



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 3
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM (ETAT) MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2008 (9 AM – 3 PM CST)

AGENDA

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

- 8:30 – 9:00** Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15** Welcome and Introductions
(*Blair Martin & Jason Peters – FDOT*)
- 9:15 – 10:00** District Three Update
(*Wendy Lasher – PBS&J*)
- Coastal Zone Consistency
 - Dispute Resolution
 - Upcoming Projects
- 10:00 – 11:00** CEMO Overview and EST Updates
(*Larry Barfield and Peter McGilvray – FDOT CEMO*)
- 11:00 – 11:40** Lunch (brought in)
- 11:40 – 12:40** Projects of Special Concern
(*Rosemary Woods and Greg Garrett – PBS&J*)
- Gulf Coast Parkway
 - CR 388
- 12:40 – 1:00** FHWA Presentation
(*FHWA*)
- 1:00 – 1:15** Break
- 1:15 – 2:45** Open Discussion Topics
(*facilitated by Wendy Lasher and Greg Vaughn – PBS&J*):
- ETDM Process
 - EST Needs
 - Agency Comment/Reporting Issues
 - Degree of Effects
 - Dispute Resolution
- 2:45 – 3:00** Closing
(*Peggy Kelley – FDOT*)



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MEETING SUMMARY

I. Attendees

See attached sign-in sheets.

II. Meeting Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the meeting included the following:

- How can we improve the process and roles within it?
- How can we coordinate and communicate better between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Environmental Transportation Advisory Team (ETAT)?
- Further develop our working relationships.
- Update of upcoming projects and the status of ongoing projects.

III. District Three Update (PowerPoint presentation is available on the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) Library)

Wendy Lasher, Ernie Ladkani, Greg Vaughn, and Greg Garrett, PBS&J District Three Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Team, provided an overview of FDOT District Three including discussions of the following:

- Florida Coastal Management Program
- Coastal Barrier Resource Act (COBRA)
- Dispute Resolution Process
- Upcoming Projects
 - CR 388 – Two studies; from US 98 west of Phillips Inlet to SR 79 in the vicinity of CR 388 and CR 388 from SR 79 to SR 77
 - SR 123 (ETDM #8167) – from SR 85 South to SR 85 North
 - SR 87 – New alignment to connect SR 87 North to SR 87 South in the vicinity of Whiting Field
 - I-10/US 29 Interchange
 - Perdido Key (ETDM #9207) – from the Alabama state line to CR 297
 - Realigning SR 20/SR 81/CR 3280 (ETDM #10780)



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IV. Central Environmental Management Office (CEMO) Overview and EST Updates (PowerPoint presentations are available on the EST Library)

Larry Barfield (FDOT CEMO) discussed the following topics:

- Status of Cumulative Effects Evaluation (CEE)
- Peer exchange regarding Environmental Impact Statements
- Roles of ETAT as project moves forward
- Training opportunities
- Performance Management Program
- Status of Agency Agreements

Pete McGilvray (FDOT CEMO) discussed what is new in the EST. He noted that major enhancements included:

- New Map Viewer
- Offline activities batch upload
- Community Characteristics Inventory
- Advance Notification integration

Other topics of discussion included:

- Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Training in December and February. New mapping tool training.

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/sched/train1.shtm> or

LOGON to EST -> Select the Training link in the bottom navigation -> View Upcoming Training Events Use the calendar to select the appropriate class and follow the instructions to register.

- Ted Bisterfeld (EPA) asked if the ETAT need special program to have video log access? Java piece that pushes HTML images. No special program needed. Can copy photos (not click) on save or use elsewhere.
- Direct access to the FDOT Video Log application is at <http://www3.dot.state.fl.us/videolog/>



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- Linda Anderson (FHWA) asked about searching a particular area that is not an ETDM project using the map viewer. Pete will add this function to EST. Note: As a follow-up, the HelpDesk has added the function in the NEW map viewer to be able to zoom to “County, City, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), District, and Water Management District (WMD)”. Once you use the Zoom to Region function, it will zoom to that region without requiring a project number.
- National Register files are extremely large. Usually between 40-400 pages. These PDF files will take a while to view. This can not be controlled by FDOT since the files are housed on the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) site.
- The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) asked about projects needing review screen. Pete is doing an enhancement to format this screen to make it better.

V. Projects of Special Concern

Rosemary Woods and Greg Garrett (PBS&J) gave presentations on the ongoing Gulf Coast Parkway (GCP) and upcoming CR 388 projects. Both of these presentations can be viewed on the EST library. Both of these projects are now FDOT projects. The GCP Corridor Plan is in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) review and then will be given to ETAT for review. The report will include recent public coordination. Agency comments will be incorporated and coordination and document will be finalized after ETAT has reviewed.

There was also a discussion on green (infrastructure) required for Federal Partners (United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] + United States Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]) for each project. FDOT indicated that they do not have money for this. USFWS has contacted CEMO concerning training in Florida. Catherine Liller is the USFWS liaison to Federal Highways in the USFWS Washington office. More info on Green Infrastructure is available at the Conservation Fund's website.

VI. FHWA Presentation

Cathy Kendall (FHWA) gave a presentation on “If the Process and the World Were Perfect”



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VII. Open Discussion

- The Open Discussion was started with a comment from Larry O'Donnell (Florida Department of Environmental Protection [FDEP]) about how he would like to see more emphasis placed on mass transit projects within the district. He commented how when the term “public transportation” is used, most people only think of roads for cars. FDOT officials commented that since gas prices have increased in the last year, they have seen an increase in transit related projects and emphasis from the Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs) and local governments. Ted Bisterfeld (EPA) commented that there is a need for rapid rail and there should be reprioritization of rail before roads. FDOT officials noted there is a new *Project Development and Environment Manual* chapter on Federal transit that covers projects being sponsored by the FDOT.
- Linda Anderson (FHWA) made a comment to the question of “If you could do one thing, how would you improve the EST?” that she would like to see the EST address Reevaluation projects. After some discussion, FDOT officials commented that practically, this would be impossible due to the hundreds of Reevaluations that are conducted around the state each year. Additionally, through the Reevaluation being conducted, there is already coordination with selective ETAT members to address issues within the Reevaluation process. Also, any updates or changes from the previous PD&E Study will be addressed in the Reevaluation document.
- Ted Bisterfeld (EPA) asked the question if FDOT had data that showed the ratio of diesel traffic versus gasoline traffic. FDOT responded that they did not.
- Andy Phillips (United States Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]) commented that he would like to see some feedback from FDOT on the quality of comments received on projects from the ETAT members. This led to a discussion about how the ETAT comments really could be more effective if methodology of the study process could be included in the ETAT comments to make sure that FDOT was aware of the expectations of the respective agencies for any studies that needed to be conducted. FHWA wants agencies to comment on methodology.



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- Discussion then broadened to cover the possibility of cross training at future ETAT meetings. FDOT officials explaining “engineering” principles and concepts, while the individual agencies could educate FDOT and each other on their specific areas of expertise. Several topics were mentioned and will be included for future meetings including:
 - Engineer guidelines
 - Section 404
 - Section 7
 - Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Process
 - Regional Mitigation Plan
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Public Transportation
- There was also a question from Linda Anderson (FHWA) about the possibility of including “deer kill” data in the EST. Pete McGilvray (FDOT) stated that due to the frequency of deer kills and the inability to collect that data from one source, it would not be feasible at this time.
- The Help Desk is working on getting all of the crash data from locals. They already have FDOT data.

Peggy Kelly (District Three ETDM Coordinator) thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. She noted the value of the commentary received during the ETAT meeting toward enhancing the District’s ETDM Program.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. CST.