

Visual Impacts Discipline Report Checklist

Project Name: _____ Work Order Number: _____

Contact Name: _____

Date Received: _____ Date Reviewed: _____ Reviewer: _____

(SAT = Satisfactory; INC = Incomplete; MIS = Missing; N/A = Not Applicable)

Answers are required for questions which have no N/A box.

A Visual Impacts Discipline Report can be highly detailed or extremely concise depending upon whether the level of impact or controversy is substantial or minimal. Project teams should take care to provide an unbiased evaluation of the effects and “right-size” the discipline report so it adequately addresses the impacts and controversy without over-analyzing or providing unnecessary information. See:

http://sharedot/pd/psdsupt/ERS_ECS/Help%20For%20Standard%20Form/Section%208%20Visual%20Quality%20for%20Standard%20Form.aspx for more information.

I. Summary

This section should summarize key information in sections II through VI of the report and present any conclusions reached. Review it for [Plain Talk](#) language so it can be included in the EIS, EA, or DCE with only minor modification.

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. Introduction. Summarize the purpose of the report, the purpose and need for the project, and the project description, including each alternative, if applicable. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. Methodology. Summarize the methodology used to analyze visual elements. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. Affected Environment. Summarize the existing conditions with respect to views in the study area, both from the project and towards the project. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. Potential Effects. Summarize any direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project on views (both temporary and long-term) and indicate whether the project is likely to have more than a moderate effect on views in the study area. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. Mitigation. Summarize any minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures identified for addressing the direct and indirect visual impacts of the project. |

II. Introduction

This section should state the purpose of the report, the purpose and need for the project, and describe the project, including each alternative, if applicable.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. Purpose of Report. Identify any applicable statutes and discuss any determinations that must be made regarding visual impacts for compliance with NEPA and/or SEPA, Section 4(f), Section 6(f), scenic highways/byways, or for other designations valued for their scenic aspects, regardless of regulatory requirement status. |
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- B. Purpose and Need. Describe the purpose and need for the project.
- C. Project Description/Alternatives. Describe and illustrate the project including each alternative, if applicable.

IV. Methodology

This section should describe the methodology used to analyze visual elements.

SAT INC MIS N/A

A. Methodology identified, documented, and professionally recognized (generally, this will be Visual Impact Assessment Guidelines for Highway Projects, FHWA, 2015):

- 1. Threshold of significance stated (changes greater than moderate are significant).
- 2. Criteria used:
 - a. Natural Harmony – the extent to which the various aspects of the natural environment are visually intact and consistent.
 - b. Cultural Order – the integration of buildings, infrastructure, artifacts and art form a unified composition.
 - c. Project Coherence – the degree to which the elements of the project meet the viewers preferences.
 - d. Landscape Composition and Vividness: the degree to which the combination of natural harmony, cultural order, and project coherence create a composition that contributes to the surrounding aesthetics desired by the neighbors and travelers. Viewer position noted (inferior, normal, superior).
 - e. Viewer groups identified.
 - f. Viewer exposure identified.
 - g. Viewer sensitivity identified.
 - h. Frequency of viewer exposure identified.
 - i. Duration of view identified.
 - j. Numbers of viewers identified.

IV. Affected Environment

This section should map and describe the existing conditions with respect to views in the study area.

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A. Study area identified and viewer analysis.

- 1. Landscape units identified.

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- 2. Roadside Classification described (from Roadside Policy Manual).
- 3. Viewer groups identified.
- 4. Viewer exposure identified.
- 5. Viewer sensitivity identified.
- 6. Frequency of viewer exposure identified.
- 7. Duration of view identified.
- 8. Numbers of viewers identified.

B.Views. Discuss how each view will be impacted by the project.

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- 1. Representative viewpoints established in each landscape unit and why they were chosen.
- 2. Map or aerial photo showing key view locations with study area shown.
- 3. Views toward the project analyzed.
- 4. Views from the project analyzed.
- 5. Existing views analyzed (show photos of existing key views).
- 6. Viewer position noted (inferior, normal, superior – these can be shown on the matrix).
- 7. Narrative discusses existing condition and provides a visual understanding of each key view.
- 8. Analysis of baseline visual quality in terms of natural harmony, cultural order and project coherence within the AVE, as determined by viewers’ preferences.
- 9. Analysis of impacts that discusses the compatibility, sensitivity, and degree of the impact (neutral, beneficial, or adverse).

V. Potential Effects

This section should describe the direct, indirect, and cumulative visual impacts of the project on views (both temporary and long-term), and indicate and indicate whether the project is likely to have more than a moderate effect on views in the study area. Describe (and quantify where possible) the following by alternative:

SAT INC MIS N/A

A.Discuss views within the project area. This relates to what is seen from a viewer’s perspective, not necessarily a scenic vista.

- 1. Temporary construction activity impacts discussed.
- 2. Proposed views analyzed.
- 3. Night sky, light, and glare effects analyzed.

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Analysis performed on all viewpoints with changes from the existing condition stated. Note difference in assessed visual quality value before and after project. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|

SAT INC MIS N/A

B. Narrative of the expected changes.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | 1. Does the narrative correspond to the illustrated conclusions? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | 2. Narrative discusses impacts. Note whether this project or any cumulative effects will change the Roadside Character Classification found in the Roadside Policy Manual. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Direct visual effects as a result of the project. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Indirect visual effects as a result of the project. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Cumulative effects of this project or any adjacent projects either in the past or future. |

VI. Mitigation

This section should describe any potential and/or recommended mitigation and enhancement measures for addressing any direct and indirect visual impacts of the project. Describe the following for:

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. Avoiding the impact. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. Minimizing the impact. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. Compensating for the impact. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. Enhancement. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. How this project will meet the requirements of the Roadside Policy Manual for roadside restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F. Recommendations for how this project will blend with the adjacent landscape after construction. |

VII. References

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | A. List all published sources of data and other information used in preparing the report. |
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VIII. Appendix

IX. List of Preparers

SAT INC MIS N/A

A. List name and affiliations of authors and contributors to the report, with education, professional licenses, professional organizations, and year of experience writing visual impact discipline reports.

General Comments: _____
