

Session 44

Walter Childs

Florida Department of Transportation

The Importance of Qualified Utility Coordinators

Topic Description

Walter will present a case for employing only qualified utility coordinators, what constitutes qualified, and what actions the FDOT is taking to ensure qualified coordinators are used on future projects.

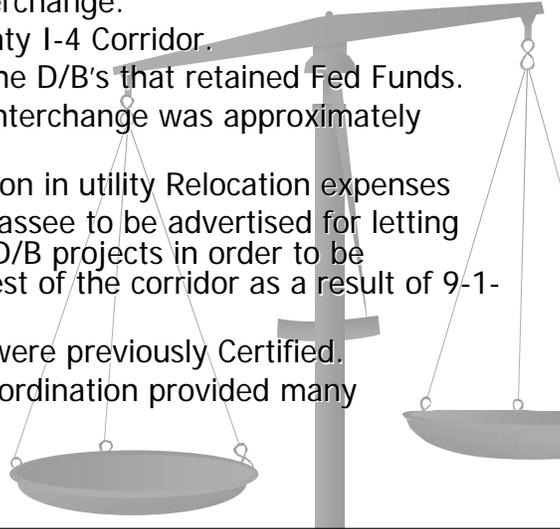
Speaker Biography

Walt has been employed by the FDOT since 1971 in the Bartow District 1 Office. He served as assistant Utility Administrator for a number of years and in 1988 was appointed as the District Utility Administrator. With over 31 years in Utilities he is the Department's Senior qualified utilities person that is more than capable of addressing the issues of proper coordination and what knowledge, skills and abilities a qualified utility coordinator should have. He has produced a comprehensive Utility Coordination Manual for District 1 and currently administers the District 1 Utilities Office program of 11 full time staff, made up of in-house and consultant support services responsible for coordinating the utilities on a work program with contract lettings in excess of \$100,000,000.00.



201204-1, I-4 @ US 27

- I-4 at US 27 D/B interchange.
- Part of the Polk County I-4 Corridor.
- The only project of the D/B's that retained Fed Funds.
- Project cost for the interchange was approximately \$41M.
- Approximately 9 million in utility Relocation expenses
- Project was in Tallahassee to be advertised for letting when pulled for the D/B projects in order to be combined with the rest of the corridor as a result of 9-1-1.
- This means Utilities were previously Certified.
- The revised utility coordination provided many challenges.



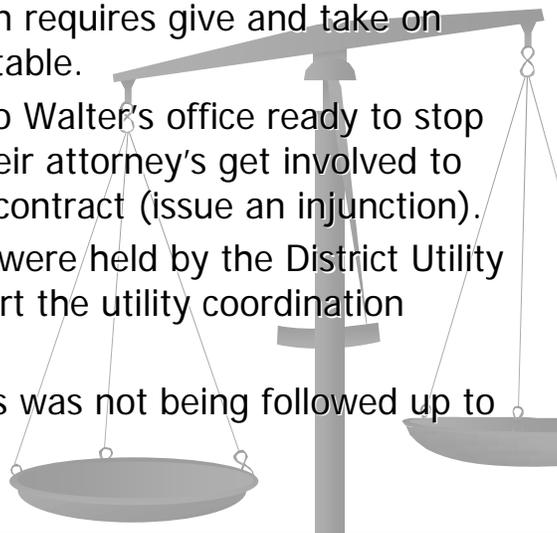
Map of the Project





I-4 @ US 27 continued

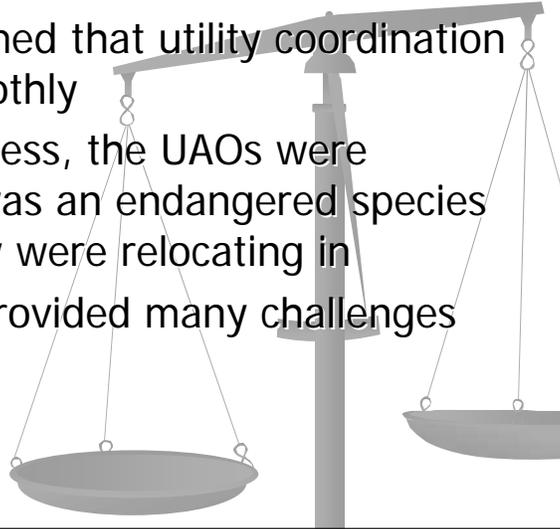
- Utility coordination requires give and take on both sides of the table.
- The UAOs came to Walter's office ready to stop work and have their attorney's get involved to possibly stop the contract (issue an injunction).
- Several meetings were held by the District Utility Office to jump start the utility coordination effort.
- The Utility Process was not being followed up to this point.



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**US 27 fm SR 60 to Towerview Blvd
The Sand Skink Project**

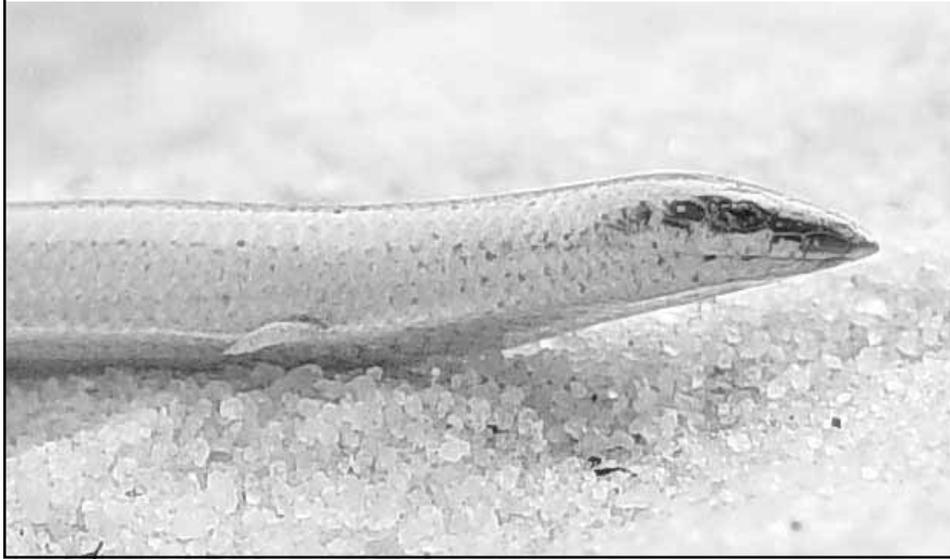
- Everyone assumed that utility coordination was going smoothly
- Late in the process, the UAOs were notified there was an endangered species in the area they were relocating in
- This situation provided many challenges



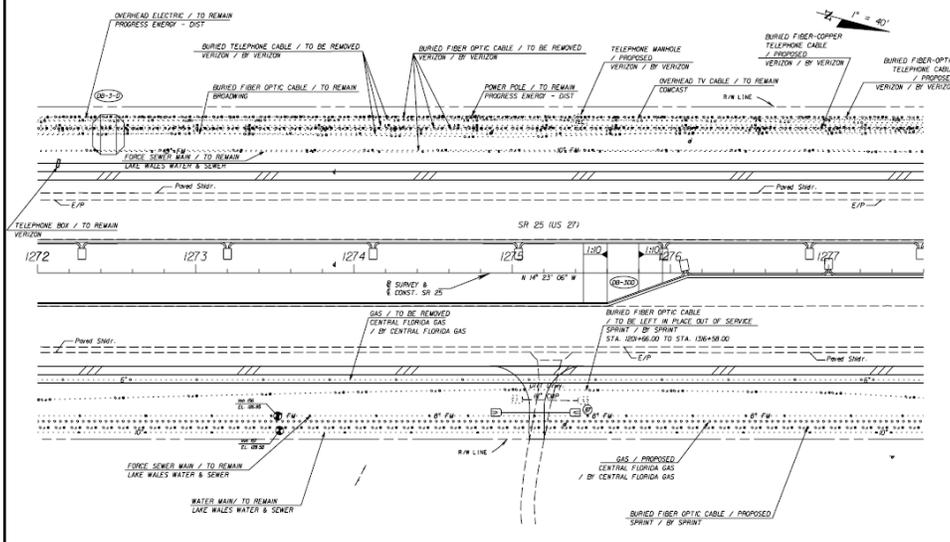
Sand Skink



Sand Skink

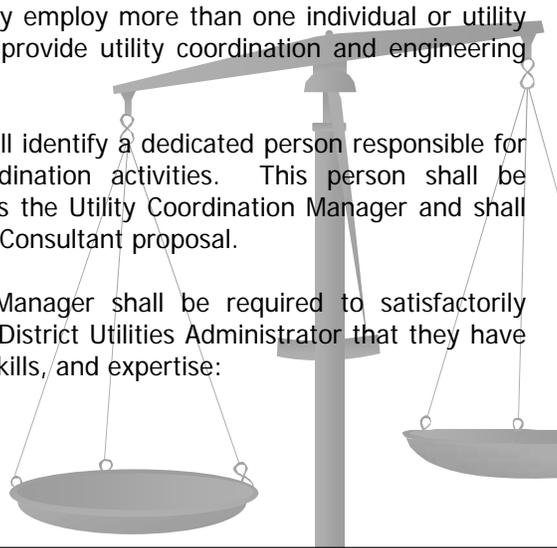


Utility Relocation Plans



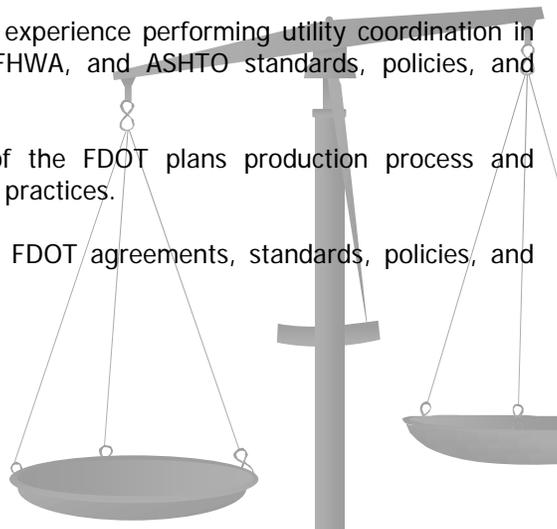
Utility Consultant Coordination

- The Design Consultant may employ more than one individual or utility engineering consultant to provide utility coordination and engineering design expertise.
- The Design Consultant shall identify a dedicated person responsible for managing all utility coordination activities. This person shall be contractually referred to as the Utility Coordination Manager and shall be identified in the Design Consultant proposal.
- The Utility Coordination Manager shall be required to satisfactorily demonstrate to the FDOT District Utilities Administrator that they have the following knowledge, skills, and expertise:



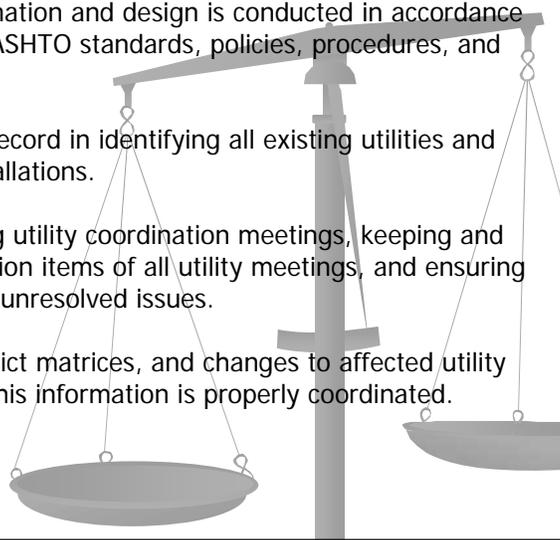
Utility Consultant Coordination

1. A minimum of 4 years of experience performing utility coordination in accordance with FDOT, FHWA, and ASHTO standards, policies, and procedures.
2. A thorough knowledge of the FDOT plans production process and District utility coordination practices.
3. A thorough knowledge of FDOT agreements, standards, policies, and procedures.

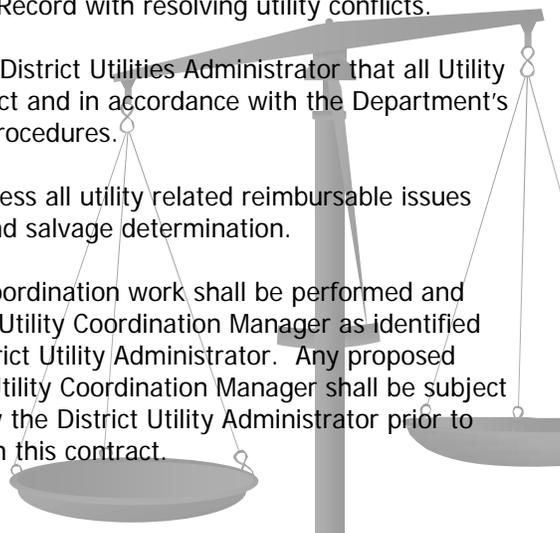


The Utility Coordination Manager shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Making sure Utility Coordination and design is conducted in accordance to the FDOT, FHWA, and ASHTO standards, policies, procedures, and design criteria.
2. Assisting the engineer of record in identifying all existing utilities and coordinating any new installations.
3. Scheduling and performing utility coordination meetings, keeping and distribution of minutes/action items of all utility meetings, and ensuring expedient follow-up on all unresolved issues.
4. Distributing all plans, conflict matrices, and changes to affected utility owners and making sure this information is properly coordinated.



5. Identifying and coordinating the completion of any FDOT or utility owner agreement that is required for reimbursement or accommodation of the utility facilities associated with the project.
6. Assisting the Engineer of Record with resolving utility conflicts.
7. Review and certify to the District Utilities Administrator that all Utility Work Schedules are correct and in accordance with the Department's standards, policies, and procedures.
8. Prepare, review, and process all utility related reimbursable issues inclusive of betterment and salvage determination.
9. The Consultant's utility coordination work shall be performed and directed by the identified Utility Coordination Manager as identified and approved by the District Utility Administrator. Any proposed change of the approved Utility Coordination Manager shall be subject to review and approval by the District Utility Administrator prior to any change being made in this contract.



Utility Coordination Requires Experienced Personnel



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

Questions

