Linking Conservation and Transportation Planning
Arkansas Workshop

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June 1, 2006
Integrated Planning: A Systems Perspective

Integrated Approach
opportunities to support multiple community goals and improve quality of life
Evolving the State of Practice

Integrated planning is not new; there are related previous and ongoing efforts.
How do you do it?

• FHWA Initiatives
• Research Efforts
• Partner Activities
• SAFETEA-LU
FHWA – Drivers & Trends

• Wetland Mitigation Peer Exchange
• Exemplary Ecosystem VFG
• Streamlining E.O. – Integrated Planning
• Linking Planning & NEPA Guidance
• Scenario Planning
• PPP – Certainty
• Eco-Logical
• NEPA Indirect & Cumulative Impacts
• GIS Competency
• Context Sensitive Solutions
• Programmatics/Tiering
• Collaboration
Partner Activities – Drivers & Trends

• Watershed Plans – New ACOE Regs
• State Wildlife Action Plans
• Green Infrastructure Planning
• Defense-Base Realignment, Agriculture, Energy-Pipeline Safety, Homeland Security
• Green Highways Partnership – Mid Atlantic
• EO Cooperative Conservation
Research – Drivers and Trends

• NCHRP – Policy, Legal, Technical, Case Studies
• TRB Committees – Summer and Annual Meetings
• Vendor Presentations
• Business Case – transaction costs, project and ecological benefit
Related SAFETEA-LU Provisions

Sect. 6001
  • Environmental Mitigation
  • Consultation w/Resource Agencies
  • Consideration of Resource Maps and Inventories
  • Visualization of Plans

Sect. 6002 – Environmental Process

Sect. 1119 – Wildlife Vehicle Collisions

Sect. 6008 – Context Sensitive Solutions
Read the *Baseline Report* at
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/stewardship/index.htm

- Defines elements, objectives and outcomes of integrated planning
- Identifies challenges, opportunities, and strategies for moving toward outcomes
- Highlights innovative practice
- Defines potential government roles
Linking Planning-Level Evaluation to NEPA

- Use planning process to refine purpose and need.
- Document the planning-level evaluation.
- Summarize and reference it in the NEPA document:
  - Purpose and Need chapter
  - Alternatives Considered chapter
  - Evaluation chapter
- Show that planning satisfied NEPA principles.
- Early involvement of resource agencies.
Benefits: Enhanced Community Outcomes

- Transportation priorities support broad visions for how we want our neighborhoods, towns, and regions to prosper.
- Agencies work collaboratively to ensure early consideration given to equity, safety, mobility, accessibility, environmental, economic, fiscal, community, and land use goals.
Benefits of Green Infrastructure Approach

• Not a new concept in the Mid-Atlantic – has buy-in and credibility at all scales.
• Consistent with Eco-Logical approach.
• Provides information to support a decision making framework that allows for:
  • regulatory streamlining and flexibility (e.g. alternative/advance mitigation)
  • greater certainty for agencies and the public
  • increased effectiveness of management actions
  • regional to local linkages; scientifically defensible
Support is needed in the three focus areas:

- **Ultimately**, develop DSS/expert system to aid project planning, design, and implementation.
- **Take** “systems” approach – multi-scale, multi-objective, scientifically defensible.
- **Stormwater management and ecosystem conservation** are ripe for “pilots”:
  - **SW**: strategically identify location and type of SW management practices necessary to safeguard high quality resources, protect property and infrastructure, and restore degraded areas.
  - **EC**: protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem functions through a GI-like approach.
Consultation w/Resource Agencies

Why State and Local?
Ask or Tell?
Flow chart exchange – who, when, how

• Land Use
• Natural Resources
• Environmental Protection
• Conservation
• Historic Preservation
• Tribes
Models:

- Shuttle Negotiation
- Group by Topic
- Group by Physical Boundaries
- Group by Level of Government
- Opportunistic (State GIS Council)
- Live vs. Virtual
- Government vs. Non-government convenors
Consideration of Resource Maps and Inventories

Context:

- Data Rich vs. Poor
- Maps vs. Inventories
- Public vs. Private lands
- Public knowledge vs. Confidential
- Best Available Science vs. Precautionary Principal
- Project Regulator vs. Strategic Planning
- Fill Data Gaps vs. Follow the Mapping
Context Sensitive Solutions

• CSS VFG
• CSS in Planning Q & As, White Paper
• University Curriculum
• CSS Training – Classroom and Web based
• Update existing NHI training courses
• Construction White Paper
• Urban Thoroughfares Guidelines
• CSS Primer
• AASHTO-CEE Conference/Peer Exchanges
• www.contextsensitivesolutions.org
• Clearinghouse & National Dialogue
6002 Environmental Review Process

Key Elements

• Lead vs. Participating Agency
• Issue Identification and Resolution
• Purpose and Need
• Alternatives
• Coordination Plan
• Deadlines
• Assistance to Other Agencies
• Statue of Limitations
Linking Environmental Resource and Transportation (NCHRP 25-25 Project)

- SCOE/FHWA joint project
- National Scan of Federal, State, regional, local agency activity
- Determine extent environmental data/plans are used in transportation planning and vice-versa
- Highlight good examples