Project Impacts

Indiana Bat & Gray Bat
Background

Impacts

Moving Forward
Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis)

Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens)
Spring 2012

- Female Indiana bat tracked to Gilmer County from winter hibernaculum in TN.
- First recorded occurrence in GA since 1966.
Background

- Both are Federally listed as “Endangered” and protected under the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA:
  - Protects the Indiana and Gray Bats from take (harming, harassing, killing) and also their critical habitat
  - Establishes civil and criminal penalties for any person who violates its protections
  - Requires all federal agencies to consult with and gain approval of US Fish and Wildlife Service before they commit project funds
Indiana bat summer range in Georgia

Prior to summer 2012
• 2 counties; 622 sq. mi.
• Approx. 20 Projects in the Area

After summer 2012
• 30 counties; 9,503 sq. mi.
• Approx. 182 Projects in the Area
Acoustic surveys

• Anabat™ captures echolocation calls.
• Set up along flyways.
• Must follow FWS protocol.
Mist-net surveys

- Set up nets in flyways.
- Must follow FWS protocol.
- If Indiana bat and/or gray bat is captured, then radio-tracking will be required.
Gray bat range in Georgia

Prior to December 2012
• 7 counties; 2001 sq. mi.
• Approx. 38 Projects in Area

After December 2012
• 13 counties; 4494 sq. mi.
• Approx. 49 Projects in Area
Project Impacts

• GDOT schedules may be affected on as many as 104 projects.

• STIP programmed years (FYs 13, 14, 15) on approximately 58 projects may be delayed.

• Approx. $222 million in STIP programmed ROW funds may be delayed 9-18 months.

• Approx. $237 million in STIP programmed CST funds may be delayed 9-18 months.
Moving Forward

• Close to executing programmatic agreement to move forward with ROW authorization on minor projects.

• Several ecological firms are getting permits and additional funds are being identified to survey GDOT projects for bats.

• GDOT is partnering with GDNR and will fund research in 2013-2014 for points in between GDOT projects.

• Once data is gathered, a more comprehensive programmatic agreement may be possible.
Questions?

Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis)

Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens)
2013 Georgia Standard Specifications of Roads & Bridges
Spec Book Update

Current: 2001 Standard Specifications

2008 Supplemental Specifications

Reviewed/approved by FHWA, GHCA