PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT

United States Army Corps of Engineers

INTERAGENCY FUNDING AGREEMENT

MOU # 405000

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JULY 2016 - JUNE 2017

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have been parties to mutually-beneficial Interagency Agreements. The purpose of the Interagency Agreement is to provide early and frequent involvement by USACE staff in PennDOT's Transportation Project Development Process to ensure that projects are developed in a manner sensitive to permit applications. Each year, PennDOT performs a Customer Service Survey (CSS) to assess the effectiveness of the Interagency Agreement in meeting this purpose. In addition, PennDOT has asked USACE to complete an Annual Summary Report (ASR), providing a synopsis of performance, notable accomplishments, and areas for improvement.

An ASR was provided by John Gibble of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, detailing USACE work within the fiscal year, and noting accomplishments and areas for improvement. The ASR provided USACE with the opportunity to critique their performance and provided information to PennDOT on the types of services provided. The ASR was distributed to the eleven (11) PennDOT P Engineering Districts, and the Environmental Policy and Development Section (EPDS).

The CSS was distributed to the eleven (11) PennDOT Engineering Districts, and EPDS. Each group provided responses to assess the substance and timeliness of project document reviews, level of agency participation in appropriate meetings and field views, significance and pertinence of issues raised, development and facilitation of solutions/compromises to project issues, and responsiveness to customer's requests for technical assistance. A qualitative scale was used for each statement on the survey, with ratings “Completely Agree”, “Agree”, “Neutral”, “Disagree”, and “Completely Disagree”.

CSS ratings were tallied for each question based on the number of respondents selecting a particular rating for each question. Each district was counted as a single respondent. The tallied ratings for each question were then graphically displayed for that question. Comments provided by the respondents helped to highlight outstanding performances, as well as those areas in need of attention during the next year.

USACE completed reviews on roughly 200 actions, including individual permits, authorizations of PASPGP-4 and Nationwide Permits, permit modifications and other determinations. Funded Corps project managers attended over 100 pre-application meetings. Guidance, in the form of state-wide and PennDOT District-specific presentations, was provided on compliance, mitigation banking, Section 408 coordination, and development of PASPGP-5, was provided to PennDOT staff. During the rating period Philadelphia District issued one Standard Permit within 34 days and Pittsburgh District issued one Standard Permit within 94 days. In Philadelphia District, three projects were expedited from standard permit review to Nationwide permit review by reconsideration of the project limits and impacts.

The USACE had several notable accomplishments throughout the fiscal year. Corps staff supported the KEES permit application system development through on-site meetings and participate in regularly scheduled teleconferences. All three Districts participated in planning and executing basic and advanced wetland training for PennDOT staff. The Corps has been coordinating with the P-3 Contractor and has incorporated review of P-3 transportation projects under the funded application stream to support speedy replacement of transportation structures. The funded Corps staff have participated with PennDOT in the development of a Watershed Resources Registry with other agencies. Pittsburgh District assisted PennDOT in coordinating complex bridge removals (Hulton and Donora) involving Coast Guard review and coordination with other Corps Divisions.

The USACE suggested several items that could be improved/streamlined in the next fiscal year. Further coordination with mitigation banking efforts including a meeting with PennDOT Central Office and District Offices, their consultants, as well as Corps project managers and management would be beneficial to assess the status of mitigation banking and map a path forward. Continued

work on ensuring Greenport has adequate access to PennDOT applications. A Section 106 and Tribal Coordination meeting among FHWA, PennDOT, and the three Corps Districts could result in statewide streamlining of review. Addition of the P-3 contractor to the application stream has directly and indirectly resulted in greater workload for the Corps. It would be helpful to review the Corps program with the P-3 contractor, though processes have improved as the program develops. A revision to the seed mix specifications in PUB 408 needs to be done to remove plants that are classified as noxious, exotic, or invasive.

PennDOT review of USACE MOU metrics indicate that they fall within the Green category for all metrics.

PennDOT district staff have provided positive feedback from the districts and found that the funded USACE staff has consistently provided excellent technical guidance and were proactive in identifying issues and solutions.

The 2016/2017 CSS results show a positive working relationship between USACE and PennDOT District Offices. **The overall score for the USACE is that they meet all standards**.

In addition to the ASR and CSS information, PennDOT performed a review of the USACE performance trends which show overall positive working relationship. Based on the assessment and yearly evaluation, the Department is getting above and beyond customary service.

Attendees:

Mark Lombard, PennDOT
Kathryn McKelvey, PennDOT
Drew Ames, PennDOT
Bryon Ruhl, PennDOT
Keith Lynch, FHWA
Jon Crum, FHWA
Scott Hans, USACE
Mike Dombroskie, USACE
Randy Piersol, USACE
Bill Jenkins, USACE
Allen Edris, USACE
John Gibble, USACE
Wade Chandler, USACE
Dan Swenson, USACE
Ed Bonner, USACE