

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

TOPIC TWO: ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS AND APPROVAL

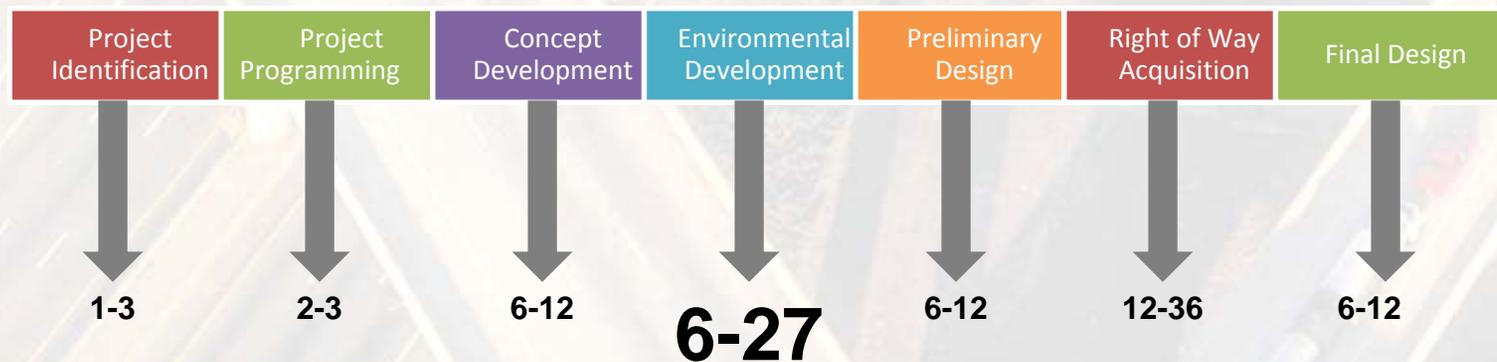
Director of Engineering
Russell McMurry, P.E.



PDP Project Implementation

(time shown in months)

Today's Topic: Environmental Development



As of October 19, 2010

Objectives

- **Why do we have to do this?**
- **Components of Environmental Documents**
- **Additional steps following environmental approval**

The Environmental Process...

Why do we have to do this?

Success = Federal Funding

- ✓ Document Approval
- ✓ Re-evaluation
- ✓ Certification

The Environmental Process...

Why do we have to do this?

- Required by Federal Law if federal funding is used
- Balances need for the Project against environmental impacts
- Ensures information is available to the public before decisions are made
- Documents the decision making process

National Environmental Policy Act – NEPA

42 USC 4321
23 CFR 771

For federal actions, ensures that information on environmental impacts is available to public officials and citizens before project decisions are made

NEPA Documents

- **Categorical Exclusion (CE)**
- **Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI)**
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

An aerial photograph of a multi-level highway interchange is shown in a faded, light gray tone. Overlaid on the center of the image is a large, bright red circle with a white diagonal slash from the top-left to the bottom-right, resembling a prohibition or 'no' sign. Inside this red circle, the words "Decide", "and", and "Defend" are written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

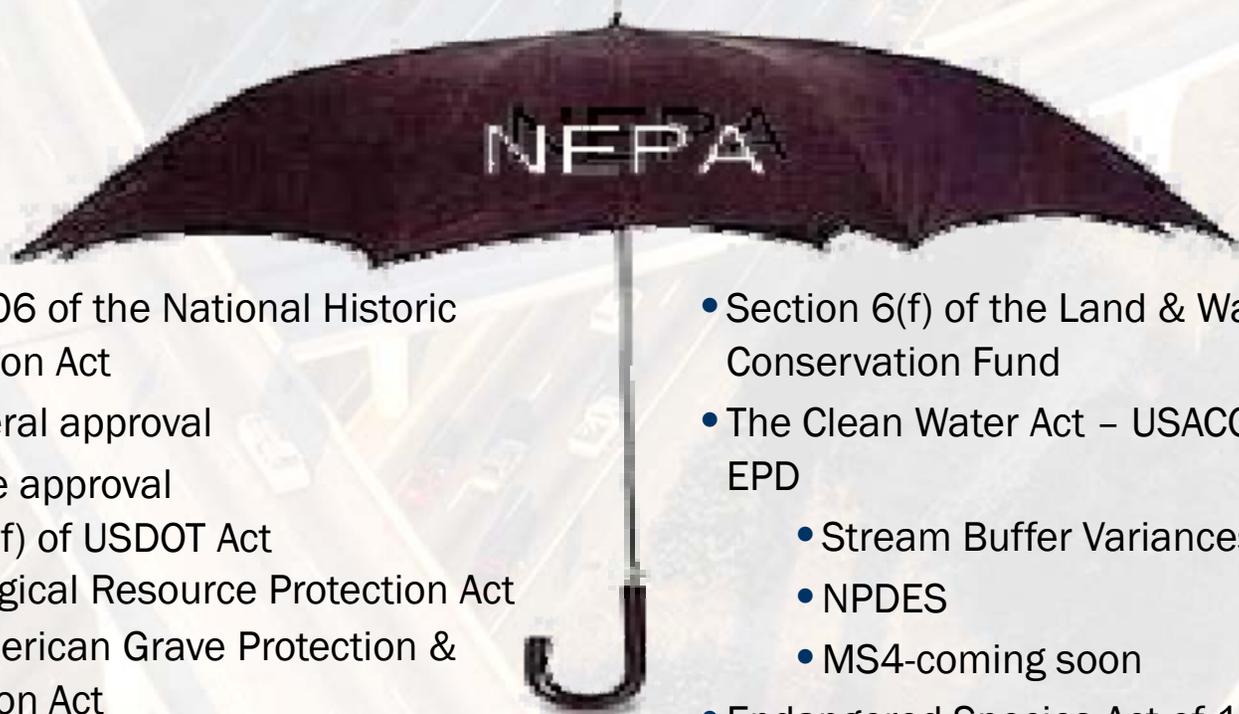
**Decide
and
Defend**

Concurrent NEPA and Preliminary Design

Concept

NEPA

Preliminary Design



NEPA

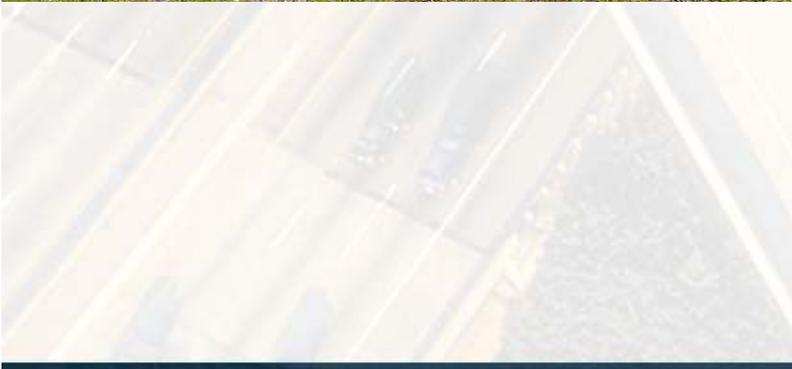
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
 - Federal approval
 - State approval
- Section 4(f) of USDOT Act
- Archaeological Resource Protection Act
- Native American Grave Protection & Repatriation Act
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
- Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice
- Noise Abatement – 23 CFR 772
- The Clean Air Act
- Surface Transportation & Uniform Relocation Assistance Act
- Section 6(f) of the Land & Water Conservation Fund
- The Clean Water Act – USACOE and GA EPD
 - Stream Buffer Variances
 - NPDES
 - MS4-coming soon
- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act
- Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981
- Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands
- Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management
- Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899
- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
- ETC. . . .

Components of Documents

- **Cultural Resources**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Social Environment**

Cultural Environment

- Historic & archaeological resources
- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Native American tribes



Natural Environment

- Water resources – wetlands, streams & buffers, open waters & buffers
- Protected species – T&E, migratory birds
- Multiple agencies – USEPA, USACE, USFWS, Georgia EPD

Streams & Wetlands

Perennial



Intermittent



Wetlands



T&E Species



Social Environment

- Varied resources
 - ✓ Communities – including low income & minorities
 - ✓ Community resources – including public parks, etc.
 - ✓ Air quality
 - ✓ Noise abatement
- FHWA review
- USEPA review of air quality
- Public input

USDOT Act - Section 4(f)

49 USC 303

23 CFR 774

- **Identify Section 4(f) resources**

- ✓ Significant historic properties

- ✓ Publicly owned parks, recreation areas or wildlife & waterfowl refuges

- **Avoid the use of land**

Georgia Environmental Policy Act – GEPA

Responsible state agency official to determine if the proposed action would significantly adversely affect the quality of the environment

- OCGA-12-16-1

Environmental Process

- Multi-disciplinary
- Multiple Agency Involvement
- Public Involvement

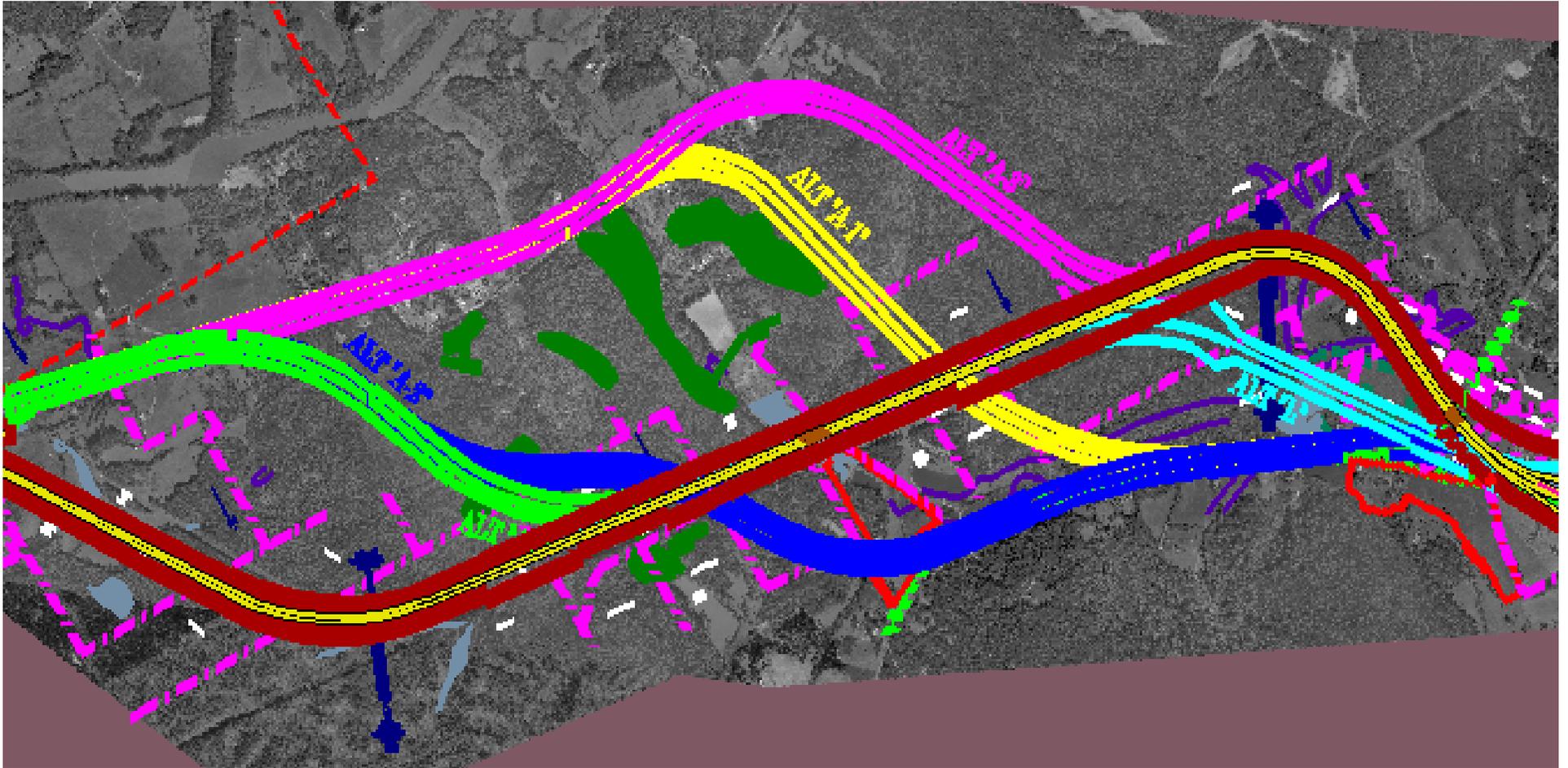
Public Involvement

- The Project Manager's responsibilities to the public.
- Level of public involvement needed for the NEPA/GEPA process.
- Public Information Open House (PIOH) and Public Hearing Open Houses (PHOH).

Public Meetings

- Project data and project layouts
- Interacting with citizens at public meetings
- Responding to comment cards (PIOH/PHOH)
- PIOH for Proposed Detours on State Routes
- Final Alternate Selection Report

Public Information Meetings



Logical Termini

23 CFR 771.111(f)

- Be of sufficient length to broadly address environmental matters
- Have independent utility
- Not restrict consideration of alternatives for other improvements

GDOT funded positions

- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
 - 2 positions
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - 2 positions
- **Ga EPD**
 - 3 positions
- **State Historic Preservation Office**
 - 3 positions

Project Schedule

NEPA approval 6 months prior to scheduled right-of-way authorization

Document Type	Time Required *	Start Time (prior to RW authorization date)
CE	21 months	27 months
EA/FONSI	27 months	33 months
EIS	Project specific	

***For planning purposes only; each project must be reviewed to establish schedule**

Success: Federal Environmental Approval

- **Prior to right-of-way authorization**
- **Prior to final design**



Post Document Activities

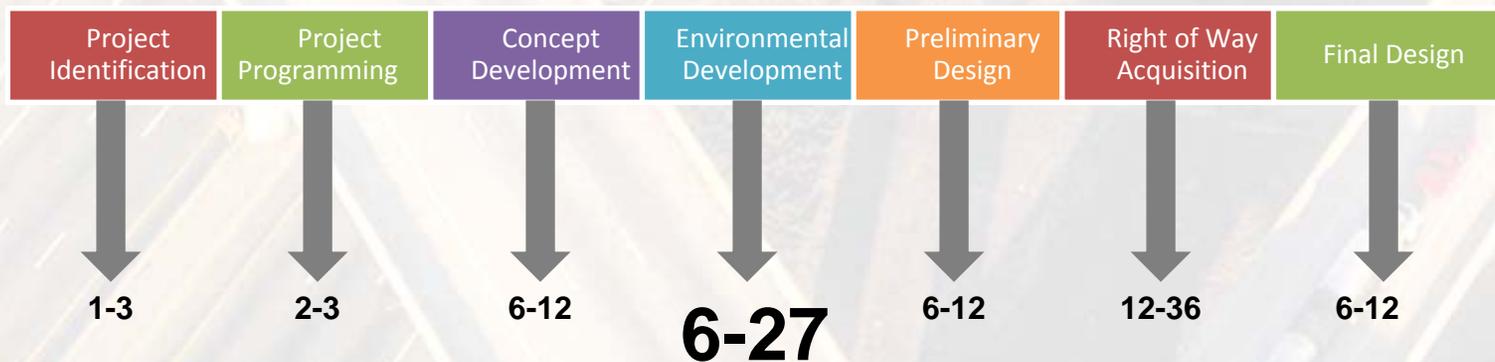
- **Re-evaluations**
- **Field Plan Reviews**
- **Permits**
- **Commitments**
- **Certifications**

Once obtained, NEPA clearance must be maintained. Approvals can change or expire.

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Environmental Development



As of October 19, 2010



Questions?