

# Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) Meeting April 9, 2014 (9 am – 4 pm CT)

## AGENDA

All times shown are in Central Standard Time (CT).

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|--|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00  | Registration   |
| 9:00 - 9:15  | Welcome and Introductions (Blair Martin & Jason Peters – FDOT)         |
| 9:15 - 10:00                                       | District 3 Update  |
|  | • Roadway Intersections (Dan Beaty – Atkins)                           |
|  | • GreenLinks Project (Mary Mittiga – USFWS)                            |
|  | • Upcoming Projects (Wendy Lasher – Atkins)                            |
| 10:00 - 10:15                                      | FHWA Initiatives (Buddy Cunill- FHWA)                                  |
| 10:15 - 10:30                                      | Break  |
| 10:30 - 11:15                                      | State Environmental Management Office (SEMO) Overview (Pete McGilvray) |
| 11:15 – 11:30                                      | Historic Bridge Survey (Roy Jackson – FDOT CEMO)                       |
| 11:30 - 1:00                                       | Lunch on your own  |
| 1:00 – 1:15  | Reevaluations (Greg Vaughn and Kristin Oliver - Atkins)                |
| 1:15 – 1:45  | EST Updates (Peter McGilvray – FDOT SEMO)                              |
| 1:45 – 2:35  | Ongoing Projects - TBD   |
|  | • CR 388 (Greg Garrett - Atkins)                                       |
|  | • SR 22 (Greg Vaughn – Atkins)   |
|  | • Pensacola Bay Bridge (Nick Arnio – RS&H)                             |
|  | • SR 87 Connector (Wendy Lasher - Atkins)                              |
|  | • Tyndall Overpass ( <i>John Wimberly – HDR</i> )                      |
|  | • US 319 - (Luis Maldonado - URS)                                      |
| 2:35 – 2:45  | Break  |
| 2 45 2 45  |  |

- 2:45 3:45 Open Discussion Topics (facilitated by Wendy Lasher– Atkins)
  - ETDM Process
  - EST Needs
  - Agency Comment/Reporting Issues
- **3:45 4:00** Closing (*Peggy Kelley FDOT*)



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#### MEETING SUMMARY

#### I. Attendees

See attached sign-in sheets.

### II. Meeting Goals and Objectives

Jason Peters (FDOT) welcomed everyone and stated that the goals and objectives of the meeting were to further develop our working relationships with the ETAT and make them aware of upcoming projects and the status of ongoing projects.

(Note: All presentations shown at the meeting can be viewed and downloaded from the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) Library)

### III. FDOT District 3 Update

- Dan Beaty, AICP (Atkins) gave a presentation on roadway intersections. There were several questions following the presentation.
  - Greg Burke (Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency [CRTPA]) asked if we run intersections through the EST?
  - Pete McGilvray (FDOT State Environmental Management Office [SEMO]) responded that intersections are not run as stand-alone projects, but as part of larger capacity projects.
- Mary Mittiga (USFWS) gave a presentation on the GreenLinks Project.
  - Wendy Lasher (Atkins) asked if the data is in the EST? Pete McGilvray (SEMO) responded that Clips 1 and 2 are available now in the EST and they are getting ready to enter Clip 3 in the EST utilizing separate data layers to be turned on and off.
  - Wendy asked if this will just be in the Panhandle or are there plans to provide this data for all of Florida? Mary indicated that at this point it is only available for the Panhandle.
- Wendy Lasher (Atkins) identified the following upcoming FDOT District 3 Programming Screen projects to be released in the EST for ETAT review in the upcoming months: SR 187 (US 331), SR 30 (US 98) Brooks Bridge, SR 79, and US 90/SR 10.
  - Chris Stahl (FDEP) asked if the Alabama DOT (ALDOT) is coming on board with the SR 79 4-lanes to the State Line or make the connection northward. Peggy Kelley and Brandon Bruner (FDOT) indicated that the ALDOT is interested in doing this and the FDOT has formed a partnership with them. Jason Peters

- (FDOT) added more information on the coordination that has concurred and how the FDOT has developed the terms of the study with the ALDOT.
- David Frank (USCG) asked if the Brooks Bridge will have an existing bridge stay and a new one added? April Williams (FDOT) stated that they will evaluate replacing the existing bridge and, if it is decided, to have a new bridge built as well. Brandon Bruner (FDOT) added that the community has expressed a desire for an additional bridge. David asked if the new bridge(s) have a higher clearance and Brandon confirmed that it would.

#### IV. FHWA Initiatives

- Buddy Cunill (FHWA) discussed the following topics:
  - Advancing Preliminary Engineering into National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
  - Equal treatment of alternatives.
  - Statute of Limitation changes.
  - Combine Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Record of Decision (ROD) and do away with the 30 day public availability window.
  - Reasonable Assurance able to move a project into Design with Section 7 being resolved then during design.
  - Updating agreements.
  - Starting design/permitting right after the Public Hearing.
  - Currently updating FHWA-FDOT Stewardship and Oversight Agreement.
  - Joe Sullivan (FHWA) is doing a State-wide review of commitment compliance and is close to having a report put together.
  - FHWA had a standard set of operating procedures that follow the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual. Having Environmental Process Notices to compliment these procedures.
    - 1) e-NEPA complete.
    - 2) Currently have one on reasonable assurances and Section 7 that has been coordinated with the agencies.

#### V. FDOT SEMO Overview

- Shereen Yee Fong (SEMO) discussed the following topics:
  - PD&E Manual Updates She indicated that the Districts were currently reviewing the Wildlife and Habitat Chapter and are utilizing the FDOT online review and comment entry system. Pete McGilvray (SEMO) added that there will be PD&E Training in Orlando on June 12-13, 2014.
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Process She stated that FTA projects will still be screened. Wendy Lasher added that no Bus Rapid Transit projects will be screened unless right-of-way will be required.

- Pete McGilvray (SEMO) discussed the ETDM survey results which included:
  - Requests about EST data
  - Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis improvements
  - Potential enhancements to the EST
  - Recommendations on the process
  - Accomplishments

Pete also introduced Dean Rogers from the ETDM group and HelpDesk.

## VI. Historic Bridge Survey

Roy Jackson (SEMO) gave a presentation on the statewide historic bridge inventory that
was recently completed. This is updated every 10 years. It is available on the SEMO
website.

#### VII. Reevaluations

- Greg Vaughn and Kristin Oliver (Atkins) gave a presentation on reevaluations explaining what they are along with why and when we need them. They also provided information on upcoming reevaluations in District 3; how reevaluations are processed, and challenges that occur.
  - David Frank (USCG) asked about projects coming to USCG during Reevaluation stage that are a Type 2 CE. USCG needs an Environmental Assessment (EA). He mentioned a current project where this was an issue and discussed further with Buddy Cunill (FHWA).

#### VIII. EST Updates

- Pete McGilvray (SEMO) discussed the following topics:
  - Approval of the ETDM Manual (August 2013)
  - ETAT customized notifications
  - On-demand training
  - Sociocultural Data Report (SDR)
  - Updates to Advance Notification process in the EST
  - EST Alerts
  - New EST graphic user interface
  - GIS analysis updates

#### IX. Ongoing Projects

- Greg Garrett (Atkins) gave a presentation on the West Bay Parkway (CR 388) project.
  - Chris Stahl (FDEP) asked if the project would be driven by where Segment 2 lands. Greg responded that it is not driven by Segment 2. Segment 2 is on its on schedule.
- Greg Vaughn (Atkins) gave a presentation on SR 22. No questions were asked.

- Nicholi Arnio (RS&H) gave a presentation on the Pensacola Bay Bridge project.
  - David Rydene (NMFS) said he is currently reviewing the EA. Are drilled shafts still an option? Nicholi responded that he could e-mail him this information. Mary Mittiga asked to be copied on the e-mail. An e-mail was send to David and Mary with information from the Bridge Development Report that addressed their question.
  - David Frank (USCG) asked if the pedestrian facility will be constructed last?
     Nicholi responded that it would be constructed last because the north bridge will need to be full width to accommodate four lanes of traffic for 2 3 years during the construction of the south bridge.
  - Nicholi noted in his presentation that there are currently no pedestrian facilities on the existing bridge.
- Wendy Lasher (Atkins) gave a presentation on the ongoing SR 87 Connector project. No questions were asked.
- John Wimberly (HDR) presented on the Tyndall Overpass.
  - Madolyn Dominy (USEPA) commented on the very controversial superfund sites and the Air Force Base (AFB) compliance. She mentioned that USEPA may take legal action against the AFB.
- Luis Maldonado (URS) gave a presentation on US 319.
  - Keith McCarron (ARPC) asked what the cost difference between alternatives is in Crawfordville? Luis stated \$1 million. Brandon Bruner (FDOT) added that although cost is one factor the alternatives evaluated for other factors including relocations, community impacts, environmental impacts, etc. He also noted that this road will become on the State Highway System.

#### X. Open Discussion

- Wendy Lasher (Atkins) asked what topics the ETAT would like to hear about or discussion in future meetings. Terry Gilbert (FFWCC) wanted to hear about environmental species updates and what has been done to mitigate these species. Buddy Cunill (FHWA) suggested a presentation on successes. Keith McCarron (ARPC) suggested a topic of reviews in the aftermath of disaster. Revisit the process we do. Pete McGilvray (SEMO) talked about the Escambia Bay Bridge and how that was a two week review and an accelerated environmental document. Another example was the US 98 washout. Peggy Kelley (FDOT) had set up a meeting ahead of time with USFWS on how we could address this.
- David Rydene (NMFS) stated that everything in District 3 seems to be submitted in the EST as a Programming Screen. Wendy noted that most Districts are not screening very many or any Planning Screen projects. They are screened if they are in the Cost Affordable Plan. Peggy added that the money for District 3 seems to be entered just before the project is programmed.

- Terry mentioned that the Choctawhatchee Bay Bridge came back into the Work Program. Brandon responded that the FDOT was able to get funding for it.
- Chris Stahl (NWFWMD) would like to see what is on the Transportation Planning Organizations short-term list and would like an update on this.
- Buddy mentioned linking of Planning and NEPA products creating planning that helps make a decision, feeds the process, and supports PD&E.
- David Rydene noted that the Pensacola Bay Bridge is not on the dashboard. Buddy said when it becomes official; we will have a sit down and look at milestones into Design. Once agreements are reached, it will be put into a chart that will be loaded into a website that the National office will monitor.
- David Frank said that he submitted this to the dashboard project.
- Alyssa McManus (SHPO) asked if Local Agency Projects (LAP) projects can be put into the EST? Pete McGilvray said that only qualifying projects are entered. If the LAP project qualifies then it will be entered in the EST.
- Mary Mittiga (USFWS) suggested having a field trip to see a bridge construction project in progress.
- Concerning Perdido Key, Terry stated that there is the 30 day review period to review
  the document. Are there new things that have happened that we are reviewing here?
  Peggy stated that we had to look at other corridors at FHWA's request as to not
  predetermine.
- Andy Kizlauskas (USACE) stated that the USACE in Jacksonville is looking at a tool that will evaluate Secondary and Cumulative impacts. It is in draft format right now. This could possibly be a future presentation.

Peggy Kelley thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m. CT.