How to coordinate to share data, inventories and planning products?

- In long range planning with MPOs, are conservation groups involved?

  - Not traditionally

  - Need to bring in very early

  - If stand-alone MPO – not generally involved

- Getting together with agencies who generate data is key and extremely beneficial to the MPO planning process

- "Create once, use many" – avoid duplication of effort

- Need to know what data is available and where to get it

- Linking planning and NEPA (action plan)

- Understanding the nuances of national transportation initiatives

- Understanding conservation planning

- Needs to be a "two way street" with data sharing

- Municipal plans must be integrated into regional transportation plans

What information should/could be used in environmental screening and mitigation planning?

- Overwhelmed by data sources available (technologies, standards, data stewards, analysis)

- Data needs to be consolidated, accessible

- How to address protected propriety information

  - we can't share with others

  - sensitive species

- "Heads up" – even without specific information, planners need a fair warning about potential conflicts

- Like playing battleship

- Old data needs to be updated

- Data is often misinterpreted

CONCERN: SAFETEA-LU/MPOs and Long range planning

Do MPOs have access to data?

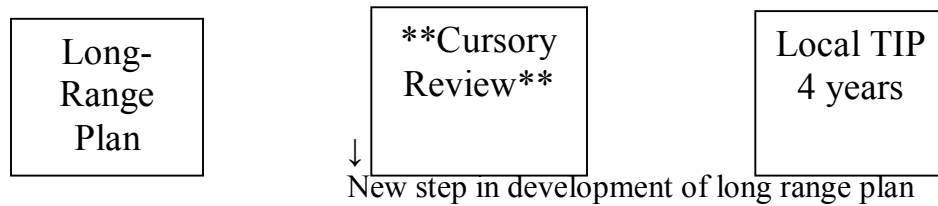The info is out there, we can coordinate BUT

No incentives to do so

There is only so much we can do (small MPO)

PLANNING DIAGRAM EXERCISE

- STIP = All TIPs + more

- Alert MPO during collect/analyze data

- AHTD has rich data sets

- Can be complemented by MPO/local knowledge

- Preliminary findings

- Asking or telling?

- 2-4 week timeframe

- 3 Cs → MPO

- WHO is responsible? → planning engineers

- Only feasible, cost effective

    - no recommendations

- can we define feasible?

- Planning – happening sequentially or concurrently?

- Heritage – in cursory review

- NEPA

  – needs to find place for MPO LRTP

- We know how to do this at the project level, and we have been doing it for years. We need to integrate conservation EARLY in transportation planning, at system level.

- Don't the individual projects come out of the LRTP?

  - expand data sharing

- What data do you have?

- Holes/gaps in process

- Unanswered questions

- Paul Simms/AHTB (editor: spelling?)

- Amy → meeting with MPOs

- Shelby – improve relationships with resource agencies

- Develop consultation process

- PEDs

- Heritage

- G+F

- FWS

- NPS

- FS

- Before it becomes a "line on a map" what do we need to avoid?

- AVOIDANCE is key

- Include conservation goals in long range plan – banking goals, etc.

- Use SWAP to provide awareness in long range vision/planning (species of concern, etc.)

- Recommendation: Begin cursory reviews of long range plan (Gary Del Porto)

Long-Range Plan	**Cursory Review**	Local TIP 4 years

↓
New step in development of long range plan

NEXT STEPS

- MPO initiated management with natural resources agencies, Corps, etc.

- Conservation/protection plan

- Upload MPO and ecoregional boundaries into GeoStor

- MPO boundaries and TNC ecoregional boundary loaded into GeoStor

- Encourage all that are developing to get it back into system

- Keep Rolling!

- Include spatial component to SWAP

- Education is essential

- MPOs + Natural Resources and Corp of Engineers management

- Overlay MPO boundaries and conservation data

- Corp wants to be involved as early as possible in process

- TNC to facilitate getting people together as well as provide conservation sites

- Vista can make planning process more efficient

- Funding constraints

- MPO to contract TNC to identify irreplaceable sites but bring in local gov. and others

- A spatial conservation plan helps inform local officials involved in state-wide development

- Need to identify species that have potential for becoming listed/protection

- Prioritization dev. of conservation plan on species in areas being impacted by growth

- Preliminary/cursory review:

  in long range planning includes identification of data needs (Shari)

- Develop consultation process

- Need to have long range conservation plan and make it available to transportation planners

- Some sites are irreplaceable and others are more flexible (other options available)

- Ecoregional plans identify irreplaceable areas

- Starting point. Need more involvement with others

FEEDBACK ON WORKSHOP
- Good – tools, push, action plan
- Drivers – need more explanation of why
- Tools – VISTA, good apply, MPOs, spatial data, RFPs
- Funds to purchase VISTA
- Follow-up - good
- FACILITATOR – good
- will resolve the unresolved
- Planners – all about Section 6001
- What's the real purpose?   (stewardship, streamlining)
- Learned a lot from presentations, now where to go to get info for planning
- How a/b freight, ITS, safety, historic?
- Conservation is just one component
- No zoning at county level
- 2004 peer exchange – application
- Section 6001 – be more explicit
- Sketch our generic transportation plan prior to workshop
- Terminology above head