Sociocultural Effects Evaluation

ETAT Workshop 2011

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STATE OF FLORIDA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Management Office

Topics

- What is SCE evaluation?
- Why do we evaluate sociocultural effects?
- When does the evaluation occur in the project delivery process?
- Who is responsible for the evaluation?
- How do we evaluate SCE effects?
- What do we do with the results?

What is SCE Evaluation?

Assess and address community effects

Involve affected community

Ensure community values and concerns receive adequate attention

Consider civil rights implications

Why evaluate sociocultural effects?

- Create and maintain harmony between the human and natural environments
- Fulfill social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations
- Provide safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage

National Environmental Policy Act Sec. 101
(42 USC § 4331)

FDOT Sociocultural Effects Evaluation Policy

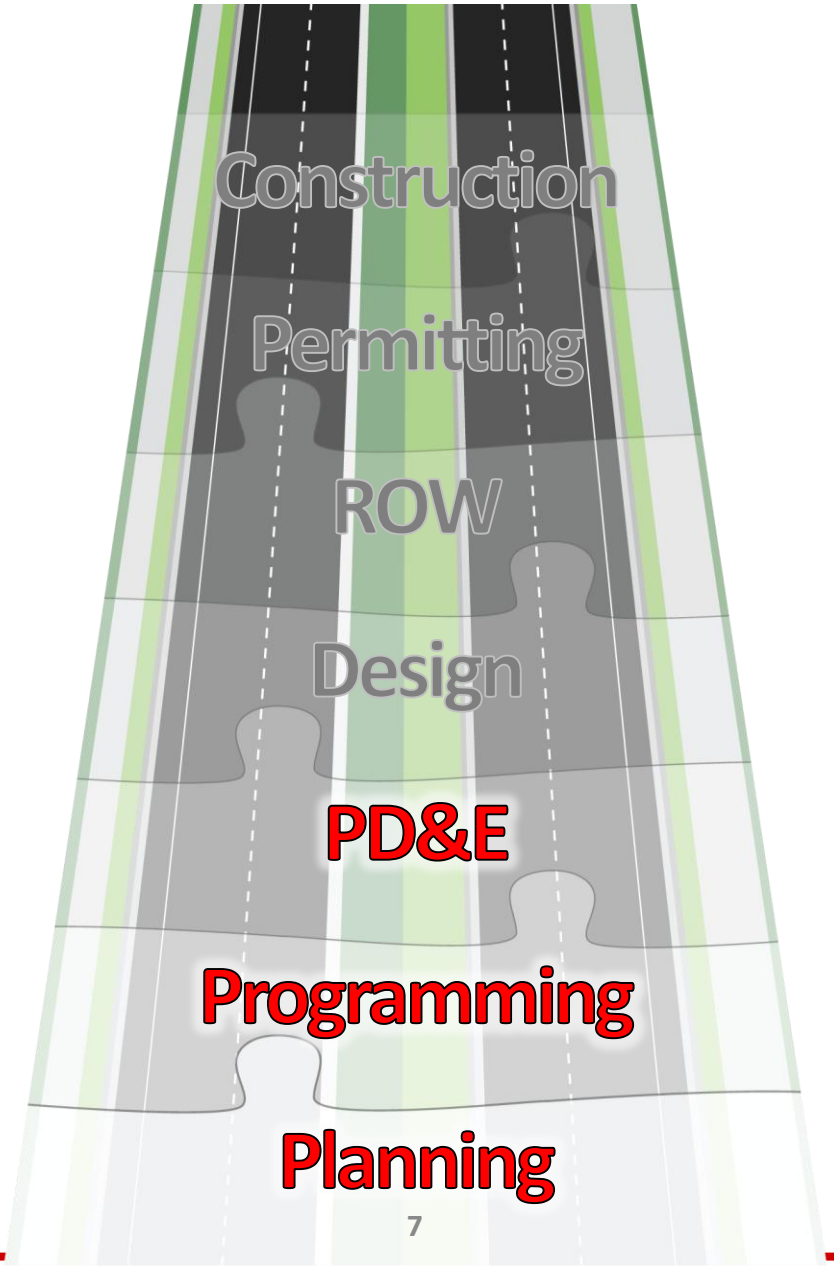
- Work proactively with communities
- Understand community vision, goals, objectives, and values
- Provide effective, community-based solutions to transportation needs
- Address appropriate community concerns

Who is responsible for the SCE evaluation?

- Planning/Programming Screens
  - FDOT District ETDM Coordinator
  - CLC in partnership with MPO

- Project Development and Environment
  - Project specific team

When does the evaluation occur?



SCE in Project Phases

Planning Screen Evaluations

- Identify fatal flaws or controversies

SCE in Project Phases

Programming Screen Evaluations

- Update review of project effects
- Provide scoping recommendations
- Identify targeted public outreach

SCE in Project Phases

PD&E Evaluations

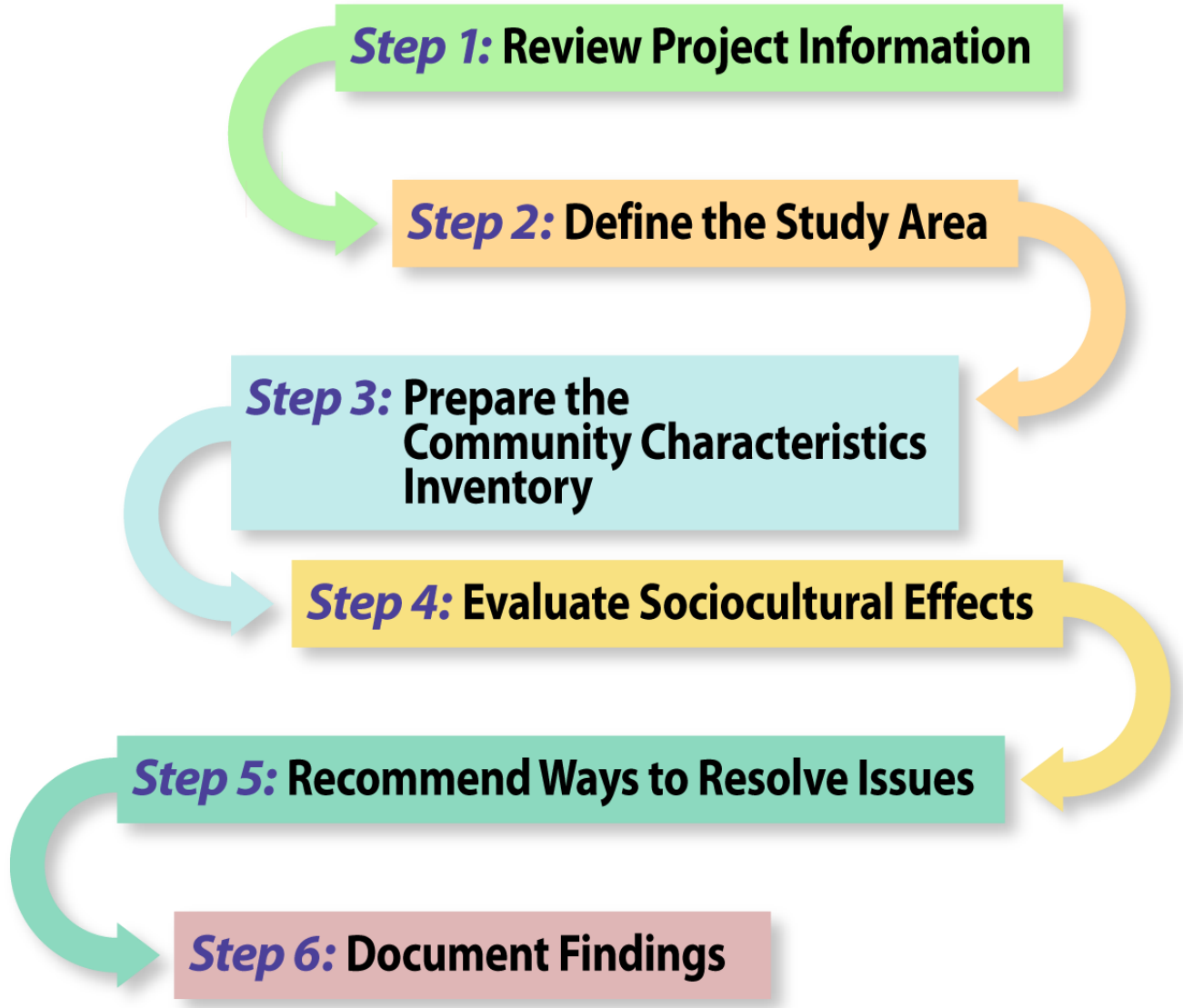
- Build upon previous evaluations
- Focus on issues of concern
- Produce environmental documentation

Community Outreach

Supports the Entire Process

- Provides early identification of community issues and goals
- Builds trust with community
- Allows opportunity for community verification of information
- Invites community feedback
- Assists in identifying non-viable projects
- Minimizes controversy

How do we evaluate sociocultural effects?



Social Effects

- Demographics
- Community Cohesion
- Safety/Emergency Response
- Compatibility with Community Goals

Economic Effects

- Business
- Employment
- Property Values
- Tax Base Impact

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Land Use Effects

- Land Use Patterns
- Growth Management Compatibility

Mobility Effects

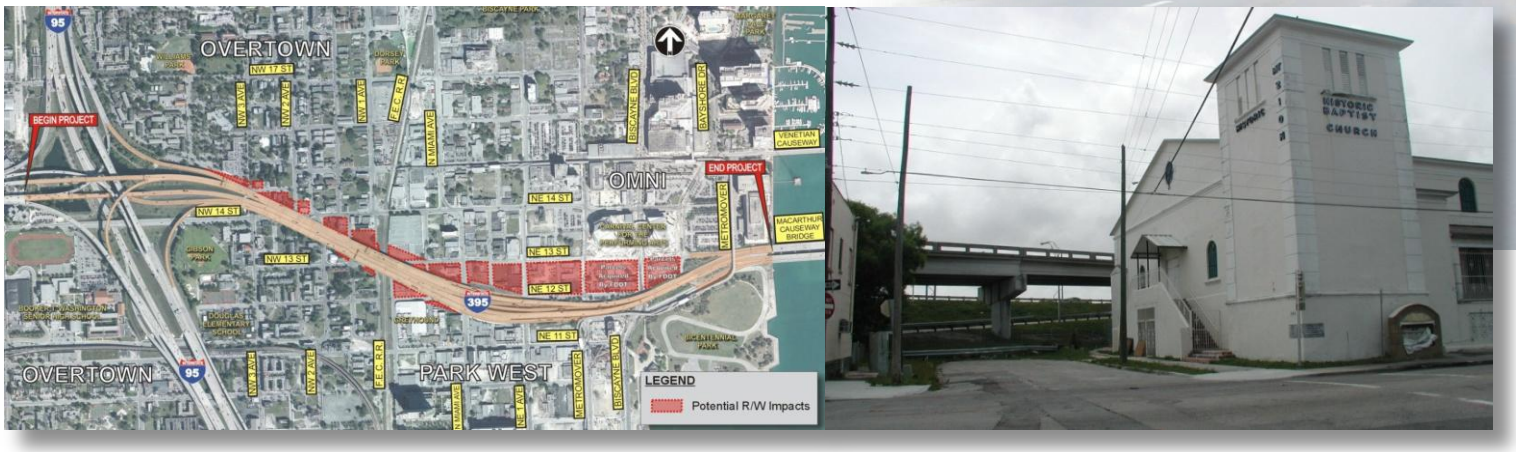
- Access
- Connectivity
- Traffic Patterns

Aesthetics

- Visual
- Audible
- Compatibility

Relocation Effects

- Displacement of people
- Changes in community character



What do we do with the results?

Work with the community to help identify solutions based on community goals and preferences

"Area citizens were pleased with the outcome … an improved corridor that retains many more cherished trees than originally planned."

- Project Newsletter @ mahandrive.com

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What do we do with the results?

- Methods for resolving adverse effects include:
  - Avoidance
  - Minimization
  - Mitigation
  - Enhancement

For More Information

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SCE References

http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs

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