2019 TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

The NEPA Process

Adam Sanford, P.E.
Assistant Bureau Chief, Design
Local Transportation Bureau

KEY CONTACTS

Kelly Weldon
weldonk@dot
(334) 242-6020

Jeff McInerney
mcinerneyj@dot
(334) 353-6231

Lori Conway
conwayl@dot
(334) 242-6887

EARLY COORDINATION

• Key to avoid project delays
• Contact Pre-Con Section asap
• We must coordinate with SHPO
• We can coordinate or assist with others
• HRRR, TAP, Regular FA, MPO

ALDOT/FHWA AGREEMENT

ALDOT has the authority to determine whether a project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) on behalf of FHWA. FHWA maintains program oversight.

PCE TYPE 1

• Lowest level of environmental impact
• No ROW, no impacts to threatened or endangered species, no impacts to Historical/Archaeological sites, no added capacity

What projects have little or no impacts?

87% of 2018 Projects were PCE 1s!
**PCE TYPE 2**

- Some environmental impacts
- Up to 1 acre of purchased or donated ROW, some impacts to threatened or endangered species, could have Historical/Archaeological sites, could have added capacity

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**ENDANGERED SPECIES - SNAILS**

A project was found to contain 3 endangered snail species: campeloma snail, armored snail, and Anthony’s river snail.

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**PROJECT COMMITMENTS**

1. Span Creek
2. Cut existing piers off above waterline
3. Keep fill, personnel, and equipment out of the creek

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**PCE TYPE 2**

Let me give you some *examples* of mitigation efforts and project commitments for these types of projects.
PROJECT NOTE

No work shall be done within inundated portions of Limestone Creek. This includes the placement of piers, riprap, any temporary or permanent fill material, and bridge demolition. The existing bridge superstructure shall be removed in a manner which does not drop debris into the creek. The existing bridge piers shall be cut off above the waterline and left in place.

ENDANGERED SPECIES - BATS

US Fish & Wildlife was consulted, and it was determined that the project area contained suitable spring/summer habitat for the endangered Indiana Bat and/or threatened Northern Long-Eared Bat.

PROJECT NOTE

Bridge Removal operations shall be performed between October 15th and March 31st.

Wetland Impacts
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
After consulting with the Alabama Historical commission, it was determined that an existing bridge was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The structure was not to be altered in any way. It was determined that this mitigation would have no adverse affect and be a PCE 1.

ACQUIRED RIGHT-OF-WAY
Right-of-Way Acquisition will upgrade the project up to a PCE 2. This includes temporary and permanent construction easements.