Indirect and Cumulative Effects Task Group
April Sub-Group Meeting Summary
May 2-5, 2006

FDOT District Five Urban Office
Orlando, Florida

NATURAL RESOURCES SUB-GROUP

The following ideas were expressed by the Natural Resources Sub-Group for each of the
following considerations:

TIMING OF ANALYSIS:
- Conduct analysis consistent with Comprehensive Plan or LRTP update schedules.
- Conduct analysis during the Planning Screen, and update it using latest available information during the Programming Screen. The analysis (Summary Report) for a particular resource could be linked in the EST to several projects within a geographic area.
- Conduct annual ETAT meetings – discuss transportation, land use, and resource data changes since last cumulative effects analysis and determine if evaluation needs to be updated – update at least every 3 years.

AREA OF EFFECT:
- The reviewer should define the boundaries in the EST, which will vary by resource and describe the basis for the resource boundary.
- County or regional boundaries should be used for cumulative effects evaluation depending on the resource.
- Natural resources do not have geopolitical boundaries and need to be evaluated as such. Drainage basins could cross several geopolitical boundaries.
- Can existing data layers be used to delineate resource boundaries? It may be difficult to digitize boundaries of some resources.

DATA NEEDS:
- Future Land Use Maps.
- Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCCS).
- Transportation projects in area.
- DRIs.
- Aerial photography.
- Permits issued in area.
- Location of mitigation areas.
- Resource Recovery Plans – it was noted that Resource Recovery Plans are not developed for many resources, but they are needed.

TIMING OF ANALYSIS/ GENERAL PROCESS:
1. An initial cumulative effects evaluation would be conducted during the Planning Screen. The cumulative effects evaluation might be applicable to all projects within a certain geographic area.
2. The results would be stored in the Planning Summary Report that would be distributed to local governments and MPOs for their use in long-range planning efforts.
3. The cumulative effects evaluation would be updated during the Programming Screen if certain conditions warranted an update (see Evaluation Updates below for initial thoughts).
4. The results of the cumulative effects evaluation would be used to define relevant scoping recommendations for project development.

AREA OF EFFECT:
- Area of effect should be based on the potential issues and whether the project is in a rural or urban community.
- Area of effect could change as we move from the Planning Screen to the Programming Screen based on issues identified.
- It is necessary to digitize the area of effect in the EST and then be able to change the area of effect later in a subsequent project phase.
- Consider using larger planning areas and avoid evaluating potential cumulative effects to small neighborhood areas.
- Neighborhood-level evaluation might be too burdensome and unnecessary for cumulative effects evaluation.
- Neighborhoods may have little consistency of definition/characteristics across the state because they are mostly administered at the local level.

TRIGGERS FOR CUMULATIVE EFFECTS EVALUATION:
- Have there been projects/actions in the project area that have had a negative effect on the resource? (past)
- Is there another action or project currently ongoing? (present)
- Are there other major actions or projects that are currently planned or programmed? (foreseeable future)

DATA NEEDS:
- DRIs
- Future Land Use
- Known Transportation Improvements
- Comprehensive Plans/Capital Improvement Programs. Links providing access to these would be useful.
- Title VI – Demographic Characteristics
- Community Information
- Aerial Photography

- Public Input

CONSIDERATIONS:
The Sociocultural Sub-Group suggested that the questions in the SCE Evaluation Handbook are applicable to cumulative effects evaluation. These questions provide important considerations for evaluating the potential social, economic, land use, mobility, aesthetic, and relocation impacts for proposed projects. The group highlighted the following key considerations during there discussion.

- Is the project an EA/EIS/CatEx?
- Are there any significant community resources in the area?
- Is there known or perceived public controversy regarding the project?
- What is the level of public involvement?
- Is the project in an urban or rural area?
- Are there regional economic trends?

EVALUATION UPDATES:
The group discussed and suggested some of the indicators that might warrant updating a cumulative effects evaluation conducted during the Planning Screen. The following changes might warrant updating the previous evaluation during the Programming Screen:
- Significant increases (10%) in BEBR population projections
- New DRIs
- New Long Range Transportation Plan
- New projects planned in the area
- Redistricting School Boundaries

TIMING OF ANALYSIS/ GENERAL PROCESS:
The group defined a general process for evaluating cumulative effects in the ETDM Process.

1. An initial cumulative effects evaluation would be conducted during the Planning Screen. The cumulative effects evaluation might be applicable to all projects within a certain geographic area.
2. The results would be stored in the Planning Summary Report that would be distributed to local governments and MPOs for their use in long-range planning efforts.
3. The cumulative effects evaluation would be updated during the Programming Screen if certain conditions warranted an update (see Evaluation Updates below for initial thoughts).
4. The results of the cumulative effects evaluation would be used to define relevant scoping recommendations for project development.

AREA OF EFFECT:
The Cultural Resource Sub-Group is developing a table identifying different cultural resources and information, such as the spatial distribution of the resource, to determine the area of effect.

TRIGGERS FOR CUMULATIVE EFFECTS EVALUATION:
- Have there been projects/actions in the project area that have had a negative effect on the resource? (past)
- Is there another action or project currently ongoing? (present)
- Are there other major actions or projects that are currently planned or programmed? (foreseeable future)
- Is the resource on the critical list? *Brian Yates will refine this wording.*
- Identify the nature and scope of the actions (i.e. repaving is a CatEx) Should minor projects be considered in a cumulative effects evaluation?

DATA NEEDS:
- DRIs.
- Future Land Use.
- Known Transportation Improvements.
- Aerial Photography.
- Title VI issues if the project is in a historic district.
- Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs) for public or private projects.