

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******



GDOT UAM – Chapter 2

- **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.



Policy Implementation

- 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

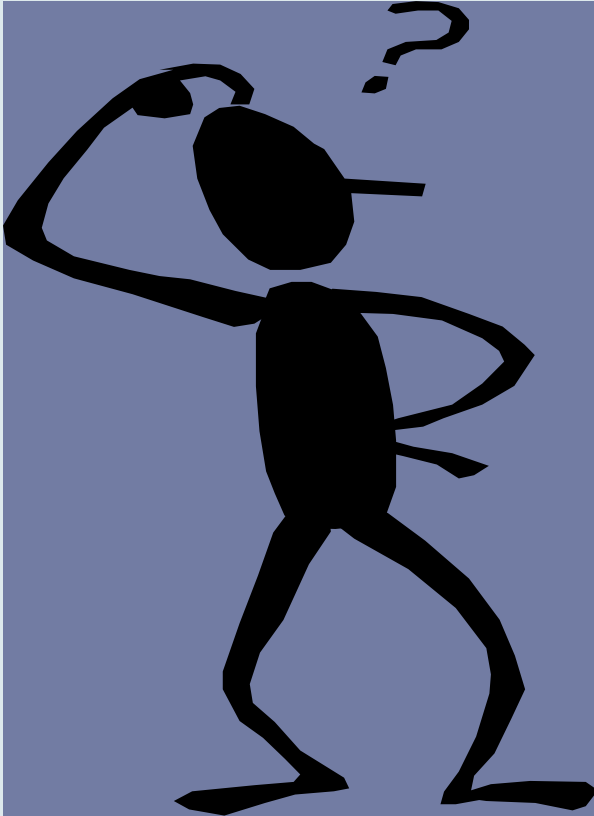
Vision – *efficient and effective project delivery*
(i.e. – *no more excuses*)

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

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



Questions?



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“Doing Business” → “Utilities”

