# Permitting







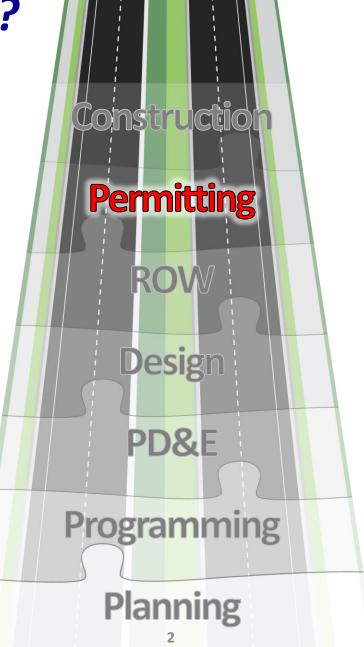
# ETAT Workshop



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Where are we?

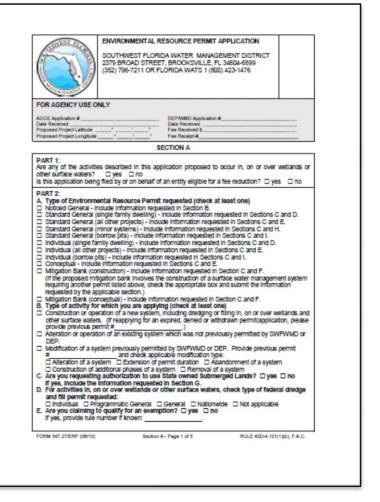






#### When does permitting happen?

- Typically during the Final Design Phase
- In some cases
  permitting may begin
  towards the end of the
  PD&E Phase
- FDOT projects cannot advance to construction without the completion of permitting







#### ETAT role

- Transfer information internally regarding FDOT projects
  - Early identification of potential permitting issues
  - Continuity
  - Identification of information that may be needed
  - Expediting permitting





# EST screenings and permitting

- Planning Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)
  - Starts conversation with permitting agencies
  - Identifies potential effects to resources
  - Identifies potential permits
  - Identifies potential opportunities for mitigation
  - Provides baseline information for Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
  - ETAT member informs agency permitting staff of planned projects





### PD&E study and permitting

- Builds upon results of planning activities
- Develops proposed alternatives to address transportation needs
- Evaluates impacts to natural, physical, social resources
  - Avoid
  - Minimize
  - Mitigate conceptual mitigation plan if needed
- Approval of PD&E documents provides funding authorization, defines project concept, and sets the requirements for permitting
- ETAT member informs agency permitting staff of upcoming projects





### Final Design and permitting

- Final project construction plans are prepared
- Permit(s) applied for and continued agency coordination
- Typically additional avoidance and minimization measures are taken
- Mitigation plan is refined based on agency coordination and Final plans
- Permits must be approved prior to construction
- Reevaluations





#### Reevaluations

- Must be prepared for federal projects prior to advancing to the next phase
- Ensures project compliance with applicable Federal and State laws prior to advancing the project
- If changes in impacts occur we will coordinate with appropriate agencies
- Summarizes and updates commitments made by the Department during PD&E
- Verifies that findings and determinations remain valid
- Identifies permits required for construction





#### **Navigation**

- Bridge Permit Coast Guard
  - Construction, reconstruction, or modification of bridges over waters of the United States
    - Ensures appropriate navigational clearances are met (e.g., bridge height and width and also channel width)
- Navigable Waters Army Corps of Engineers
  - Any work in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, or which affects the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters





### **Water Quality**

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) – Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
  - Regulates discharges of pollution to surface waters
  - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
  - Obtained prior to construction





#### Wetlands

- Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) State
  - Alteration of surface water flows
  - New activities that generate stormwater runoff
  - Impacts to wetlands and other surface waters
- Dredge and Fill/Wetlands (Section 404) Permit Federal
- These permits require mitigation for unavoidable impacts
  - Extent of mitigation is based on size, type, function, and quality of wetlands impacted





### **Listed Species**

- Gopher Tortoise Relocation Permit (FWC)
- Incidental Take Permit (USFWS and FWC)
- Bald Eagle Permits (USFWS and FWC)
- Other species issues
  - Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction
  - Included as permit conditions
  - Special construction conditions





#### **Documentation during Final Design**

- Typically the permit application(s)
- Wetlands and water quality
  - Drainage report
  - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
  - Jurisdictional determinations are finalized
  - Mitigation plan
- Bridges
  - Design clearances





## **Mitigation**

- Opportunities for mitigation are identified during planning based on potential effects
- Conceptual mitigation is developed during the PD&E study based on unavoidable impacts
- During Design mitigation is reconciled with the actual impacts based on the final design of the project
- FDOT mitigates using various options





#### Statutory Mitigation Program (Sec. 373.4137, F.S.)

- Provides a mechanism for DOT to mitigate for wetland impacts of transportation projects
- DOT provides funds to DEP or WMDs for mitigation
- Regional mitigation approach
- During final design mitigation requirements are finalized









# Other mitigation options

- Mitigation Banks
  - Can be purchased in advance
  - Not an option for all projects due to location and credit availability
- FDOT constructed
  - Typically used when no other option is available
  - Typically least cost effective option







#### **Permitting Process**

- Applications can be done electronically
- Information from reevaluations
  - Update environmental impacts
  - Update coordination with agencies, as appropriate
  - Update commitments
- Plans and other supporting technical information is submitted to permitting agencies
- Mitigation is finalized
- Permit issuance authorizes a project for advancement to construction



#### **Construction**

- Commitments are addressed
  - Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI)
  - Environmental compliance inspections
  - Permit conditions are met
    - Erosion control
    - Mitigation
- Upon final acceptance of the construction FDOT closes the project











