous chemicals and pesticides; to hold polluters accountable, including those who disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change; to restore and expand our national treasures and monuments; and to prioritize both environmental justice and the creation of the well-paying union jobs necessary to deliver on these goals.”