

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

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## INTER-DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

**FROM:** Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Chief Engineer



**DATE:** June 30, 2014

**TO:** Chief Engineer Divisions/Districts/Consultant Relation Committee

**SUBJECT:** Temporary Access / Construction Impacts

Constructability issues have recently caused schedule delays on a number of bridge projects. The issue has been that temporary access for the removal of existing bridges and the construction of new bridges were not reflected in the plans and the 404 permits. To minimize impacts on project schedules, the following requirements must be followed for Bridge projects that may require temporary access impacts to waters of the United States:

- Conduct a discussion regarding temporary access for the removal of existing bridges and the construction of new bridges in all future Concept Team Meetings, Preliminary Field Plan Reviews (PFPR) and Final Field Plan reviews (FFPR). Details of the discussion must be documented by the designer of Record on each meeting report.
- Obtain the BFI prior to the constructability meeting for projects that require construction in waters of the U.S.
- As per the Plan Development Process (PDP), chapter 6.5, one of the goals of the constructability meeting is to increase compatibility associated with environmental requirements and construction means and methods. A constructability meeting must be conducted; this review should assess the build-ability of the design details with particular emphasis on the construction methods, and overall bid-ability of the project. The constructability meeting, initiated and led by the Project Manager, should include the following key personnel: District Construction Engineer, Construction Liaison Engineer, FHWA Area Transportation Engineer (if project is designated as a Project of Division Interest [PoDI]), District Utility Engineer, Area Engineer, Design Phase Leader, and the Lead Design Engineer. Others may be invited at the discretion of the Project Manager or the District Construction Engineer, but both should keep in mind that the constructability review is best conducted by a small working group, yet include the necessary expertise required to address the major issues related to the project. Project Manager should consult with Ecology Section Chief, Office of Environmental Service to determine if the OES or consultant ecologist should attend.
- Provide a detail sheet showing the limits of the temporary impacts to waters of the United States due to temporary access for the removal of existing bridges and the construction of new bridges along with Thirty Eight (38) or Thirty One (31) week plans to the Office of Environmental Services. In addition, provide a narrative describing the impacts needed. The following is the link for an example detail sheet  
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/doingbusiness/PoliciesManuals/roads/Pages/EnvironmentalProceduresManual.aspx>

The PFPR and FFPR checklists, the PDP manual and the Plan Presentation Guide (PPG) will be updated in the coming weeks to incorporate these changes. Clean Water Act Section 404 permits are necessary for any discharge of materials into waters of the United States. 404(b) (1) Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) restrict discharges of dredged or fill material where less environmentally damaging practicable alternatives exist. For that reason, all areas of proposed impacts must be minimized as much as practicable.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 404-631-1004 or Hiral Patel at 404-631-1101.