

## ***What is a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study?***

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) works closely with the local governments and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as they develop their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP determines the transportation improvements required over the next 20 to 25 years. The MPO's also develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which identifies and prioritizes transportation projects to be implemented within a 10 year period based on the LRTP.

Once the priorities are identified in the TIP, they are programmed in the FDOT's 5 Year Work Program. Once a project is programmed, the PD&E Study phase can begin.

The PD&E Study phase for planned transportation projects provides the interface between the Planning and Design phases to evaluate and document solutions to transportation needs that are compatible with the environment. Simply stated, the PD&E study determines if there is an engineering and environmentally feasible alternative to meet the need determined in the Planning phase.

This process is mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State law. It represents a combined effort by technical professionals who analyze information and document the best alternative for a community's transportation needs.

## ***What issues are evaluated in a PD&E study?***

- Social and Economical Impacts.
- Air Quality - assessing existing/future conditions and determining if the project conforms with the Clean Air Act.
- Noise - quantifying the project's noise levels and if they meet criteria, investigate reasonable and feasible noise abatement.
- Wetlands - finding the best way to avoid, minimize and mitigate long-term and short-term impacts.
- Water Quality - measures to prevent, reduce and/or eliminate pollution of ground and surface water.
- Wildlife/Habitat Impacts - efforts are made to identify the presence of and to protect/ensure the continued existence of threatened and/or endangered species and their habitat.
- Contamination - identifying and evaluating potential contamination problems within and/or adjacent to a project.
- Floodplains - efforts are evaluated to avoid, minimize, and mitigate encroachment within the floodplain.
- Parks/Historic Sites - significance of the sites and avoidance methods are evaluated when recreation lands or historic/archeological sites are impacted by the project.
- Conceptual Design – engineering design concepts are developed and evaluated for environmental compatibility and satisfaction of the transportation need.
- Public Involvement - a Public Involvement Program is carried out for every PD&E study, to inform/involve all interested parties in the development of the planned transportation project.

## ***What actions are taken to complete a PD&E study?***

- An environmental document is generated that discusses the impact of the proposed project on the social and environmental areas.
- An engineering document is generated which explains the engineering criteria for the proposed work.
- Public Meetings are held to share this information with the affected public.
- A Public Hearing is held to solicit public comments on the proposed project.
- The Environmental Document is approved by State and/or Federal Agencies.
- The issues covered by the PD&E study process are addressed so that FDOT can plan for a transportation project that will assist in meeting Florida's total transportation needs, by pursuing public and private sector partnerships to build Florida Intrastate Highway System projects and improve Turnpike Access in urban areas, while improving service to patrons and protecting bond holders.

## ***How does the Public fit into the picture?***

Since the Turnpike Enterprise of FDOT implements transportation projects with toll fees, which support Turnpike bond sales; public comments, ideas, thoughts, concerns and visions for the future are essential ingredients in the development of Turnpike projects throughout Florida.

The Public Involvement Program starts at the beginning of the PD&E study phase to obtain input from citizens and agencies within the project area. Early and continuous involvement is vital to the process.

Various techniques are used for this process, some are required by Florida Statute, such as the Public Hearing; other techniques are optional, such as; Alternatives Public Workshops, newsletters, focus groups, small group meetings, attending community events, and living room meetings.

The public's input is an essential part of the PD&E study. By working together, FDOT can provide projects that are beneficial to communities and the environment.

Para preguntas en español, favor ponerse en contacto con el señor Henry Pinzón, P.E., teléfono (407) 264 - 3803

## ***Who can you contact for more information?***



Ms. Catherine Bradley, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

Internet Address:  
[catherine.bradley@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:catherine.bradley@dot.state.fl.us)  
(407) 532-3999 ext. 3802



Mr. Fred Gaines, P.W.S.  
Environmental Administrator

Internet Address:  
[fred.gaines@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:fred.gaines@dot.state.fl.us)  
(407) 532-3999 ext. 3689



Mr. John Post, P.W.S.  
Internet Address:  
[john.post@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:john.post@dot.state.fl.us)  
(407) 532-3999 ext. 3409

## ***Florida Department of Transportation FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE***

### **Environmental Management Office**

