

# **DISTRICT ETDM STATUS REPORTS JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2006**

## **District 1**

### Native American Coordination

- Conducted EST Training for Steve Terry, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
- Finalized a process for coordinating ETDM project reviews with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in District One

### ETDM Pre-Screening Activities

- Developed Field Data Collection Guidelines and Checklist to assist ETDM project reviewers to better understand project issues and the context of the proposed transportation improvement with the natural, cultural, and human environment
- Developed Pre-screening Public Outreach Approach that defines methods for engaging communities to gather early public sentiment about proposed ETDM projects
- Developed Guidance for Summarizing Public Input for inclusion in the EST
- Conducted Pre-screening Field Reviews for four ETDM Projects in Manatee and Sarasota Counties

### MPO/SIS Coordination

- Coordinated with FDOT Central Office (SIS) and Collier MPO for the ETAT Release of ETDM Project #6311
- Coordinated with MPOs to finalize 2006 ETDM Project Release Schedule for planning and programming screens
- Initiated Purpose and Need Statements for four ETDM projects in Manatee and Sarasota Counties
- Coordinated with Sarasota-Manatee MPO to conduct pre-screening field reviews and identify existing public input for four ETDM projects
- Initiated a dispute resolution process with the Collier County MPO for the SR 29 project

### ETAT Review and Coordination

- Conducted SCE Evaluation for ETDM Project #6311

### D1 ETDM Team Coordination

- Updated D1 ETDM Projects Map
- Held strategy meetings with D1 ETDM Team
- Completed EST “clean-up” to remove projects that no longer needed to be stored on the EST

### D1 ETDM Newsletter

- Developed topics for Issue 7 of the D1 ETDM Newsletter

## ETDM Benefits

### *Improved Agency Collaboration:*

The ETDM Process has fostered a team approach to identifying transportation solutions that are responsive to environmental and cultural preservation goals and to community livability objectives. Early collaboration among the FDOT, MPOs and environmental resource agencies has improved the mutual awareness and understanding of mobility needs and environmental preservation.

The clear definition of transportation project Purpose and Need Statements early in the planning process has facilitated understanding by non-transportation professionals. More attention is given to fully describing in layman terms the project, project context, trends, and forecasts so that the ETAT, with its diverse disciplines, missions and perspectives, can be more effective in assessing potential project effects. This improved understanding has led to early agreement on project Purpose and Need Statements and has minimized contention about the need for transportation projects that were traditionally common before the ETDM Process.

### *Improved Long Range Transportation Planning:*

Improved information about potential effects of proposed transportation projects included in MPO Long Range Transportation Plans to environmental and community resources have improved transportation decision-making during the plan development process. This awareness of potential project effects to important environmental and community resources has resulted in project proposals to be modified or removed from consideration for implementation. It has also resulted in improved long-range cost estimates for transportation projects that respond to potential environmental mitigation requirements.

### *Focused Evaluations During Project Development:*

Project screening events conducted in the ETDM Process has facilitated the identification of key project issues early in the planning process and allowed the FDOT to focus resources on the issues that warrant further evaluation during project development. Resources are no longer used to study issues “to prove the negative” when ETAT members have indicated that there are minimal or no potential effects. Early evaluations have minimized the number of project alternatives that are moved forward to the project development phase for more detailed evaluation.

### *Improved Dispute Resolution Process:*

Through the ETDM Dispute Resolution Process, the FDOT, MPOs, and resource agencies have successfully identified solutions to potential disputes early in the transportation planning process. This has removed unnecessary study of project alternatives during project development that are not consistent with resource protection plans. This has resulted in time and cost savings during project development.

*Pre-screening Activities:*

In the months preceding the ETAT review period, the D1 ETDM Team conducts a field review of the project corridor to collect existing conditions data and to allow project reviewers to identify and more fully understand potential project issues. Community data is collected in the field with hand-held GPS devices and uploaded to the EST to support SCE Evaluations, along with pictures of key features. The field team typically consists of a community planner, an environmental scientist, and a representative of the MPO or local government with familiarity of the project area. The team approach allows the sharing of perspectives on the potential for project effects - broadening awareness of team members and improving the quality of project reviews.

This period also allows the team to organize and conduct public outreach and collect public input, if prior public input is not available. Public input is an integral component of the SCE Evaluation.

**District 2**

- Suraya Teeple, the District 2 ETDM Coordinator resigned to take a position with the Jacksonville Transit Authority and Pete Southall became the interim coordinator.
- Eighteen projects were loaded in the last quarter of 2005.
- Six of these were released and reviewed during the quarter and need Summary Reports to be published.
- Two projects are currently awaiting QA/QC.
- Input began for two EIS projects that will be run through the Programming Screen to comply with Safetea-LU requirements.
- The ETAT Coordinators meeting planned for April was rescheduled for June. An announcement of the meeting dates and location will be made very soon.

**District 3**

- Released first programming phase project (Gulf Coast Parkway)
- Coordinated with MPO/TPO offices on the release of projects for 2006/2007
- Met with Northwest Florida Regional Planning Council to discuss ETDM and continuing coordination

**ETDM Benefits**

- ETDM helped to disseminate information to ETAT members regarding field reviews.

**District 4**

- Two transit projects released for Programming Screen.
  - South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis, {SFECCTA}
  - Broward Intermodal Center and People Mover

- One bridge Replacement project released for Programming Screen.
- Continuing Project Development using ETDM Process on SR 70(Okeechobee Road).
- Beginning Flagler Memorial Bridge ETDM PD & E.
- Beginning I-95 ETDM PD&E in Broward & Palm Beach Counties. (Oakland Park Blvd. to Glades Road)
- Continuing Project Development using ETDM Process for SR 811/Alternate A1A (SEIR). This project is being managed by Palm Beach County with FDOT liaison.
- Coordinating with the MPO's in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River for LRTP updates.
- COA approval obtained on the SR 80/Southern Blvd. Bridge replacement.
- Coordinating with FHWA on purpose & need and COA for SR 710 projects.

### ETDM Benefits

- ETDM screening of SR 70 from Turnpike to Jenkins Road and coordination with the ETAT members allowed elimination of the Wetlands Evaluation Report and an Endangered Species Technical Memorandum instead of a complete ESBA saving time and money in the PD&E study.
- For SR 70 PD&E funds were moved to the design phase and the PD&E was done with a district wide contract in interim years, advancing the project in the work program by two years.
- ETDM screening of the Blue Heron Tidal Relief Bridge replacement showed that no USCG permit was required and the environmental class of action was reduced to a Non-Major State Action instead of a Categorical Exclusion. Early coordination was begun with ACOE and NMFS based on their comments in the screening.
- ETDM screening of the Flagler Memorial Bridge replacement identified historical issues so that early coordination with SHPO was initiated.
- In general, ETDM screening of projects allows more focused scopes of service and a more accurate estimate and negotiation of required staff hours which saves time and money.
- ETAT summit meeting was held for the I-595 PD&E which facilitated resolution of several permitting issues with the ACOE, SFWMD and USCG.

### District 5

- Completing data collection and coordination efforts for six future Programming Screens:
  - US 192 from CR 532 to US 441 in Osceola Co. (developer project)
  - SR 40 through Marion, Lake, and Volusia Counties (PD&E has already begun)
  - I-95 / I-4 / US 92 Interchange (previous PD&E; to be re-done in 06/07)
  - Lake Destiny Road Extension in town of Eatonville (received Fed. earmark)
  - US 1/ SR 100 Connector Rd. in Flagler Co. (received Fed. earmark)

- Lake Mary Downtown Bypass (received Fed. earmark)
- Sent three Programming Screen Project to ETAT for Review:
  - Black Branch Creek in Flagler Co. (Design in yr06/07)
  - John Young Pkwy. from Vine St. to Pleasant Hill Rd. in Osceola Co. (PD&E in yr06/07)
  - SR A1A Maintenance project in Flagler Co. (incorporating early Public Involvement into ETDM)
- Completed Planning Summary Report:
  - SR 50 from SR 33 to Bloxam Ave in Lake Co.
- Completed two Programming Summary Reports:
  - Maitland Blvd. from Maitland Concourse to Maitland Ave.
  - Sharpes Ferry Bridge in Marion County (PD&E scheduled in 06/07 –*may go Programmatic*)
- Gave ETDM presentations and introduced two Programming Screen projects at METROPLAN ORLANDO’s four committee meetings prior to ETDM screening. Projects presented were the US 192 and John Young Pkwy. projects (both located in Osceola Co.)
- Sent out D5’s third ETDM Newsletter Feb. 28, 2006.
- Met with D5 Planning/Public Transportation group to give update on ETDM and discuss possibilities for Transit projects that might go through the ETDM process.
- Planning second D5 ETAT meeting to take place May 16/17 in Orlando.
- Presented ETDM update to D5 MPO Directors at District’s MPO Quarterly Meeting. Discussed ETDM Grandfathering Memo, SCE data efforts, and the MPOs transition into initiating Planning Screens for their next LRTP update.
- ETDM Benefits
- Refined the project limits and better defined the scope of work (Maitland Blvd. ETDM #6731) through coordination with METROPLAN ORLANDO’s committees and additional coordination with local governments.
- Incorporated earlier input from METROPLAN ORLANDO’s committees prior to, or during ETAT review.
- Presentations were given at the CAC, BPAC, TTC, and MAC meetings prior to, or during ETAT Screening reviews. A summary of comments from committee members to be provided in the Final ETDM Summary Reports and passed on to ETAT Members and FDOT Project Managers (John Young Parkway #5252 and US 192 #7319).
- Minimized scope of work required for Cultural Resource Assessment Survey on Sandlake Road (ETDM 3119) based on detailed SHPO review and comment.
- Accelerated production schedule by 6 months for US 17/92 project (ETDM 3123) by overlapping PD&E and Design schedules and moving survey work into PD&E.
- Focused early technical studies on key project issues to facilitate aggressive production schedule (I-95 ETDM 3332)

- Developed a Purpose and Need checklist to assist MPOs in entering their projects for planning screens. This checklist is being adopted for all new projects, including earmarks and potential TRIP projects.
- Increased coordination between planning and PD&E phases (all projects).

## **District 6**

- Card Sound Road Programming Screen Project
  - Programming Screen Summary Report finalized and published
- I-95 Programming Screen Project
  - Programming Summary Report published
- SW 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue Programming Screen Project
  - Conducted SCE evaluation for project and coordinated with Miami-Dade MPO
  - Entered SCE evaluation and public comments into the EST
  - Class of Action finalized
  - Programming Screen Summary Report finalized and published
- Miami Streetcar (Programming Screen – Transit Project)
  - Coordinated with City of Miami and its consultant HDR to develop project description and Purpose and Need
  - Submitted to ETAT on January 26
  - Coordinated with MPO on any previous public commentary for project
  - Coordinated with MPO on SCE Evaluations
- Krome Avenue South Programming Screen Project
  - Purpose and Need and Project Description finalized
  - Anticipated submittal to ETAT mid-April 2006
  - Being screened as part of SAFETEA-LU legislation
- I-395 Programming Screen Project
  - Purpose and Need and Project Description finalized
  - Coordinated with MPO on any previous public commentary for the project
  - Anticipated submittal to ETAT mid-April 2006
  - Being screened as part of SAFETEA-LU legislation
- SFECCTA Project
  - Project being screened by District 4, with District 6 SCE review request from ETDM coordinator (Richard Young)
  - Coordinating with MPO on any previous public commentary for the project and SCE evaluations
- Updated District Project Schedule
- Held FDOT District VI bi-weekly team conference calls throughout the quarter
- Held coordination conference calls with the FDOT team and Miami- Dade MPO throughout the quarter.
- Obtained permission from MPO ETDM Coordinator to enter comments obtained through MPO processes on their behalf.

## **ETDM Benefits**

- Enhanced project-related communication between PD&E and Planning units.
- Coordination with the Miami-Dade MPO:
  - Incorporation of public comment received by MPO into FDOT PDE Studies; Refining mechanism to obtain public outreach through the MPO process to be utilized in the ETDM process.
- Tool for coordination across District lines:
  - Have coordinated with D4 to provide comments on the SFECCTA, which is a transit project that spans across multiple counties.
- Tool for coordination with other agencies (i.e., The City of Miami):
  - Used the ETDM process to screen a City- sponsored transit project (Miami Streetcar).
- Project screenings have resulted in the streamlining of the PD&E Study scope development process:
  - Able to use the results of ETAT review to determine which kind of studies, reports and permits that will be needed for a project. Earlier Class of Action determination inc. coordination with FHWA.
- Agencies have had an easier time communicating concerns and visualizing FDOT projects:
  - Simplifies the agencies' ability to comment, resulting in faster comments and response times. ETDM is helping develop a clearer understanding of FDOT processes by ETAT agencies. District has developed a stronger rapport with some agency representatives.
- Causes in depth reevaluation/consideration of inter-related project development processes – for example, the Advance Notification process. EST helped to streamline the AN process on projects that had completed or were completing the Programming Screen.

## **District 7**

- Evaluated GIS data and developed Degree of Effects for the following three FIHS projects (Hillsborough County) in the ETDM Planning Screen and finalized Planning Screen Summary Report in January:
  - ETDM #4131 – SR 60 from Valrico Road to Dover Road
  - ETDM #4148 – I-75 from SR 60 to I-4
  - ETDM #4263 – I-75 from SR 674 to Big Bend Road
- Evaluated GIS data and developed Degree of Effects for ETDM #6651 - SR 54 from Curley Road to Morris Bridge Road (Pasco County) in the ETDM Programming Screen and finalized Programming Screen Summary Report in January. Also, prepared the Class of Action form to submit to FHWA. The Class of Action was approved by FHWA as a Type II CE on February 15, 2006.
- Prepared Purpose and Need Statement, digitized along with Project Description for the following two FIHS projects and submitted to ETAT for review in the Planning Screen:
  - ETDM #7741 – SR 60 from Dover Road to SR 39
  - ETDM #7883 – SR 54/US 41 Interchange

- US 301 from CR 54 to Dade City Bypass (ETDM # 6011) – The Purpose and Need statement is complete and entered. The project has gone through GIS analysis. Waiting for Mr. Scott Farash (PM) to provide the update LRE. Information was requested and will enter information and submit for ETAT review by end of the month.

### **Turnpike Enterprise**

- One person attended ETDM Training in Orlando
- Submitted 2 projects for review
  - Polk Parkway/Pace Road Interchange - Programming Screen
  - HEFT Widening Kendal to SR 836 - Programming Screen