Making the Connection: Linking Transportation Planning To Project Planning (NEPA)

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Mike Bruff, P.E. - North Carolina DOT
NCDOT’s Integration Project

Transportation Planning Process
- Current planning process map
- Customer expectations
- Key issues

Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process
- CTP process map
- Recommendations for implementation of CTP
- Sub-process maps

Project Development Process
- Sub-process maps
- Gap analysis of relevant information available from Merger 01 and PMii documentation

Integrated Transportation Planning and Project Development Process
- Integrated process map with detailed data flows
- Procedures manual(s)
- Key measures
- A recommendation regarding automation support for integrated process
Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process

Define goals for the transportation plan and the community

- Develop CTP Vision
- Conduct Needs Assessment
- Analyze Alternatives
- Develop Final Plan
- Adopt Final Plan
Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process

Collect and analyze data and identify deficiencies

Develop CTP Vision
Conduct Needs Assessment
Analyze Alternatives
Develop Final Plan
Adopt Final Plan
Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process

Develop and analyze transportation alternatives

1. Develop CTP Vision
2. Conduct Needs Assessment
3. Analyze Alternatives
4. Develop Final Plan
5. Adopt Final Plan
Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process

- Optimize alternatives to develop “Best” Long Range Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Adoption by locals and NC DOT

Develop CTP Vision

Conduct Needs Assessment

Analyze Alternatives

Develop Final Plan

Adopt Final Plan

• Optimize alternatives to develop “Best” Long Range Comprehensive Transportation Plan
• Adoption by locals and NC DOT
Developing the Linkage
(Past Efforts)

Phased Environmental Study Guidelines (1996)

Purpose: Improve the environmental screening process in systems planning and limit the number of alternatives to be studied.

Case Studies

- Morganton, NC
  Environmental Screening Report using GIS

- Asheville, NC
  Phase I Environmental Analysis Report and Concurrence Points

- Elizabeth City, NC
  Environmental Screening Report and Consensus Charter
Section 404/NEPA Interagency Merger Process

An Interagency Agreement
Integrating Section 404/NEPA

Wilmington District,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Federal Highway Administration

North Carolina Department of Transportation

May 14, 1997
Why the Section 404/NEPA Interagency Merger Process

- Predictable progression with agency involvement at each stage
- Better information at each decision stage
- Early identification of ‘show stoppers’
- Quality decisions, quality projects
Merger 01 Concurrence Points

1. Purpose and Need
2. Alternatives Carried Forward
   A. Bridging
3. Selected Corridor (LEDPA)
4. Impact Minimization
   A. Alignment
   B. 30 % hydraulic design
   C. Permit drawing
Developing the Linkage
(Past Efforts)

Pre-TIP Planning Process (1998)

*Purpose:* Improve the environmental screening process in systems planning and limit the number of alternatives to be studied in Project Planning.

Pilot Project

Daniel Boone Parkway, Boone, NC
- Environmental Screening Report
- Concurrence on Purpose and Need and Study Alternatives

Other Outcomes
- Purpose and Need Guidelines
- Improved Coordination with Project Development
- Improved GIS Utilization
NCDOT’s Integration Project

Purpose: To develop a well-documented, integrated planning process

- Enables a seamless transfer of information about transportation needs with supporting environmental and community considerations
- Allows appropriate decisions to be upheld
- Meets legal requirements
## Integration Linkages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTP</th>
<th>Project Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem Statement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Purpose &amp; Need</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternatives Analysis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alternatives Analysis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unreasonable Solutions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alternatives Selected for Detailed Study</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-modal Analysis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Multi-modal Alternatives</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Integration Linkages (continued)

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Impact Assessment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>Indirect &amp; Cumulative Effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Involvement</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation Opportunities</td>
<td>Mitigation Needs &amp; Opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Keys to Success of an Integrated Planning Process

- Thorough documentation of the process
- Ongoing education and communication
- Up-to-date statewide GIS coverage
- Electronic online collaboration tool for documentation, sharing of information, providing comments and obtaining approvals
Questions?

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