OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE
OTEC, OCTOBER 10-11, 2017

Ohio Department of Transportation
ODOT NATIONAL FOCUS AREAS

Tim Hill, Administrator- OES
INNOVATION W/IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

○ Pilot process in ESA and CWA
  ○ Allow a pilot projects to invent a new way of doing business
  ○ May encourage legislation change elsewhere
  ○ Allows to work outside current requirements
  ○ Designed to encourage a new way of thinking
PROJECT SCHEDULES

- FAST Act required - project schedules for EA/EIS projects to be concurred upon by participating agencies.
  - Establish that only the environmental portion of the schedule needs concurrence, coordination plans need only contain major project milestones and may contain deadline ranges, schedule changes require the concurrence of only the affected federal agencies, and deadlines be set for agency responses; lack of response indicates concurrence.
FAST Act updated PEL to require 10 stringent conditions must be met before a planning decision can be carried into NEPA.

We desire to remove the 10 conditions and build in flexibility to adopt planning decisions into NEPA.
FISCAL CONSTRAINT AND NEPA

- 40 CFR requires a project to be in the long range plan and the next phase of the project to be fully funded in the STIP before NEPA can be approved.
  - Desire to remove this requirement. Shouldn’t be a condition to NEPA approval.
  - Or make it only on the largest projects...
PROGRAMMATIC CE AGREEMENTS

- FAST Act allows CE’s to be project types listed in FHWA regulation as well as additional CE’s that meet federal requirements. FHWA issued rule and guidance that changed CE’s to state any new CE’s must be published for public comment and approved by USDOT.

- Allow states to add to a CE programmatic based on local experience (as in the past).
MANY OTHER AREAS...

- Endangered Species Act
- Clean Water Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Section 6(f)
- Section 4(f)
- Conformity
- As well as others....
ODOT TRAINING

Tim Hill, Administrator- OES
Developed – Needs Revisions
1. Noise
2. Feasibility Studies/AER
3. Purpose and Need
4. Floodplains
5. Waterway Permits

Expected Release: Jan/Feb 2018
ONLINE TRAINING CONVERSION

- **In Development**
  1. ECO 101
  2. Project Development Process
  3. Section 106
  4. Public Involvement
  5. Underserved Populations

Expected Release: Jan/Feb 2018
Up Next
1. Section 4f/6f
2. Categorical Exclusions
3. Farmlands
4. Regulatory Materials Review
5. Air Quality

Expected Release: June 2018
ONE-WEEK NEPA CLASS

- Being “re-sized” (2 to 3 day)
  - New focus will be on decision-making
  - Will have on-line courses as a prerequisite, for example:
    - Feasibility Studies/AER
    - Purpose and Need
    - ECO 101
    - Project Development Process
    - Section 106
    - Public Involvement
    - PDP

Expected Release: June 2018
IN-PERSON CLASSES (200 LEVEL COURSES)

- Will be reserved for complex areas that require classes to have detailed examples, class exercises and active involvement...
  - Public Involvement
  - Section 4(f)
  - Specific Endangered Species studies
  - Others TBD
PUBLIC COMMENT SYSTEM

- System designed to manage comments for both projects and for PI events (public meeting...)
- Public comments are assignable and responses will be posted back to the ODOT WEB site
- Designed in conjunction with ODOT’s redesigned WEB site
- Future enhancement to merger it with EnviroNet
- Release expected in Jan 2018
Tim Hill
Environmental Administrator
Office of Environmental Services
Tim.Hill@dot.ohio.gov
614.644.0377