ETDM Performance Measures
Annual Report

Before ETDM Implementation

Prior to MOU and agreements, describe in detail how your agency conducted daily business on FDOT projects.

   1) Describe how your agency was organized in Florida?
The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is divided into several Divisions, two of which are Forestry and Aquaculture. Forestry is divided into Bureaus, two of which are Forest Management, which does planning, monitoring, budgeting and administration for the Florida State Forest system (among other programs) and Field Operations, which staffs the State Forests. The Field Operations Bureau is divided into forestry districts and centers, each under the supervision of District or Center Manager. These managers are responsible for the Division of Forestry's core programs, State Forest management, Cooperative Forestry Assistance to private landowners, and wildfire protection and control, at the local level.

The Division of Forestry is only involved in projects that impact State Forests. The Division of Aquaculture examines only bridge projects and then determines whether the bridges impact Shellfish Harvest Areas and/or shellfish resources (oysters, clams, scallops or mussels) that might be harvestable if management boundaries were altered. Prior to ETDM, all involvement was on a project basis and was highly variable.

   2) How did project information enter your organization?
Information entered most often during or after PD&E when inquiries were made to survey for wetlands or listed species to obtain right-of-way. Sometimes information came from other agencies who thought we should know, or through the Clearinghouse.

   3) How many staff were involved and how were they allocated?
It was variable and on an ad hoc basis.

   4) How were projects assigned?
It was variable and on an ad hoc basis.

   5) How frequently did staff consult or coordinate with FDOT on projects?
Consultation arose when conflicts arose; on average about once per year.
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   6) How many FDOT projects were reviewed and coordinated with FDOT each year?
Zero to 2 projects per year on average.

   7) Describe your typical involvement with FDOT projects and at what phase that involvement usually occurred: planning, PD&E, permitting, etc…
Our involvement was usually during or after PD&E.

   8) How many staff hours per month were typically devoted to working on FDOT projects? Planning Phase? PD&E phase? Permitting?

It was variable and not tracked.
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9) What were the major barriers to coordination and involvement with FDOT projects: Budget? Staff? Other Resources? Time? Communication? Meetings? Field Reviews?

Not finding out about projects until after FDOT had invested in a particular route and plan; working with state agencies to try to acquire ROW very late in the process.

10) Describe your involvement with the MPO's planning process?

No direct involvement.

11) When did your agency typically provide review on DOT transportation projects?

Usually during or after PD&E.

12) How often have you published joint notices with FDOT?

Never.

After ETDM Implementation

After MOU and agreements, describe in detail how your agency conducts daily business on FDOT projects.

1) Describe how your agency is organized in Florida?

The organization is basically the same as above.

2) How does project information enter your organization?

Information enters through ETAT review for new projects

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3) How many staff are involved and how are they allocated?

An existing position in the Division of Aquaculture was assigned as a state-wide ETAT member/reviewer. The Division of Forestry added coordination and review to existing positions; one statewide coordinator/reviewer and four field reviewers, one for each Forestry Region.

4) Describe how Section 1309 funds have been used to streamline process?

Funds were used to purchase one computer for the Division of Aquaculture.

5) How are projects assigned?

By Division of Forestry region.

6) How frequently does staff consult or coordinate with FDOT on projects?

Thus far, no projects have impinged on State Forests or shellfish harvest areas. The Division of Forestry does participate on advisory groups for pre-existing projects, such as SunCoast 2 and State Road 40.

7) How many FDOT projects have been reviewed or coordinated with FDOT over the past year? How does this differ from prior business practice?

The statewide coordinator has reviewed all projects for potential impacts to state forests; the Aquaculture representative has reviewed all projects for impacts to shellfish harvest

areas. Except for pre-existing projects, none have been coordinated. The level of review of projects for potential impact is far greater than in previous years. We no longer have to look at incomplete projects with incomplete information; project endpoints can be clearly seen; and, reasons for projects as well as comments by other agencies can be seen.

8) Describe your typical involvement with FDOT projects and at what phase that involvement occurs: Planning, PD&E, Permitting, etc…

See above for pre-existing projects; none for new projects.

9) How many staff hours per month are typically devoted working on FDOT projects? Planning Phase? PD&E phase? Permitting?

Approximately 10 on review of projects.

10) Describe your involvement with MPO's planning process?

None.

11) Describe instances of where early collaborative decision-making with FDOT has occurred to eliminate duplication or resolve issues?

None.

12) When did your agency become aware of and receive public input on a transportation project? Planning? Programming? Project development

Periodic review of ETAT Screening Tool.

13) How often have you published joint notices with FDOT?

Never.

14) What are the major barriers to coordination and involvement with FDOT projects: *Issues to consider* Budget? Staff? Other Resources? Time? Communication? Meetings? Field Reviews? Environmental Screening Tool?

None at this time for new projects. We are confused about the relationship between ETDM process and the Clearinghouse process. Which projects are subjected to which process. We still receive notices from the Clearinghouse about transportation projects that we have not seen through ETDM.

15) What are some of the findings or results you have discovered related to your agencies operations, FDOT operations or the environmental process in general since participation in the MOU and agreements?

We feel much better informed and less suspicious. There is a greater depth and consistency of information available for all projects; all agencies have access to the same information; all important comments about projects take place in the open.

16) What recommendations would you make to improve the environmental streamlining of the process?

None.

Agency Specific Performance Measures (PM) Questions

1) If your agency has established Performance Measures, describe your Performance Measures and how participation in ETDM process and streamlining has contributed to meeting these measures?

The Division of Forestry's Performance Measures include the following:

 # 22 "Percent of State Forest timber producing acres adequately stocked and growing" Review of projects early will allow the Division of Forestry to assist in the selection of routes and configurations that maintains, as much as possible, the number of acres in productive forests on the State Forests.

 # 23 "Number of acres of state forests managed by the Department" Early review of projects will facilitate selection of routes and configurations that have the least impact to State Forest acreages.

 # 24 "Number of hours spent providing forest-related technical assists to public land management agencies" Through the ETDM process, we can assist other public land managing agencies and DOT in evaluation transportation project impacts to forest lands.

 # 27 "Percent of acres of protected forest and wildlands not burned by wildfires" Projects can be designed and configured so that they have no to minimal impact on the ability to prescribe burn State Forests. Forests that have been properly burned are much less likely to be consumed by destructive wildfires, thus, having a negative impact to PM # 22.

 # 31 "Number of acres burned through prescribed burning" See above. Also well designed and configured projects, or projects that have been diverted to other corridors, will have less of an impact on State Forest prescribed burning programs

 # 32 "Number of acres of forest land protected from wildfires" See above.

The Division of Aquaculture's Performance Measures include # 85, "number of bushels of processed shell and live oysters deposited to restore habitat on public oyster reefs" with an annual goal of 366,760 bushels. If and when DOT proposes construction of a bridge that impacts oyster reefs, considered a public resource under Florida law, work by the Division to restore impacted oyster reefs or a mitigation activity by the Division to construct oyster reefs to replace lost reefs would contribute to our annual performance measure.

2) Using EST reports, discuss how your agency has met the performance measures established in the ETDM Agreements.

Since the Department began reviewing project proposals we have not identified a project that impacts state forests or shellfish resources.

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