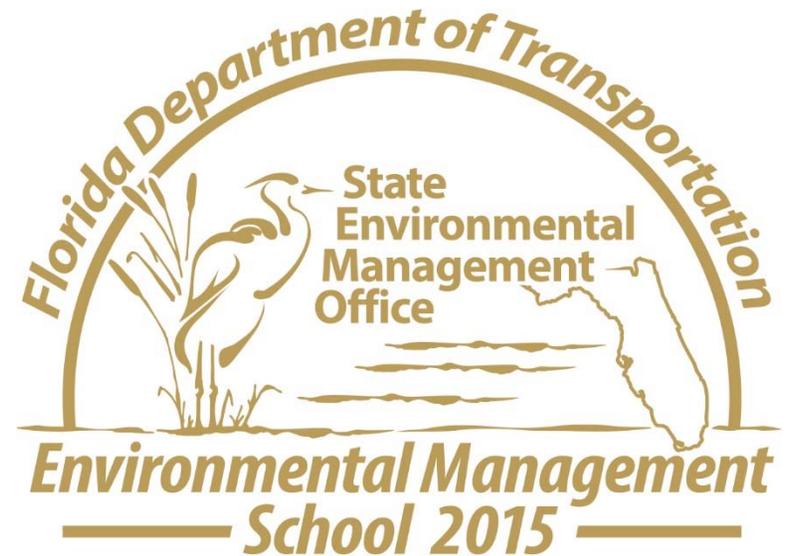


Public Involvement

Presented by:

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June 2015



Why Public Involvement?

- ◆ Gain understanding of community issues and needs to help inform transportation design/decision-making
- ◆ Comply with federal and state requirements
- ◆ Public Participation = Public Ownership
- ◆ Collaboration reflects community values and better projects
- ◆ Risk of litigation reduced; public outcry and project delays avoided

Public Involvement Policy

- ◆ Topic No. 000-525-050-g

“The Department recognizes the importance of involving the public in information exchange when providing transportation facilities and services to best meet the State’s transportation needs. Therefore, it is the policy of the Florida Department of Transportation to promote public involvement opportunities and information exchange activities in all functional areas using various techniques adapted to local area condition and project requirements.”

Outline

- ◆ Public involvement plans (PIP)
- ◆ Integrating public involvement into the SWAT process
- ◆ Scope development

PIPs Required for most PD&Es

ENVIRONMENTAL CLASS OF ACTION	Community Awareness Memorandum (CAM)	Public Involvement Plan (PIP)	Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Public Information Meeting	Kick-off Meeting	Formal Scoping Meeting	Notice of Availability in Paper	Public Hearing & Transcript	Notice of Intent & Notice of Availability in Federal Register & Newspaper	Notice of LDCA in Paper
Type 1 & Programmatic	Determined by District									
Type 2 – EST screened projects		YES						YES		YES
EA/FONSI		YES	OPTIONAL	TYPICALLY DONE	YES		YES	YES		YES
DEIS/FEIS		YES	OPTIONAL	TYPICALLY DONE	YES	OPTIONAL	YES	YES	YES	YES
SEIR		YES	OPTIONAL	TYPICALLY DONE	YES		YES	YES		
NMSA	Determined by District									

Purpose of Creating PIPs

- ◆ Helps identify stakeholders & affected communities
- ◆ Develops, implements and documents the methods used to solicit input

Key Elements of PIPs

- ◆ Should include:
 - Project Background
 - Project Goals
 - Identify Affected Communities
 - Identify Stakeholders & Audience
 - Outreach Activities
 - Evaluation of Public Involvement for the Project

PIP: Project Background

- ◆ What is the project history?
- ◆ Has the community previously heard of the project?
- ◆ Has the project situation changed since the last public involvement activity?
- ◆ Have commitments been made or broken?
- ◆ What are the major concerns and issues on the project?
- ◆ Are there any known controversial issues on the project?

PIP: Project Goals

- ◆ What decisions will be made during the current project phase?
- ◆ Is public input needed to help make those decisions?
- ◆ What project information needs to be shared?
- ◆ Project goals help define your public involvement goals

PIP: Affected Communities

- ◆ Defined by geographic boundaries, physical features & socioeconomic conditions
 - Federal, State, regional, and local agencies
 - Native American Tribes
 - Elected and appointed officials
 - Property owners/tenants
 - Business/residential associations
 - Other interested parties

PIP: Outreach Activities

- ◆ Kickoff meeting or kickoff letter
- ◆ Small group meeting(s)
- ◆ One-on-one meeting(s)
- ◆ Local government coordination
- ◆ Alternatives public meeting(s)
- ◆ Public hearing



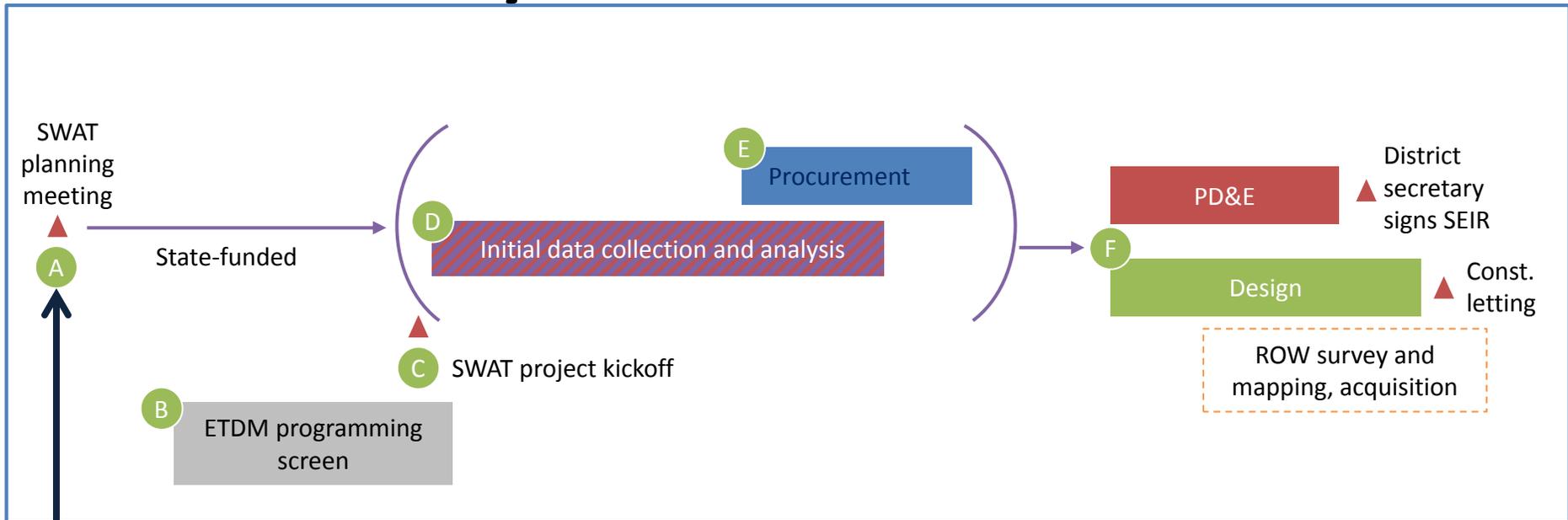
PIP: Outreach Activities

- ◆ Determine best activity format by asking ...
 - What is the purpose of the activity?
 - With whom do you need to meet to accomplish your purpose?
 - What format and location will be most appropriate for your purpose and audience?

PIP: Other Items to Identify

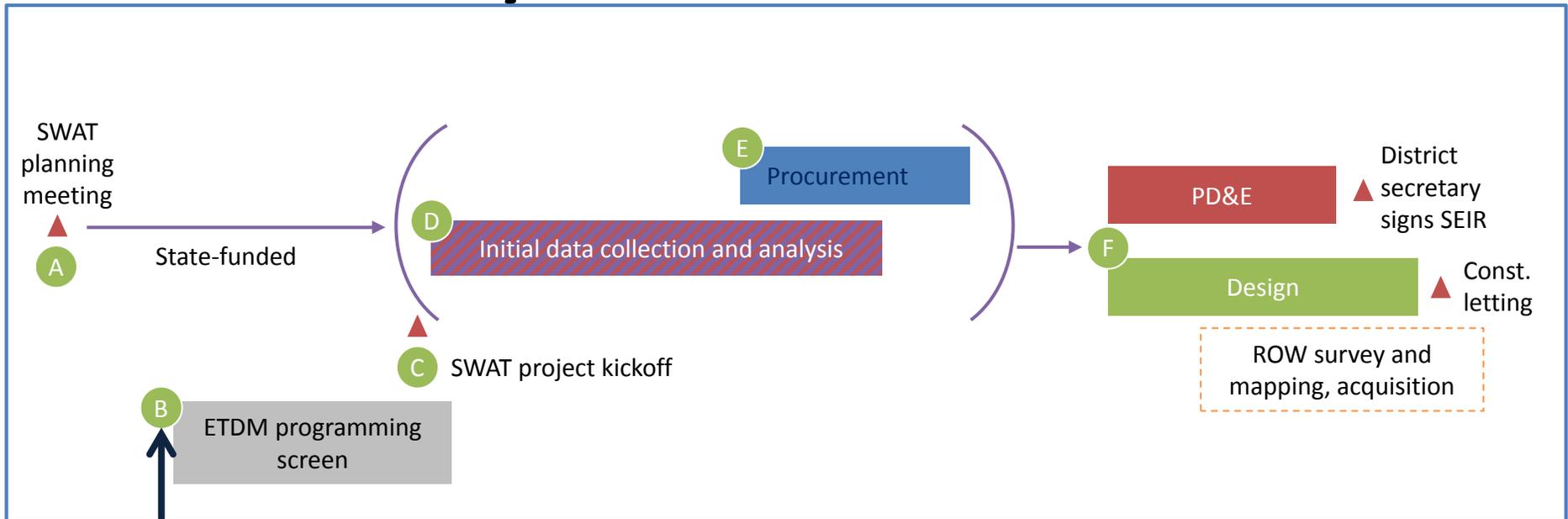
- ◆ Mailing list boundary
- ◆ Which newspaper(s) to place advertisements
- ◆ Where to display project documents prior to public hearing
- ◆ How many newsletters will be published, if any
- ◆ Special demographic considerations
- ◆ Need for translation services

Integrating Public Involvement into the SWAT process



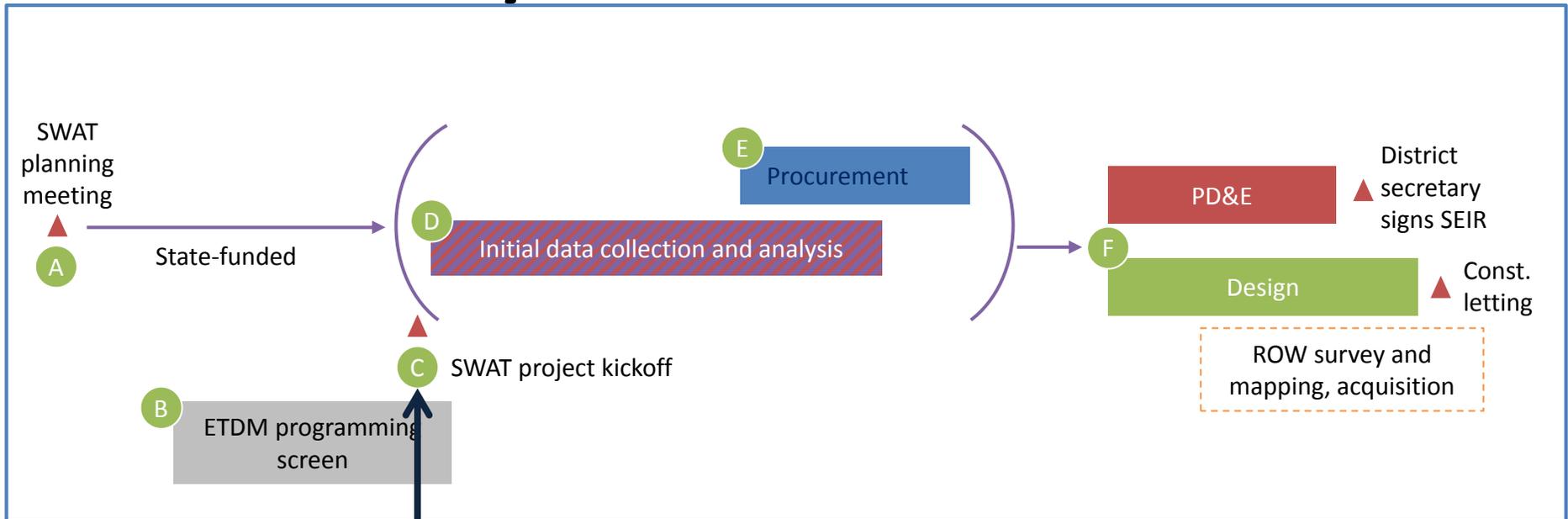
- Identify potential public concerns to help develop hypothetical Class of Action.
- Talk to the MPO liaison about any known issues discussed during the development of the LRTP and TIP

Integrating Public Involvement into the SWAT process



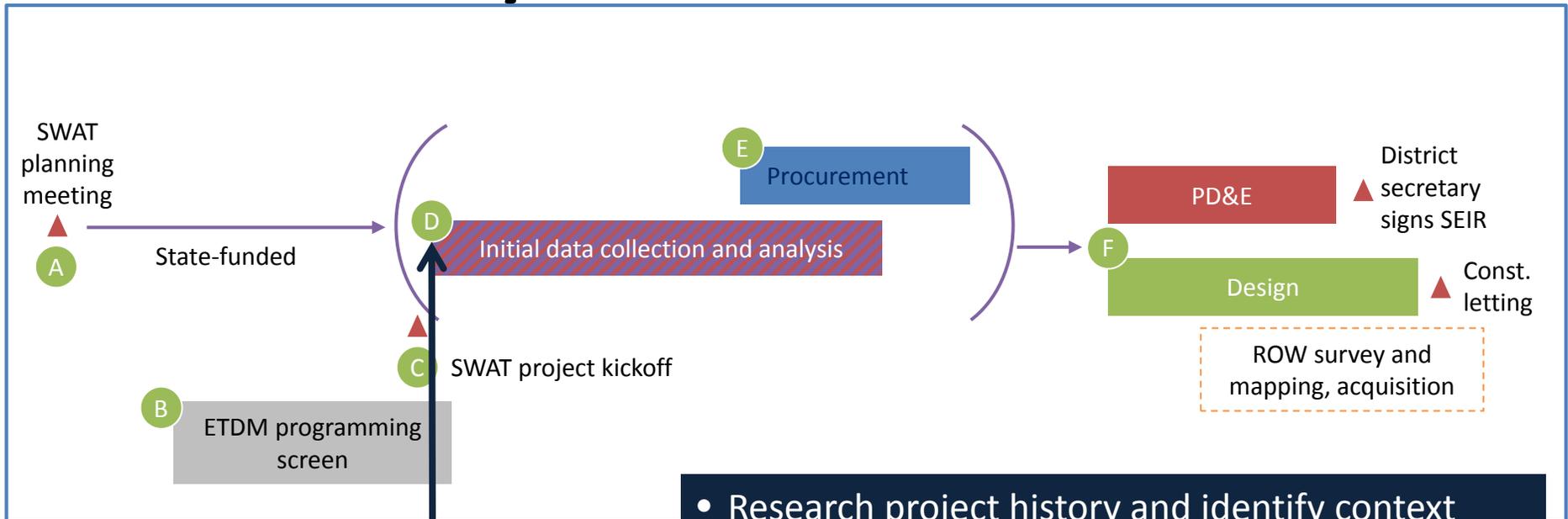
- Use ETDM results for community-related information and further identification of potential issues early in the process
- Run an SDR from the EST

Integrating Public Involvement into the SWAT process



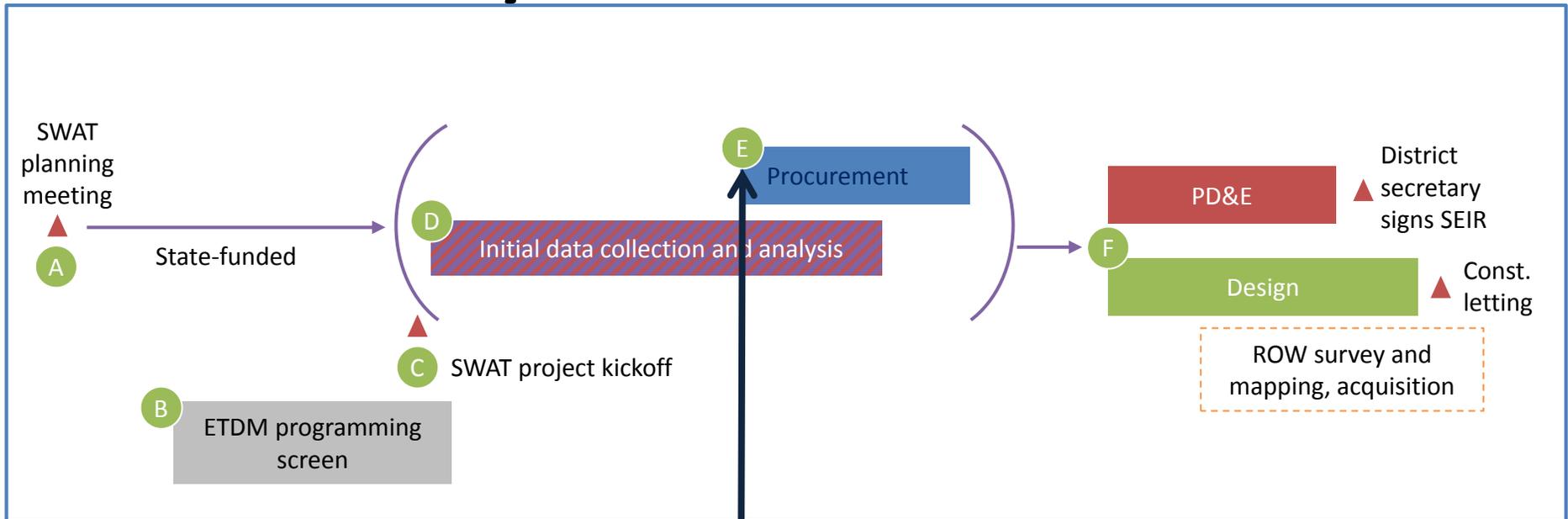
- Review the ETDM and SDR results
- Identify need for early one-on-one meetings and local government coordination
- Prepare draft PIP framework to help develop initial project scope

Integrating Public Involvement into the SWAT process



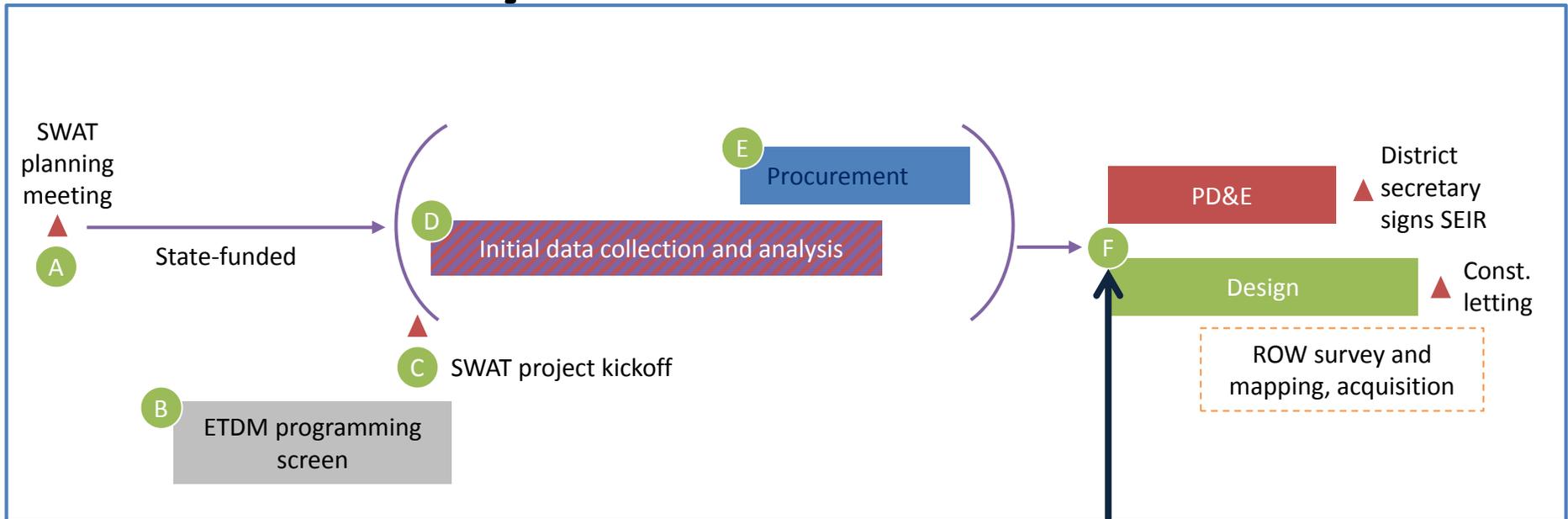
- Research project history and identify context
- Identify stakeholders
- Identify community/stakeholder related issues and methods to address
- Conduct one-on-one meetings, if necessary
- Coordinate with local and county governments
- Finalize the PIP and have ready for procurement

Integrating Public Involvement into the SWAT process



- Use the PIP for scope development
- Continue with one-on-one meetings and local government coordination, if needed

Integrating Public Involvement into the SWAT process



- Implement the PIP
- Hold public meeting(s)
- Hold public hearing
- Continue with one-on-ones and local government coordination, if needed

Scope Development

- ◆ Specify who is preparing the PIP
 - District may prepare for SWAT projects
 - Consultant may prepare for federally-funded projects

Scope Development

- ◆ Identify type and number of public meetings
- ◆ Identify special outreach requirements
 - Newsletters
 - Fact sheets
 - Website
 - Need for special graphics or videos

Scope Development

- ◆ Don't forget the small details:
 - Who is paying for cost of postage, FDOT or consultant?
 - Do newspaper advertisements and notification materials need to be written in other languages?
 - Consider notification boundaries – 300 feet minimum, is more needed?
 - How many consultants do you expect to attend each public meeting?

For More Information

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References :

- ◆ FDOT PD&E Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11
 - Available at:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/pdeman1.shtm>
- ◆ FDOT Public Involvement Handbook
 - Available at:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubinvolvement.shtm>



Questions & Answers

