

Questions and Answers from PD and E Webinar Training Class June 7-9, 2010

Questions Asked by Attendee
Day 1
<p>Q: EA is classified as projects with some significant impact, but not major. True or False?</p> <p>A: EA is when we do not know if the impact is significant. When we conduct the study and the result is not significant, the result is a FONSI. If it is significant, the project will be evaluated to an EIS.</p>
<p>Q: A. Input data being? What project info needs to be loaded in order to release a project?</p> <p>A: Anthony, the best way to get a list of the data required for a screening tool is to call the helpdesk for a listing. See the last slide in the previous presentation for that contact information. Each agency is required to keep their data up to date/current.</p> <p>Q: Where can I find a list of the input data required for the screening tool? A screenshot of the input window.</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: Where can I find a list of the input data required for the screening tool? A screenshot of the input window.</p> <p>A: Input data being? What project info needs to be loaded in order to release a project?</p> <p>Q: I am good now.</p>
<p>Q: Are we moving to eliminate alternatives in stages prior to the Programming Screen?</p> <p>A: FDOT is working on developing guidance for linking Planning and NEPA while using ETDM.</p>
<p>Q: Do you record the entire webinar courses for the future review?</p> <p>A: Yes, the entire PD&E Course is being recorded for future reviews/improvements</p>
<p>Q: Does the NEPA process only consider environmental (social, environment, cultural, etc.) elements? Is the PD&E the same as the NEPA process with Engineering (Drainage, traffic, roadway, etc.)?</p> <p>A: The PD&E process covers all the engineering and environmental analysis we conduct to reach a preferred solution to a transportation need.</p>
<p>Q: Having problems opening CH 3 Part 1, Chapter 3 AN_11-5-07.PDF file provided on web site.</p> <p>A: I was just able to open it. Try this link again: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/Part%201,%20Chapter%203%20AN_11-5-07.pdf</p>
<p>Q: How do we invite DoD personnel at our local military installations (such as Eglin Air Force Base) to be part of the ETAT?</p> <p>A: The ETDM Coordinator can make the request and then work out the logistics locally. BUT, all DoD partners are noticed through the tool to let them know a project is within 5 miles of their facilities and then provided a link to provide comments</p>
<p>Q: How do you log on to etdm portal</p> <p>A: The official ETAT website requires a log-in, the public access site Pete is about to discuss.</p>
<p>Q: how long did it take to complete the etdm process for the port manatee project? Is that the norm?</p> <p>A: It all depends on the project complexities and issues. A normal screening event is 45-60 days and another 60 days to complete a summary report. If there are disputes or issues, it'll take as long as needed to work those things out.</p>
<p>Q: How will the public know that they are able to make comments through ETDM?</p> <p>A: The public is informed through public outreach conducted by the MPO and are encouraged to provide comments</p> <p>Q: Have there been any changes as to how AN packages are submitted to the SCH now that the AN package is part of the ETDM process? (Do hard copies still need to be produced and mailed out?)</p> <p>A: Yes, we will cover this in the second part of this Module, after 11am.</p>
<p>Q: I am still unclear on "significant" impact... who is charged with making this call?</p> <p>A: Significance is determined based on any technical studies regarding that particular resource. Results of those impacts will be discussed with the resource agency which will give us additional information on whether the impact is significant. The final determination is made by the lead federal agency.</p>
<p>Q: I may have missed it in the acronym list - what is SHPO?</p> <p>A: SHPO - State Historic Preservation Officer</p>
<p>Q: I thought there was one more part for today, the Advanced Notification?</p> <p>A: We will address Advance Notification tomorrow morning.</p>
<p>Q: I understand recently there has been a change in federal policy about PD&E applicants. FHWA does not accept PD&E projects from private applicants but only from public/LAP certified applicants. Is this correct? Can you explain the new policy?</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: How about Type 1 CE and Prog CE? Are these not part of CA?</p> <p>A: Type 1 and Programmatic are not screened through the EST. However in certain cases, we may screen a project that we thought was "major", but after review, it was determined, in consultation with FHWA, that it was a Type 1 or Programmatic.</p> <p>Q: yes this ques is for a federal action such as interchange</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p>
<p>Q: If a local agency is managing the PD&E can they have access to the EST?</p> <p>A: Yes, they can be given access to review and respond, but control of the submittals/approvals is either with the FDOT or MPO</p> <p>Q: Still not clear the difference in a Degree of Effect and the Summary Degree of effect?</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: Said programming screen is an annual event. When does this occur.</p> <p>A: The programming screen is based on the individual project schedule, not necessary annually.</p> <p>Q: Thank you. the Degree of effect explanation was excellent, now I got it.</p> <p>A: Great. thanks</p> <p>Q: IS the CLC a FDOT staff?</p> <p>A: One CLC is tasked with representing FDOT, and another CLC represents the MPO. They can be staff or consultants,</p>
<p>Q: In which Type the most of the traffic operations analysis and travel demand forecasting is involved? - AL AHAD EKRAM, C#TS</p> <p>A: Not sure I understand your question, will you ask again?</p>
<p>Q: Is the 45-day review period applicable to both the EST planning and the programming screens?</p> <p>A: Each screening event has a 45 review period</p> <p>Q: Are there any standards/requirements for the accuracy of the GIS data within EST?</p> <p>A: Yes. Agencies are responsible for their data layers. If you have a specific question, you can call the EST help desk for data sources.</p> <p>Q: A box on page 11 shows "NEPA approval and Permits". How often have/are permits obtained at this phase versus the second half of the Design process?</p> <p>A: The ultimate goal is to work towards obtaining permits during the PD&E process. The typical level of detail that is required for permits is not always completed during PD&E, therefore few projects have been able to obtain permits or early permit agreement to date. It has been most successful in cases where PD&E and Design have overlapped in phases.</p> <p>Q: Final signed class of action document is signed by FHWA/lead agency?</p> <p>A: Yes and more will be discussed in the upcoming module</p>
<p>Q: Is the ETDM process used (sometimes or always) for purely SEIR projects?</p> <p>A: ETDM is used for Major projects</p> <p>Q: What is the distinction between cooperating and participating agencies?</p> <p>A: We will go over this in Module 3 tomorrow. A handout is also available on the website.</p>
<p>Q: It seems that module 2 slides presented today have been revised from what I downloaded last week. I'm hoping the latest would be available for download today</p> <p>A: Yes, the latest slides are online currently. A few modules had additional edits late last week.</p>
<p>Q: Not clear on difference between Type 1 and 2 CE.</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: Ward Miller, AICP, CFM attending alone</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: Cumulative impacts within a watershed could be significant for even minor projects. Guidance for cumulative analysis?</p> <p>A: You are correct. Cumulative impacts can be significant and need to be considered and evaluated throughout a PD&E study. We will discuss more on cumulative impacts in Module 4 - Environmental Analysis.</p>
<p>Q: What initial actions are undertaken when a FDOT project may impact Tribal Lands?</p> <p>A: Tribal representatives are part of the ETAT and the FDOT has very detailed Tribal coordination requirements through the EMO website. Anyone has to coordinate with the lead federal agency and the Community Resources section of CEMO. NOTE: make sure you DO NOT contact the tribe directly, because they are sovereign nation. You need to go through your lead federal agency and CEMO.</p> <p>Q: Are all applicable FMID#s listed in EST for each project as it progresses through different phases? Is there a link for environmental documentation generated throughout the review process or is this documentation only provided through EMO and Project Suite?</p> <p>A: #1 - FMs are only available if they were entered by the District or those responsible. #2 - No it is inside the ETDM Public Access website. You do not need to only go through Project Suite. Part of the EST purpose is to store project documentation.</p>
<p>Q: Sorry. I can't find where the course material was posted. Can you make them available?</p> <p>A: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/pdemanualppts.shtm</p>
<p>Q: are these the current objectives or previous ones?</p> <p>A: The ETDM Objectives were developed when it was being developed, but still remain as important goals</p>
<p>Q: What is considered significant</p> <p>A: This module and the ones tomorrow will go into detail as to what is considered "significant"</p>
<p>Q: What is minimization?</p> <p>A: Minimization of impacts</p>
<p>Q: Where do I find the pde manual and course handouts</p> <p>A: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/pdemanualppts.shtm</p>
<p>Q: Who screens the projects from local agencies?</p> <p>A: If federally funded, projects are screened by FDOT. If the project is on a SIS/FIHS facility, it is also FDOT. Refer to the ETDM Programming Screen Matrix for Major Transportation Projects. Also shown in the Non-Federal Project PPT, Slide 4.</p>
<p>Q: Why are there two Class II Classes of Action?</p> <p>A: Leigh - will you please restate your question?</p>

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Questions Asked by Attendee
<p>Q: Would FDOT staff be an ETAT member for projects from the MPO (city, county projects)? A: FDOT staff will be the ETDM Coordinator and provide support to the ETAT. They will provide feedback in the screening Q: Would FDOT staff be an ETAT member for projects from the MPO (city, county projects)? A: They will also respond as an ETAT to respond to non-District projects (i.e. Turnpike, etc)</p>
<p>Q: If a federal action is needed, we need to work through FDOT and the local agency. Q: I tried to chime in on the phone...but I guess it didn't work....the use of private entities to develop the documentation for the federal action...is not new...it is that in the age of PPP, the private sector has become more prevalent in the transportation process.</p>
DAY 2
<p>Q: One of the test questions regarding resubmittal quotes five years. I don't remember the correct answer, but was this something that has changed? A: We have to look into it, we cannot see test at this time.</p>
<p>Q: why is a reevaluation needed when the project moves on to the next phase? A: answered previously</p>
<p>Q: What is the typical level of design prepared for value engineering? A: It varies depending on the project. Each District has a VE engineer.</p>
<p>Q: Clarification, a PDSR is not required for an EA. A: Yes a PDSR is not required for an EA Q: How will the Transportation System Management and Operation (TSM&O) initiative be incorporated into the PD&E process. Will the TSM alternative be converted to the TSM&O alternative? A: Central Office Planning is working on this and if changes result they will be incorporated in the manual. Q: What is the end report for the design traffic analysis? Design Traffic Technical Memorandum (DTTM) or Traffic Report? A: Catherine will get back with you on this. Q: How often is the ETAT member list and elected officials list updated and who is responsible for the updates? A: The ETAT set up via ETDM agreements are maintained by CEMO. Anyone the District adds to the AN list is maintained by the District. In the AN package screen it cues you in as to who is responsible. Q: How often is the ETAT member list and elected officials list updated and who is responsible for the updates? A: They are updated continuously..we handle ETAT members and we depend on you guys to update the local elected officials</p>
<p>Q: Is the PDSR prepared only for CE type 2 A: Yes.</p>
<p>Q: Catherine, this is Jai. I know the PDSR was meant to be a summary and not too detailed. However, the design folks are not educated well on this and when reviewing are asking for more details in the first submittal. I believe design folks should not review the first draft PDSR since most of the details they are looking for is in the PDER. Eventually the PDSR ends up being a huge document A: Review of the PDSR is up to each District.</p>
<p>Q: It seems that all projects that move from the PD&E phase to the production phase would require re-evaluation. Then it seems that all projects need to be re-evaluated. Please clarify. A: All projects need to be re-evaluated as they move to each new project phase: Again...before Federal action is requested for next phase we are verifying that no changes in the env impacts. or a requested for a federal action Q: It seems that all projects that move from the PD&E phase to the production phase would require re-evaluation. Then it seems that all projects need to be re-evaluated. Please clarify. A: Yes</p>
<p>Q: What was the correct answer to number 9 again? A: The question was what can be the outcome of an EA - it was either a FONSI or the need for an EIS</p>
<p>Q: In addition to District Secretaries I believe Expressway Authority Ex Dir can also sign their agencies SEIR too. A: Assuming they call it a SEIR. Also, if they are impacting a FDOT road it may require FDOT signing the SEIR. Q: Are we using the Term "Preferred Alternative" for submittals to FHWA after the Alternatives Workshop? A: Timing and determination of the preferred alternative should be made in consultation with FHWA, the lead agency. Q: In addition to District Secretaries I believe Expressway Authority Ex Dir can also sign their agencies SEIR too. A: We'll follow up on this question. Q: Isn't the PDSR required for EA and EIS and not just CE Type II? I understand the PDSR is the decision document for Type 2 CE, but is still required for EA and EIS. Answers given previously appear to indicate some mis-statement here. A: It is being corrected in the manual. Future revisions will reflect that it is only for the Type 2 CE.</p>
<p>Q: Why does the Florida STATE Clearing House do FEDERAL consistency reviews? A: And the consistency is with state and local agencies .. and a the consistency determination is to show the action is federal funding eligible Q: Please have others turn off mikes!! A: sorry..not sure what happened..but it should be better now Q: The Poll stated "Select ALL that apply"--So why would it be "None of above!!?" A: Not sure why it was worded that way..sorry about that Q: Why does the Florida STATE Clearing House do FEDERAL consistency reviews? A: Delegated authority and they also need to meet Florida Statutes.</p>
<p>Q: Is there an example of a Fact Sheet? A: Yes..we can provide an example. I'll load it on to the materials website and let you know it's there Q: Slide 23 says that the public has 30 days to make a comment after the hearing. Typically for CE the public has only 10 days after hearing to make a comment. Is this correct? A: Public gets a total of 30. This includes the 21 days prior to the public hearing plus the time period after. We will clarify in future. Q: How do we know if someone requires a hard copy of the AN package? A: The ETAT gets it via the EST. Hard copies are typically for those added by the District or LAP agencies such as elected officials.</p>
<p>Q: What is the average timeframe to receive an approved purpose and need and class of action? A: The Purpose and Need is reviewed as part of the EST screening. It may take 45 days (std. screening), but may take longer if there are comments, questions or revisions. The COA is usually determined during the timeframe that the District is reviewing the screening results in consultation with the lead agency. The timeframe can vary. Q: Can you elaborate on the level of detail required regarding the original project limits during a reeval? A: answered verbally by presenter Q: What is a Environmental Determination Form? A: Used to be the old form in EAs and EISs where FHWA would make the Class of Action determination. We now do this through the EST much earlier. Q: Is a PER required for an EA or and EIS or do these serve as the document? Or, would a PDSR be submitted with these? A: A PER if done is consider an accompanying technical report to an EA or EIS. Q: What is the average timeframe to receive an approved purpose and need and class of action? A: Purpose and Need is accepted/approved by the Lead Agency through the EST, during the 45 day programming screening review. A COA is an action after and the Lead has 30 days to provide concurrence after the COA is submitted. Obviously timelines can lengthen if there are issues or request for additional details.</p>
<p>Q: What point in the PD&E phase of an EA do you determine that a project is going to be an EIS? Before or after the Public Hearing? A: Depends on the issue at hand and of course consultation with the lead agency.</p>
<p>Q: Can you give some general examples of Type II CE that would not require a public hearing? A: based on consultation with the lead agency, FHWA in this example - a CE2 for advance r/w acquisition for protective buying with willing sellers. Q: Design can proceed up to 60% before LDCA is received. Typically an RFP for a design/build project only includes 30% - 50% plans. Do you need to have a re-evaluation done for an RFP when the project is currently still in PD&E? A: answered verbally by the instructor Q: What has been our experience on NEPA with other lead agencies like FTA, FRA or Coast Guard (these are all lead agencies for ongoing PD&E Studies). Do the documentation levels, expectations or processes change based on the agency? A: They can. Each agency may look at things differently.</p>
<p>Q: do you document these questions and answers and provide to attendees after the training? A: yes..we will provide these questions and answers to you Q: Is this the same process for a SEIR? A: Yes except you may not need SF-424 if you won't be persuing federal funds and you also would not go through the federal consistency reviews.</p>
<p>Q: What is considered project initiation date? A: It varies depending on the COA. The official start date for an EIS is the Notice of Intent. For the others it can vary depending on the District. Q: What is considered project initiation date? A: It depends on the district..some use the AN package date, some use Kick-Off Meeting, Some use Notice to Proceed</p>
<p>Q: It is our understanding that there have been recent changes regarding proper terminology for preferred, proposed, recommended, etc. in a PD&E Study. Can you elaborate on this? A: We are still working out the language. The changes you refer to is more regarding guidance on the application/timing of using the terminology and it varies depending on the COA. Any changes will be reflected in the PD&E Manual chapter updates.</p>
<p>Q: In Public hearing, if FONSI address the impact of future land-use turns out to be significant, FONSI can be a big issue after that? ~EKRAM A: A FONSI if appropriate would be prepared after the Public Hearing. Q: What if there is adverse noise impact due to traffic projections at the LOS F year? Will the FONSI be approved? ~ AL-AHAD EKRAM, C3TS A: Depends on the lead federal agency and the significance of the impact. Decisions are made by them on a project specific basis. Q: IF FONSI not approved, how to determine whether to elevate to an EIS or to dump the project? A: Lead Agency would determine you need to elevate to EIS, decision to abandon project would be the District's</p>
<p>Q: Can you repeat where the change in the chapter will occur? A: Will address after presentation. Q: my guess is that you will be going over this later in the module but where does the WER and ESBA fit into this process and/or the PDSR? Are they supplements or attachments to it or are they thier own separate documents? A: Yes we will. The PDSR is the Environmental document for a Type 2 CE. The WER = Wetland Evaluation Report is a technical supporting document for analyzing wetlands and the ESBA=Endangered Species Biological Assessment is a technical supporting document for analyzing species impacts. These two reports are discussed further in Part 2 of the Manual which is not covered in depth in this training. They may also occur in all major project COAs.</p>
<p>Q: Regarding PDSR, page 4-17 section 4-2.5.1 says a PDSR is produced at the conclusion of the project development phase for all type 2 CE's, EA's, EIS's, and SEIR's A: This will be corrected in the Chapter update.</p>

Questions Asked by Attendee
<p>Q: Is that considere a Re-evaluation? A: --unanswered-- Q: If FED's are notified that there are no changes to the PD&E. Is that considered a re-evaluation? A: Yes and is addressed in the chapter in greater detail Q: If FED's are notified that there are no changes to the PD&E. Is that considered a re-evaluation? A: You would note it in the reevaluation form that is transmitted to the FED LEad and placed in the project file Q: Does this training qualify for PDH Certification? A: Yes..12 hours Q: Poll Question: Disagree with the response. Why will you need a Re-evaluation when the project advances to the next phase? Please explain? A: You MUST complete a re-evaluation for each phase change to ensure you maintain federal funds elgible for next phase and supporting the admin record Q: What is FHWA's role in Interchanges? A: FHWA approves IJR's and IMR's on projects where they are the lead and for projects on interstates. Q: What factos determine the need for a Public Hearing for Type II CE's? A: Consult with FHWA regardless, most Type 2 CE's done by FDOT will require a public hearing based on the project scope. You have to consider project impacts, potential for controversy, etc. Q: If there are no changes to PD&E, why do you need a re-evaluation? A: required: Again...before Federal action is requested for next phase we are verifying that no changes in the env impacts. and required for a federal action Q: Slide 57 says PDSR is the basis on which LDCA is issued for Type II CE. IS Type II CE the only COA requiring PDSR? A: Yes Q: Poll Question: Disagree with the response. Why will you need a Re-evaluation when the project advances to the next phase? Please explain? A: You have to inform the lead agency that the project is advancing to the next phase. Q: Whe we begin the PD&E process, do we know if it is CE 2? A: Typically you would know your COA when you finalize the Programming Screen in the EST. Q: Slide No. 17, Should it read 1"=300' and 1"=100'? A: We will look into it and edit if needed. Q: Slide 13: What is the difference between Preliminary Engineering and Design costs? A: In that use PD&E Q: Should Scale be 1"=300'? A: --unanswered-- Q: Slide No. 17, Should it read 1"=300' and 1"=100'? A: Presenter will have to answer at end of presentation. Q: What Report is the basis on which LDCA is issued for COA's other than Type II CE? A: For an EA it is the EA with FONSI and for an EIS it is the approval of the ROD. This will be covered tomorrow.</p>
<p>Q: What is purpose of scope of work? A: Did previous answer the question? Q: Someone needs to mute their mic. A: we just did..thanks Q: too many acronyms in last slide. Please repeat in long hand A: We'll remind the presenters and try to do a better job Q: Is there any kind of screening to review if the "need" is justified? A: The Purpose and Need are reviewed in the EST and must be Accepted by the lead agency for the project to advance. Q: the survey answers totaled more than 100% A: yep..we know Q: Where is screen? A: can you see now? Q: Is the purpose of the Value Engineering to select alternative? If not, what is purpose of this process? A: It can identify an alternative or a variation to an alternative. The preferred is not chosen by the VE, it is still chosen by the lead based on engineering and environmental analysis. The purpose is an indepedent look to identify any value saving options. Q: Is scope of work done only to farm out work to consultant? Why is work not done inhouse by DOT? A: The screening of the project assist the FDOT in preparing the scope of work of the PD&E Study, which summarizes what is going to be analyzed from an engineering and environmental perspective. It is up to each District if they want to advertise a project for bids or if they want to do it in-house.</p>
<p>Q: Will the questions and answers being discussed in the chat feature be published so we can use them as a reference after the course has concluded? A: yes will provide the entire write up</p>
<p>Q: I thought the rule of thumb was three years if the project already received LDCA. Please clarify? A: Notice it was in regards to "have NOT started the PD&E" therefore there wouldn't be LDCA Q: Q: What about normal pools as standards and controls for design A: We'll have her answer at the end of the presentation Q: D7 said None of the Above! A: --unanswered-- Q: No to my statement about p 10 A: --unanswered-- Q: What about normal pools as standards and controls for design A: --unanswered-- Q: and cry A: :) Q: Thanks for the clarification. A: No problem Q: over 100% o A: Was allowing for multiple answers Q: Which is correct? A: All of the above was correct Q: and cry A: usually true Q: ok A: --unanswered-- Q: Thanks for the clarification. A: Also, after LDCA you wouldn't rescreen or send a project update fact sheet since design has it's own public involvement procedures and changes in the project would be documented through the reevaluation process. Q: p 10 in our downloads is different from slide it says Do not use the form in Figure 13-3 A: slides had been updated</p>
<p>Day 3</p> <p>Q: What do I need to do to add another person listening to the presentation in the same room? A: Have the register so they can get credit and get forwarded the tests. register here: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/318414448</p>
<p>Q: Slide states VE recommendations are summarized in PDSR, what about EA's and EIS's? A: Documented within either EA or EIS as well.</p>
<p>Q: What is the difference between Type 1 and 2 CE? A: Type 1 are addressed via the checklist in Chapter 2, Type 2s require additional documentation and are addressed in greater detail in Chapter 5. Q: what is the timing relationship between the PDSR and an EIS? A: PDSR is not done for the EIS. PDSR is only for Type 2 CE's Q: Is there guidance available for cumulative impact analysis? A: CEMO is working on the process.</p>
<p>Q: pgae 4-17 PD&E manual states that a PDSR is required for all COA? A: This is being updated in the manual.</p>
<p>Q: Is there a difference between an update to a PD&E and a reevaluation? A: When you reevaluating you are certifying that the previously approved determinations are still valid.</p>
<p>Q: For type 2 CE's, where in Chapter 5 does it say LDCA is the form of the approval?? Thx. A: Section 5-2: In addition, all commitments and recommendations made during project development must be summarized in the PDSR. Only when this is accomplished to FHWA's (or other Lead Federal Agency's) full satisfaction can the PDSR be approved as a Type 2 CE, and the project Location and Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA) be granted by FHWA. Q: Thanks. A: also figure 5.2 Q: For type 2 CE's, where in Chapter 5 does it say LDCA is the form of the approval?? Thx. A: LDCA is the action. By approving the PDSR they are granting LDCA. Q: For this question (below) where does it state this in Manual? Thx. type 2 CE's, where in Chapter 5 does it say LDCA is the form of the approval?? Thx. A: page 5-8 in section 5.2. Q: Can i finish post tests next week? i have meetings and training covering this entire week. Thanks. A: They will be open for 1 week..so you have until COB wed next week</p>

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<p>Q: What is the difference between cooperating agency and participating agency? A: This will be covered today. The big difference has to do with the development of the document with the cooperating agency becoming a co-author with specific expertise on a specific study or portion of the document. Participating means they review and provide comments Q: What is the difference between cooperating agency and participating agency? A: Please review the participating vs. cooperating hadnout. Also, we will be covering this in freater detail today. Q: What is the time frame between finishing program screening and beginning a PD&E Study? What if this time frame is exceeded, does the project need to be rescreened? A: It'll depend on the project specifics, but a programming screening should only be run on high priority ready to move forward projects. The intent is NOT to have them sit on the shelf. In the event they do, it'll depend on the prject specifics (location, impacts, controversy) to see whether anther screening is appropriate. The rule of thumb is 4 years without a start of PD&E Q: what is the difference between bus/rail and transit? A: Transit is meant to cover other technologies in general terms such as fixed elevated guideways Q: What kind of summary report is needed then for COA of Class I? A: If by Class I you mean EIS then you would follow the EIS process. DEIS to FEIS to ROD=LDCA Q: Is it always necessary that before program screening there should be a planning phase? A: No, but on a major project you need at least a Programming Screen, which also meets the AN requirement. Q: What is the time frame between finishing program screening and beginning a PD&E Study? What if this time frame is exceeded, does the project need to be rescreened? A: 4 years</p>
<p>Q: Assuming design/build is considered one phase therefore one reevaluation is required for this? Or does a reevaluation have to be made before the design portion and then before the construction portion? A: Design-Build is essentially a combination of design and construction. Once you have LDCA you would reevaluate to ensure that the approved decisions are still valid for the RFP. If no changes happen to the design or to environmental impacts during the design-build then no further reevaluations would be required. Q: Which post test had an incorrect answer? A: It was Class of Actio, question 9 Q: At what point is the typical section package typically prepared? Is it usually completed after Public Hearing? A: It is usually prepared at the end of the process when you have a preferred alternative. Q: Ok, great! I thought there was something wrong with that. A: There was.. sorry about that Q: If a CATEX 2 recieves LDCA and advances into design it still requires a reevaluation? A: Yes</p>
<p>Q: How many people are taking this course? A: 310 Q: Is there no program screening for FTA projects in the ETDM? A: Major FTA projects are supposed to be screened as well. Q: Can you please explain again the difference between public meeting and public hearing? A: A public hearing is our formal event that we have a transcript of the hearing's recording. A public hearing is required, public meetings are optional. Section 11-2.9 of the Chapter covers the specifics of Public Hearing requirements. Q: How long does the CEMO review take? A: 30 days, but can vary based on the project and coordination with the District. Keep in mind there may be more than one review.</p>
<p>Q: Is CEMO review required btwn each revision of the DEIS after comments are recieved and incorporated? Ginger Creighton, Greenhome & O'Mara. A: If all comments are satisfied/incorporated, CEMO will verify this with the District and if there are no additional, then the DEIS would be submitted to FHWA by the District.</p>
<p>Q: when the district incorporates comments on the draft EIS after the FHWA division review, is there always a second CEMO review A: Yes prior to resubmittal to FHWA. Q: How long will the post test be up A: UNTIL COB WED JUNE 16th</p>
<p>Q: RE: Non-major state action checklist..."substantial" and "significant" are terms that are used to help determine whether or not the action is major/non-major, but there is no concrete definition/standard for substantial or significant...how do you determine what is substantial or significant? A: It all depends on the project specifics and the impact to and state of the resources within the project influence. There isn't a concrete defintion to provide. Q: Jennifer Rosenberg and Scott Edgar joining in a group A: Thank you. Are you registered individually? Q: Yes, Scott Edgar and Jennifer Rosenberg are registered individually. A: Great, thank you.</p>
<p>Q: Green Lodging Policy? A: It's linked on our training materials page: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/pdemanualppts.shtm Q: Does this training count towards continuing education credits for the PE? A: We provide 12 PDH Q: Green Lodging Policy? A: The Green Lodging Policy asks that FDOT attempt to stay/hold meetings, etc in locations/hotels that are certified Green Lodging establishments. In some cases this not possible, due to project location. In these cases, we need to document why the location chosen is not meeting that policy.</p>
<p>Q: In the DEIS, do you only show the study alternatives, and not the recommended alternative? A: Decisions on a recommended or preferred have to be made by the lead agency. Generally at the DEIS stage you would present the analysis of all reasonable alternatives and provide the analysis information that the decisions by the lead agency will be based on once the comment period is over. Q: Thank you for a great presentation! :) A: --unanswered-- Q: In the DEIS, do you only show the study alternatives, and not the recommended alternative? A: 4(F) is NOT Env Justice. It related to protected types of land that can only be impacted under extreme conditions (parks are a common example)</p>
<p>Q: For how long will the Powerpoint presentations remain on the website? A: They will remain there until the next time we update them</p>
<p>Q: Suggest e-mailing notification of future Powerpoint revisions to registered session attendees. A: good idea..we have your emails and will use them. Good suggestion! Q: Slide 18 - It appears that most of the activities shown in Non-Major Projects are actually PCE activities. Is this accurate? A: Some non-major are PCE activities, while others are non-major transportation activities. Q: How will we be notified of any changes made to scores or post-test response changes? A: Everyone's scores went up..no negative impacts Q: What would be an example of a major non-federally funded project that would NOT require a SEIR? A: The ETDM Matrix provides a general summary of how the COAs are doled out, part od training materials and can be found at: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/handouts/ETDM%20Matrix.pdf Q: What is the Statute # specific to the Sunshine Law? Suggest including in future presentation materials. A: Florida Statute 286.011 - Government-in-the-Sunshine Law Q: How will all of the questions asked in the chat portion/CEMO team responses be captured and conveyed to attendees of this session? A: The entire typed Chat and responses are being recorded Q: Is there a database/ recognized source available to provide a list of interpreters? A: There is not database or recommended listing. In most cases, the project team will use District or other staff to assist with interpretation. Q: Can you clarify the sequence of the Public Hearing between the DEIS and the beginning of the FEIS preparation? Thanks. A: The FEIS preparation includes the incorporation of agency commentary and public commentary. Once the comment period has ended you can update the DEIS as the FEIS. Also includes coordination with the lead agency. Q: Thanks. Is there a requirement for when the Public Hearing must specifically be held after the preparation of the DEIS? A: The DEIS must be made available to the public at least 21 days prior to the hearing and it has a 45 day review through the Federal Register. These can overlap as detailed in the DEIS Chapter and Public Involvement Chapter. Q: For the prior LAP response, can you clarify the limits of activities that the LAP agencies can do vs those that must be overseen by FDOT (e.g., ROW cert., etc.)? Thanks. A: All LAP requirements are quantified in the FDOT LAP Manual Available through the FDOT Project Management Office online. You can also contact the respective District LAP Administrator or the Central Office LAP Administrator. Regarding NEPA documents FDOT has oversight</p>
<p>Q: The draft public involvement program should be done at the scoping stage not at the draft EIS stage A: Public involvement begins during the planning phase, the actual PIP document is prepared and approved during the study. Q: Define DEIS as a document (final) after study, the PIP should be confirmed prior to starting the study- A: The PIP is approved at the start of the study, and can change during the study based on project conditions. The DEIS is the document that must be approved prior to the public hearing.</p>
<p>Q: For clarification, on slide 20, are you stating that under federal regulations scoping meetings are not required? A: Correct. The Scoping process is required, but having a scoping meeting is an optional activity.</p>
<p>Q: Do all LAP projects require a LAP EIS? A: No, the class of action for a Major project would be determined through the EST. For a minor project it would be based on consultation between the agency, FDOT and FHWA. Q: Out of curiosity, how does the Turnpike "Enterprise" handle right of way acquisition, since they don't follow the Federal guidelines. A: The Turnpike Enterprise has their own ROW procedure Q: Slide no 23. A: We'll ask Catherine. Q: The power point A: It's already posted on the internet...the Environmental Analysis piece this morning was a continuation of the powerpoint from yesterday Q: When will the previous module be posted on the internet? A: Are you talking about the test? Or the video? Q: If it's already there, please point me to it. Thanks. A: Here you go: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/pdemanualppts.shtm Look for the Environmental And Analysis Powerpoint Module 4 Day 2 Q: On the previous slide, she said that right of way only applies to Turnpike? please clarify. A: Turnpike Enterprise has special requirements for ROW acquisition, which were granted to them when they became and "Enterprise". They do not follow all the Federal Relocation Act rules. All other districts use the federal requirements when obtaining ROW. Q: What is CEMO? A: Central Environmental Management Office</p>
<p>Q: Is any Congressional action needed to make a FEIS really final? A: --unanswered-- Q: This really should be AICP CMs credits also. Thanks for arranging it. A: --unanswered-- Q: "4F" has been used several times without definition. Is it Env. Justice? A: Section 4(f) is part of the USDOT Act and it is meant to protect recreational areas, qualifying historical resources, etc. The reason it is cited is because 4(f) issues can affect the thresholds that alternatives may be held to. This is covered in Part 2 of the Manual. Q: What is "CADX" she keeps saying? A: She is referring to a CAT X, which is short for Categorical Exclusion, in the case of a SEIR a Type 2 CatX</p>

Questions and Answers from PD and E Webinar Training Class June 7-9, 2010

Questions Asked by Attendee
<p>Q: The PIP is for the PD&E process only, correct? If you are attempting to obtain environmental permits concurrent with the PD&E process and there is public notification with those, is this done separately from the hearings or other public meetings held with the PD&E and/or does the public process for permitting need to be included in the PIP?</p> <p>A: You are correct, the PIP is a PD&E process requirement. Permitting agencies will have their own (separate) notification requirements. You will need to follow/adhere to those notification requirements as well as the PD&E requirements (if these efforts are overlapping). If so, you can include them in the PIP, but are not required.</p>
<p>Q: While we are waiting to start; question on the Post test; is there a way to go back into a test we already took (and passed) to review the questions we missed. I'd like to see those questions, and I could not find a way to review the test after it was done.</p> <p>A: It wasn't setup that way. But I'll see what I can do</p>
<p>Q: I'm not very clear on what a LAP project is.</p> <p>A: These are Local Agency projects. A Local Agency can request funds, get earmarks, etc. to do projects. All federal funds that come from FHWA are managed by the FDOT, so if these requests come in the FDOT coordinates with the Agencies on how these projects should be conducted.</p> <p>Q: Is it common for local projects to request federal funds??</p> <p>A: It happens quite a bit in the form of earmarks</p>
<p>Q: Noticed on slide 18 under Major Transportation Improvements, the listing of significant impacts. Since this is referring to a Type 2 CE, it shouldn't have significant impacts, should it?</p> <p>A: Yes, Significant impacts would not refer to Type II CEs</p>
<p>Q: During reevaluations what criteria is used to determine if a Public Hearing needs to be held?</p> <p>A: You will want to consult with the lead federal agency to determine if the reevaluation will necessitate another Public Hearing (i.e. has the project scope changed; other factors altering the preferred alternative).</p> <p>Q: Will certificates be given to just the individuals registered or all those who attend? Do we need to email a list of attendees?</p> <p>A: Certificates will go to people who registered AND took all the tests</p>
<p>Q: So Sunrail will fall under FRA?</p> <p>A: If it's commuter rail it will involve both FTA and FRA. Most likely FTA will take the lead.</p> <p>Q: No mention of public hearings mixed with Access management changes. My experience these are often done at same time.</p> <p>A: You are correct. An Access Management Hearing can be included as part of the your PD&E Public Hearing, but you need to ensure you provide notification that access management discussions will also be taking place at your project Public Hearing.</p> <p>Q: Will these new changes still be chapter 8?</p> <p>A: Yes, the update to the chapter is in prep.</p> <p>Q: What will existing chapter 10 become?</p> <p>A: Chapter 12</p> <p>Q: Slide 5, you say only state funds but TRIP also has local funds and what about other projects that have some local funds, is this still the same?</p> <p>A: When we say funds of a particular type, it's any amount..if 90% locally funded and 10% state funded, it's a state funded project. Same with federal dollars..a single dollar makes it a federal project</p> <p>Q: For Jessica Lunsford Act, does this apply to local agencies?</p> <p>A: Are you asking for LAP projects or SEIR Projects??</p> <p>Q: We are doing a LAP project and have determined consultant scope with State staff but I would expect a need for EIS so I want to make sure we are doing what we need?</p> <p>A: Meeting is optional as appropriate.</p> <p>Q: Can you talk more about scoping meetings?</p> <p>A: Shad, please call me or email me your question about scoping meetings. Rusty.ennemoser@dot.state.fl.us</p> <p>Q: For Jessica Lunsford Act, does this apply to local agencies?</p> <p>A: Are you asking for LAP projects or SEIR Projects??</p> <p>For either one but main concern right now is LAP?</p> <p>A: FDOT would look for the LAP agency to comply with the same State laws and policies, including the Jessica Lunsford Act, that FDOT would when conducting a project.</p> <p>Q: Are we in a break???</p> <p>A: Yes - sorry the audio cut out when we announced it - until 10:40</p> <p>Q: Can you provide more info on the scoping meeting? When, what is discussed, is this before a consultant selected, etc?</p> <p>A: Section 11-2.8.1 of the Chapter covers scoping meetings, and includes a more detailed discussion.</p> <p>Q: Is ROD drafted by FHWA?</p> <p>A: The DROD is typically prepared by the District but it is reviewed and approved by FHWA.</p> <p>Q: Please do not flip through slides so quickly.</p> <p>A: Sorry - we will slow down.</p>
<p>Q: Are state-legislated corridor authorities and bridge authorities held to the same state regulatory requirements for the environment as FDOT?</p> <p>A: They still have to follow all laws. They can use our PD&E procedures, but don't have to unless they involve DOT or FHWA.</p>
<p>Q: If the lead agency is a local agency, do the public notifications still need to be approved by the district PIO?</p> <p>A: For LAP projects, please do not confuse the term "lead agency". The lead agency is the lead federal agency, not the local project administrator. In these cases, you will still want to coordinate with the District PIO on press releases.</p> <p>Q: What about non SHS and non SIS roadways?</p> <p>A: It'll depend on the dollars and who is the lead for those facilities</p>
<p>Q: Should FHWA's comments from DEIS/FEIS reviews go to CEMO before going to the District? Linda Anderson</p> <p>A: George has tended to copy us on them so we see them, don't think it needs to be prior, but at least simultaneously.</p> <p>Q: You stated that SEIRs are not subject to Section 106. Is there a state equivalent to protect cultural and historical resources?</p> <p>A: Florida Statute 267</p>
<p>Q: Does the transcript of a public hearing need to be written or can it be recorded?</p> <p>A: The Transcript will be a written (typed) verbatim transcript of the hearing.</p> <p>Q: Thank you for your hard work!</p> <p>A: Thanks</p>
<p>Q: This is more of a comment than a question. In my experience we typically prepare a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) document which documents the Public Involvement Program (also PIP). This results in some minor confusion.</p> <p>A: Yes, there is some confusion and the term PIP can be used interchangeably.</p> <p>Q: Some districts prepare a Comments and Coordination Report. Is this a requirement in the PD&E Manual?</p> <p>A: That is a good question, and it is often confused. A Comments and Coordination is a section of the environmental document, a separate report is not required. We do recognize that some Districts do ask for a separate C&C document.</p>
<p>Q: What about a major project (SHS= yes and SIS= yes) with local/private funds?</p> <p>A: Completed by District as the lead</p> <p>Q: What about a major project (SHS= yes and SIS= yes) with local/private funds?</p> <p>A: You can refer to the ETDM Programming Screen Matrix for a summary.</p>
<p>Q: What public involvement documents should be loaded into ETDM? Public Involvement Plan, Public Involvement Summary, Public Meeting Minutes, Public Hearing Transcripts?</p> <p>A: And on the Public Hearing Transcript, there is a place in the EST Scheduling tool, where you put the date of the hearing and then upload the transcript</p> <p>Q: Who is usually the contact person for special accommodations?</p> <p>A: Dat - we typically list either the FDOT Project Manager, Public Involvement Manager or District Title VI Coordinator in newsletters/letters about needing special accommodation.</p> <p>Q: What public involvement documents should be loaded into ETDM? Public Involvement Plan, Public Involvement Summary, Public Meeting Minutes, Public Hearing Transcripts?</p> <p>A: Most of your formal public involvement documents should be loaded to the EST, such as the PIP, Meeting/Hearing summaries, etc. The transcript is also loaded as part of the loading of the environmental document.</p> <p>Q: Is there a limit on the type of projects (CE-II, EA, EIS) that local LAP agency can perform?</p> <p>A: They have to be Certified to perform PD&E Studies regardless of COA a decision that is made by the District LAP Administrator, the LAP Agency and may include the Central Office LAP Administrator</p>
<p>Q: Is FDOT considering Social Media as a tool for Public Participation?</p> <p>A: Social Media is being used in different ways throughout Districts. Social media should always be considered an additional tool and should not replace our traditional outreach techniques (letters, etc).</p> <p>Q: Do you all have examples of where Social Media such as Facebook, etc has been used for FDOT Projects?</p> <p>A: No at hand, but we can get you a sample.</p> <p>Q: Lynne Marie: You are doing a great job along with FDOT staff. We appreciate it very much!</p> <p>A: Thanks Manuch</p> <p>Q: What is the maximum time limit waiting for FHWA's approval of DEIS?</p> <p>A: Remember it's their (FHWA) document and you need their approval to move forward. It'll depend on the issues, the project, and the quality of the document</p> <p>Q: Can you proceed to FEIS if you do not receive DEIS Comments from FHWA?</p> <p>A: For you to be able to proceed your lead federal agency has to Approve the DEIS</p> <p>Q: Lynne Marie: I like the Acronym LPA (Locally Preferred Alternative). I can use it in Presentations.</p> <p>A: Yeah you can..</p> <p>Q: What is the maximum time limit waiting for FHWA's approval of DEIS?</p> <p>A: There is really no limit. Depends on the project and commentary.</p> <p>Q: Should FDOT staff present the Hearing or is it okay for consultant partners to make the Hearing Presentation?</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: Lynne Marie:</p> <p>A: --unanswered--</p> <p>Q: Thank you so much for a great training. This by far exceeded all expectations.</p> <p>A: Thanks so much!!!</p> <p>Q: What happens if you don't receive comments within 45 days?</p> <p>A: You are simply required to provide the opportunity for comment, nothing requires that they comment.</p>
<p>Q: Translating an entire EIS document to another language? It may be more easier to teach the person english...</p> <p>A: No. It is not required to translate your environmental document into another language</p> <p>Q: NOI needs to be filed even if the level of environmental document can be CATX?</p> <p>A: No, the NOI is only for EIS level documents</p> <p>Q: Translating an entire EIS document to another language? It may be more easier to teach the person english...</p> <p>A: You do not have to print environmental documentation (EIS, EA, discipline reports etc.) in languages other than English. If it is requested, you will need to decide the best way to provide equal access to the information. If it is only one or two individuals, having an interpreter work with them might be the best solution.</p> <p>Q: For FTA projects, slide 8, it says NOI filed? Just need clarification if this is only for FTA projects which are level EIS similar to FHWA projects? Therefore, NOI is not required if FTA project is CATX...</p> <p>A: Correct.</p>
<p>Q: Did you address the problem of blank screen coming up after hitting submit on the post tests?</p> <p>A: we think so</p> <p>Q: What is the difference between SIS and SHS?</p> <p>A: SHS=State Highway System - SIS= Strategic Intermodal System (includes roads, airports, seaports, and rail facilities which are strategic to the state)</p>
<p>Q: Do meetings such as with interest groups or neighborhood associations require publishing a notice in the FL Administrative Weekly, you have these listed under public meetings.</p> <p>A: No, your more formal public meetings require an FAW ad. You may however want to ensure your group (neighborhood association) includes some notice within their own neighborhood (for example).</p>