

FHWA PEER EXCHANGE

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Florida Department of Transportation

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State Environmental Quality and Performance Administrator

DOT Context

The Florida Department of Transportation is a decentralized state agency that reports directly to the Governor. Each of our eight districts is managed by a District Secretary. They vary in organizational structure, but in general each has major divisions for Administration, Planning, Production and Operations. Also, each district has a Public Information Office that reports to the District Secretary and a District Chief Counsel who reports to the DOT General Counsel in Tallahassee. FDOT has primary jurisdiction over the State Highway System, which carries over half of all traffic within Florida. This system includes major roads such as interstates and highways with U.S. or state road numbers.



About Pete

Pete McGilvray serves as the State Environmental Quality Performance Administrator at the Florida Department of Transportation in the Office of Environmental Management Office located in Tallahassee, Florida. Pete manages the Efficient Transportation Decision Making process, intra-agency agreements with state and federal partners, as well as the development and operation of the Environmental Screening Tool and companion public access site providing a window into the department's proposed transportation improvements. Additionally, Pete manages the Statewide Environmental Project Tracker, as well as the self-assessment and auditing functions within the office. Pete has more than 22 years of private and public-sector experience in transportation and environmental initiatives. Pete received his professional training from Florida State University where he obtained a master's degree in Management, a bachelor's degree in Geography with an Urban and Regional Planning concentration, and a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences with a performance management concentration.

DOT Public Outreach Highlights

The Efficient Transportation Decision Making process provides agencies and other stakeholders the opportunity for early input and consideration of the environment in transportation planning. ETDM process releases potential projects for review and consideration as screening events to vet the project and elicit feedback. The objectives include:

- Early identification of potential issues for project scope development
- Timely decision making that includes consideration of environmental quality
- Full and early public and Environmental Technical Advisory Team member participation
- Linkage between planning and Project Development and Environment [including National Environmental Policy Act]

Outreach engagement activities are formalized within the process through community liaison coordinators, conduct activities, complete sociocultural effects, facilitate communication and provide recommendations to resolve community issues. The outcome of these activities are documented in a summary report and provide the foundation for future scoping during the project development phase.

Biggest Public Engagement Challenges

With the ETDM Process, the biggest public engagement challenges can include maintaining staffed qualified community liaison coordinators. In many cases the position may be absorbed as additional duties to another overly burdened position. Additionally, within a decentralized organization, the reporting structure within the District may be different with competing priorities or splitting duties among other positions such as the public information office. Setting up a formal consistent structure is incredibly important.

Contact

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