Project Development and Environment (PD&E)
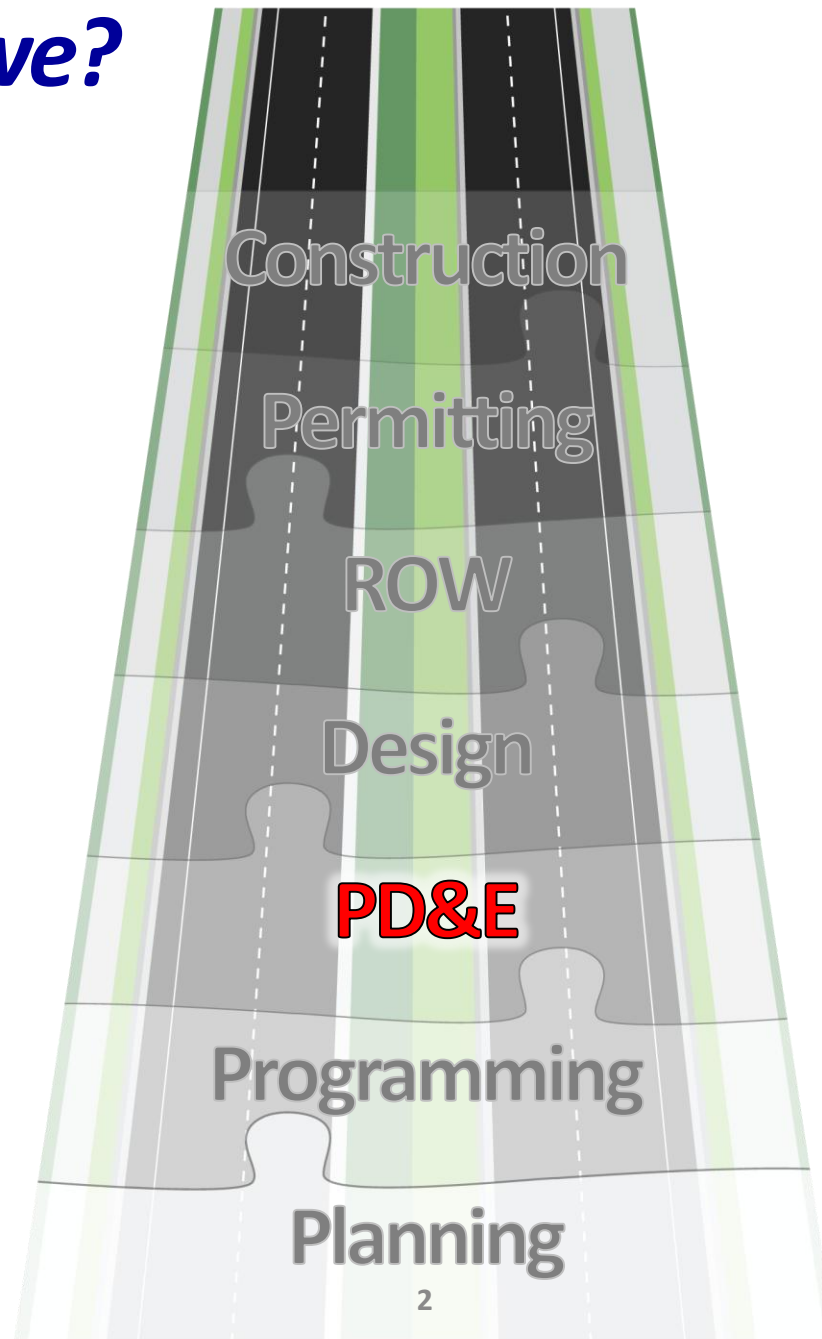
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2011
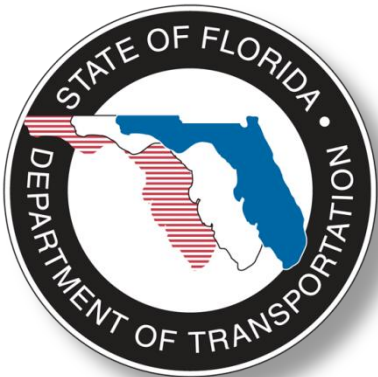
Xavier Pagan

Environmental Specialist

STATE OF FLORIDA · DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Management Office

Where are we?

Construction

Permitting

ROW

Design

PD&E

Programming

Planning

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When is PD&E initiated?

- ◆ After programming phase
  - Programming is how projects are scoped
- ◆ Project Development and Environment phase
  - Engineering and Environmental analysis
  - Development of project concept
- ◆ Before final design and permitting where the concept is finalized for construction

What is the PD&E process?

◆ Follows FDOT PD&E Manual

- How we prepare NEPA or SEIR documentation
  - Environmental Document
  - Technical reports
- How we analyze engineering and the environment
- How we determine impact(s) and look for mitigation opportunities where necessary

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What is NEPA?

◆ National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

◆ Requires an assessment of the environmental effects of a federal action

◆ Purpose of the environmental review process:

- Inform citizens and others of the action

- Citizen involvement

- Consideration of effects to the human, natural, and physical environment

- Informed decisions

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What is the purpose of PD&E?

◆ Followed to comply with federal and state laws and regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Avoid and minimize impacts

- Balance environment and engineering

- Mitigate for unavoidable impacts

◆ Where FDOT defines concepts to advance to design

ETAT role during PD&E

- Commentary

- Lead Agency (NEPA and other federal regulations)

- Cooperating Agency (per CEQ 40 CFR 1500 *et seq.*)

- Participating Agency (per SAFETEA-LU)

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Commentary

- Everyone

- Advise on handling of an issue

- May be asked to review a technical study

- May be asked to provide concurrence

- Once the documents are approved and made publicly available, may review and comment as needed

Lead Agency

- ◆ FHWA, other federal agencies, and FDOT
- ◆ Responsibilities?
  - Identify, invite and involve Participating and Cooperating Agencies
  - Class of Action determination
  - Identify and develop alternatives
  - Determine preferred alternative
  - Make findings
  - Location Design Concept Acceptance

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Cooperating Agencies

◆ Agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a project

◆ Have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process

◆ How designated?

- Invited by Lead Agency

- May request, pending approval by Lead Agency

◆ Responsibilities?

- Participate in developing information and documents

- Prepare or assist in environmental analyses

- Review pre-draft documents

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Participating Agencies

◆ Have an interest in the project and whose expertise is helpful in indentifying and resolving agency specific issues

◆ How designated?

- Invited by Lead Agency

- May request, pending approval by Lead Agency

◆ Responsibilities?

- Respond to requests for technical assistance

- Assist in resolving issues

- Review approved draft/final environmental documents, and others at the discretion of the Lead Agency

◆ "Designation does not provide increased oversight or approval authority above statutory limits."

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How we set up a PD&E Study?

◆ What do we know before we start?

- Environmental Offices

- FDOT assessments

- Local knowledge

◆ Scoping

- Project scope developed using ETDM screening results

- Comments supporting the DOE are very important

  - ETAT comments during programming

  - Potential effects

  - Highlight issues/resources of concern

  - Focuses analysis

- Identification of ETAT roles for PD&E

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What happens during PD&E?

◆ Public Involvement

◆ Develop alternatives

◆ Determine impacts

- Avoid and minimize impacts to issues of concern
- Identify opportunities for mitigation

◆ Finalize coordination and consultation of project issues

- Findings by Lead Agency

◆ Provide recommendations to Lead Agency

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Types of PD&E analysis

- ◆ Natural
  - • Wetlands
  - • Wildlife and Habitat
- ◆ Physical
  - • Noise and Vibration
  - • Air Quality
  - • Contamination
- ◆ Cultural and Historical
- ◆ Social

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How do we use ETAT comments?
Wetland and Species Examples

◆ Wetlands
  - General wetland type(s) identified
  - Potential effects
  - Coordination requirements
  - Permits needed

◆ Listed Species
  - Species list
  - Critical habitat identified
  - Potential effects
  - Potential consultation requirements
  - Permits needed

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Wetland Evaluation

◆ Field surveys and delineations
◆ Agency coordination (WMD, USACE)
◆ Wetland Evaluation Report
  • UMAM scores
  • Jurisdictional determinations as appropriate
  • Opportunities for mitigation
  • Permitting discussion
  • Agency reviews
◆ Commitments in Environmental Document

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Listed Species Evaluation

- ◆ Field surveys
  - Habitat analysis
  - Species specific surveys
- ◆ Agency coordination (FWC, USFWS, NMFS)
- ◆ Endangered Species Biological Assessment
  - Impact assessment
  - Mitigation?
  - Agency reviews
  - Concurrence?
  - Consultation?
    - Lead Agency requests Formal
  - Potential permits
- ◆ Commitments in Environmental Documents

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Review of Documents

- Uploaded to EST
  - Technical reports (e.g., ESBA, WER, EFH Assessment, Cultural Resource Assessment)
  - Environmental Documents (Type 2 CE, EA, EIS, SEIR)
- Public availability of documents
- Final recommendations to Lead Agency findings and final approval
- Location Design Concept Acceptance

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What happens after PD&E?

◆ Environmental Document and project concept is transmitted to Final Design

◆ Designers refine concept
- Standards, specifications, etc.
- Drainage design and calculations
- Mitigation refined
- Verify commitments
- Permit application(s)

◆ Environmental Reevaluation

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Commitments

◆ Types
  - Future coordination
  - Avoidance
  - Mitigation
  - Construction

◆ Commitments are advanced to future phases

◆ Keep in mind projects are reevaluated as they advance

◆ Keep in mind when design and construction are scheduled

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CHAPTER 32
COMMITMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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