Utilities and Environmental Permitting

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PREFACE

- Highways for Motorists
- Benefits from Joint-Use of R/W
- Utilities Responsibilities
  - Accommodation
  - Relocation
- Relationships –
  - GDOT - Local Gov'ts - Utilities
Utilities on R/W

WHY?

- 23 CFR Part 645, Subpart B

“...it is in the public interest for utility facilities to be accommodated on the right-of-way of a Federal-aid or direct Federal highway project when such use and occupancy ... do not adversely affect highway or traffic safety...”
GDOT Utilities Task Force

- Georgia DOT (GDOT)
  - Preconstruction
  - Construction
  - Operations
  - Field Districts
- Georgia Highway Contractors Assoc. (GHCA)
- Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council (GUCC)
GDOT Responsibility

- Authority to Regulate (OCGA & Feds)
- Authority to Reimburse (OCGA & Feds)
- Purpose of Utility Accommodations Manual
- Uniform Policies & Standards
- Basis for the Planning of Utility Installations
- Establish Permitting System
Utility Facilities

- Service Lines
  - meters/vaults/pressure devices – off R/W
  - except installations for highway service

- Abandoned Facilities
  - Ownership is not relinquished
    - reference OCGA 25-9 (GUFPA – Ga Utility Facility Protection Act)
  - ***Hazardous materials – removal***
Control of Soil, Erosion & Sediment

Utility shall apply for and obtain all permits required:

- Accommodation and Relocation
- [same, unless work is covered as a GDOT pay item (i.e. included in highway contract)]
Policy Implementation

- January 1, 2009 - Compliance with revised UAM

- NPDES Utility Compliance Statement
  Addresses activities coverage under Permit No. GAR100002
Policy Implementation

➢ GUPS Permit Special Provision
  Section 161 Control of Erosion and Sedimentation

Attached to all utility permits. Requires contact info for Utilities’ Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission designated individual.
Requirements waived if relocations included in GDOT project plans.
Compliance Requirements

- GDOT Commitments
  - “Green Sheet”
  - Plan delineation of protected resources and/or plan notes
Utilities Concerns

- GDOT commitments coordinated to Utilities clearly & in timely manner.
- Damaged erosion control items.
Keys For Success

- Early & thorough coordination in PE phase
  - (Follow the PDP & Utility Accommodation Policy)

- PFA – Contract Management

- Public Interest Determination (PID – SB 19)

- Use Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) at concept and/or early in preliminary design
Keys for Success

- Ensure utilities & railroads have required plans components for each submission

- Include critical schedule and staging time into the highway contract completion date [(i.e. Work Plan (UAS))]

- Early Utility Authorizations – R/W acquisition, material procurement, etc. (activities w/ lengthy lead times)
Keys For Success

- Consider potential delays and additional costs
- Build true relationships with Utilities & Contractors
- Field Plan Review (FPR) questions
- Continuing Training & Education
Keys For Success

- Include the Worksite Utility Coordination Supervisor (WUCS) special provision

- Utility Coordination meetings on Construction

- Inspection and Documentation

- Utility Conflicts Special Provision
  
  [Escalation and Mediation Processes (SB 19)]
Vision & Philosophies

Vision – efficient and effective project delivery
(i.e. – no more excuses)

Philosophies – “Cradle to Grave”
[Concept thru Final Acceptance]

& – “The 4 C’s” [Communication, Cooperation, Coordination & Commitment]
Questions?

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