



INTEGRATING CONSERVATION, HIGHWAY PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

SHRP2 Capacity
Product C06:
Implementing
Eco-Logical

July 16, 2013

Presented by

Shari Schaftlein, Director, Office of Human Environment
Office of Planning, Environment and Realty
Federal Highway Administration

KEY BENEFITS OF ECO-LOGICAL



- Promotes streamlined and efficient delivery of infrastructure projects
- Improves the predictability of project permitting and environmental review
- Enhances interagency coordination

ECO-LOGICAL BACKGROUND

Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects

Prepared by the Steering Team
April 2006

Signed by the Steering Team Partners' Leadership



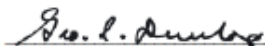
Dale Bosworth, Chief of Forest Service
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture



J. Richard Capka, Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation



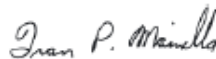
Kathleen Clarke, Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior



George S. Dunlop, Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary
Department of the Army



H. Dale Hall, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior




Fran Mainella, Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



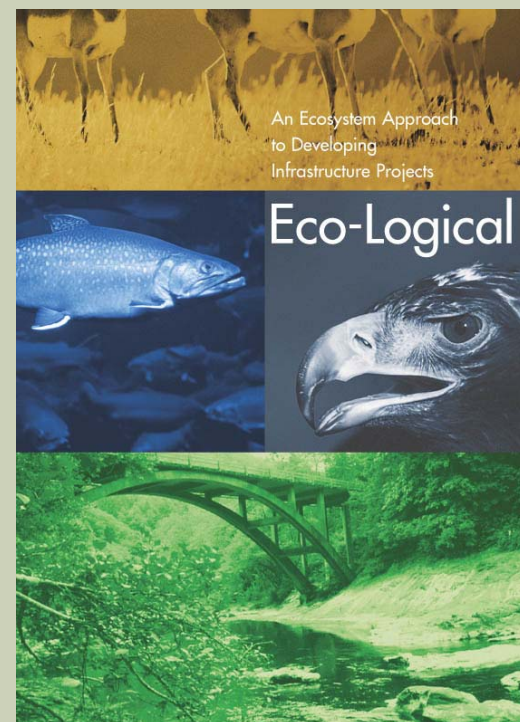
Anne Miller, Director
Office of Federal Activities
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Diane Regas, Director
Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

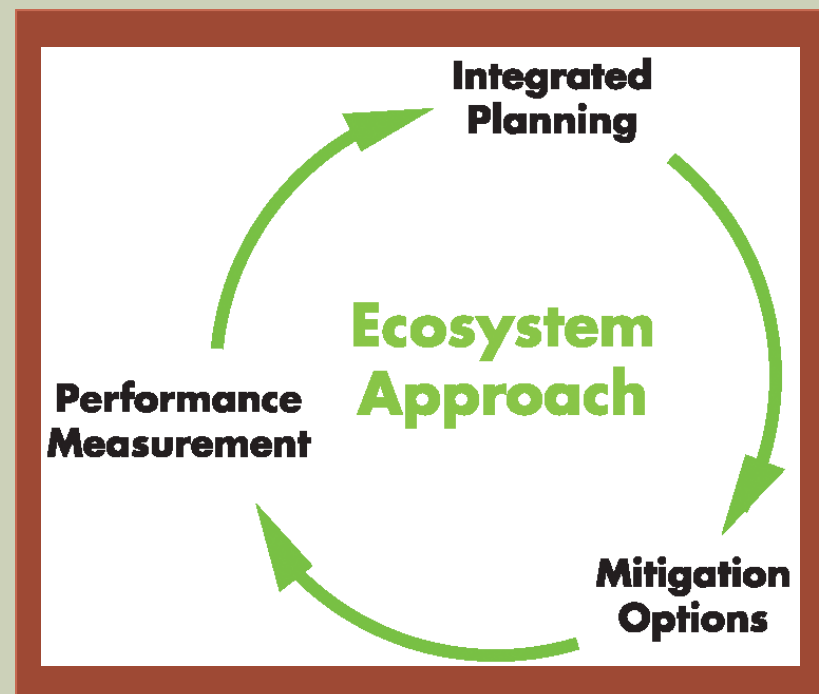


James R. Walpole, General Counsel
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



ECO-LOGICAL APPROACH

- Predictability
- Connectivity
- Conservation
- Transparency



INTERAGENCY TEAM FOR ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS FOR MONTANA (ITEEM)

- ITEEM process development began in 2002
- Agency executives formed the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and staff level representatives developed the ITEEM process
- Highways 93 and 83 Project were used to test the ITEEM and the *Eco-Logical* approaches
- All participating agencies felt that ITEEM was a worthwhile endeavor that has led to success across Montana



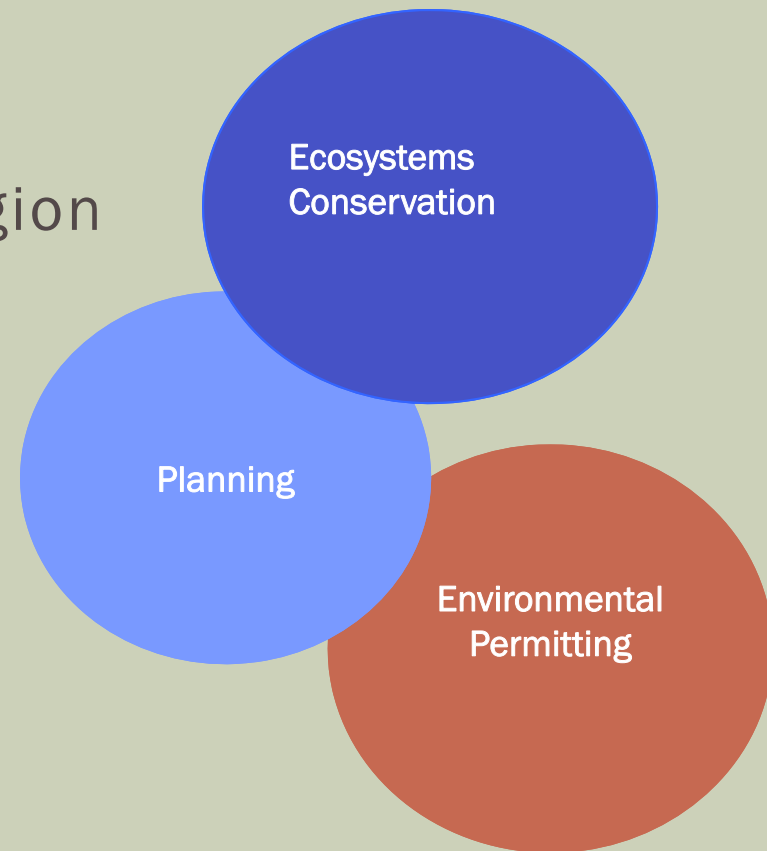
IMPLEMENTING ECO-LOGICAL



- C06A
 - Integrated Ecological Framework (IEF)
- C06B
 - IEF tools and processes
- C21
 - Pilot projects
- Implementing Eco-Logical
 - Implementation plan

IEF OVERVIEW

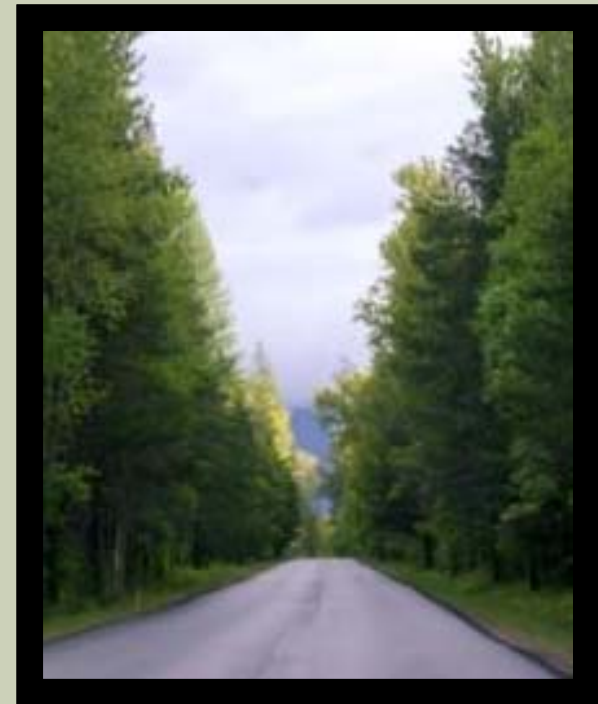
- 9-step process to identify ecological priorities in a region
- Includes tools for:
 - Cumulative effects and alternatives analysis
 - Regulatory assurances
 - Ecosystems crediting



IEF STEPS

Nine Steps of the IEF

1. Build and Strengthen Collaborative Partnerships and Vision
2. Integrate Ecosystem Plans
3. Create Regional Ecosystem Framework
4. Assess Transportation Effects
5. Establish and Prioritize Ecological Actions
6. Develop Crediting Strategy
7. Develop Agreements
8. Implement Agreements
9. Monitoring and Adaptive Management

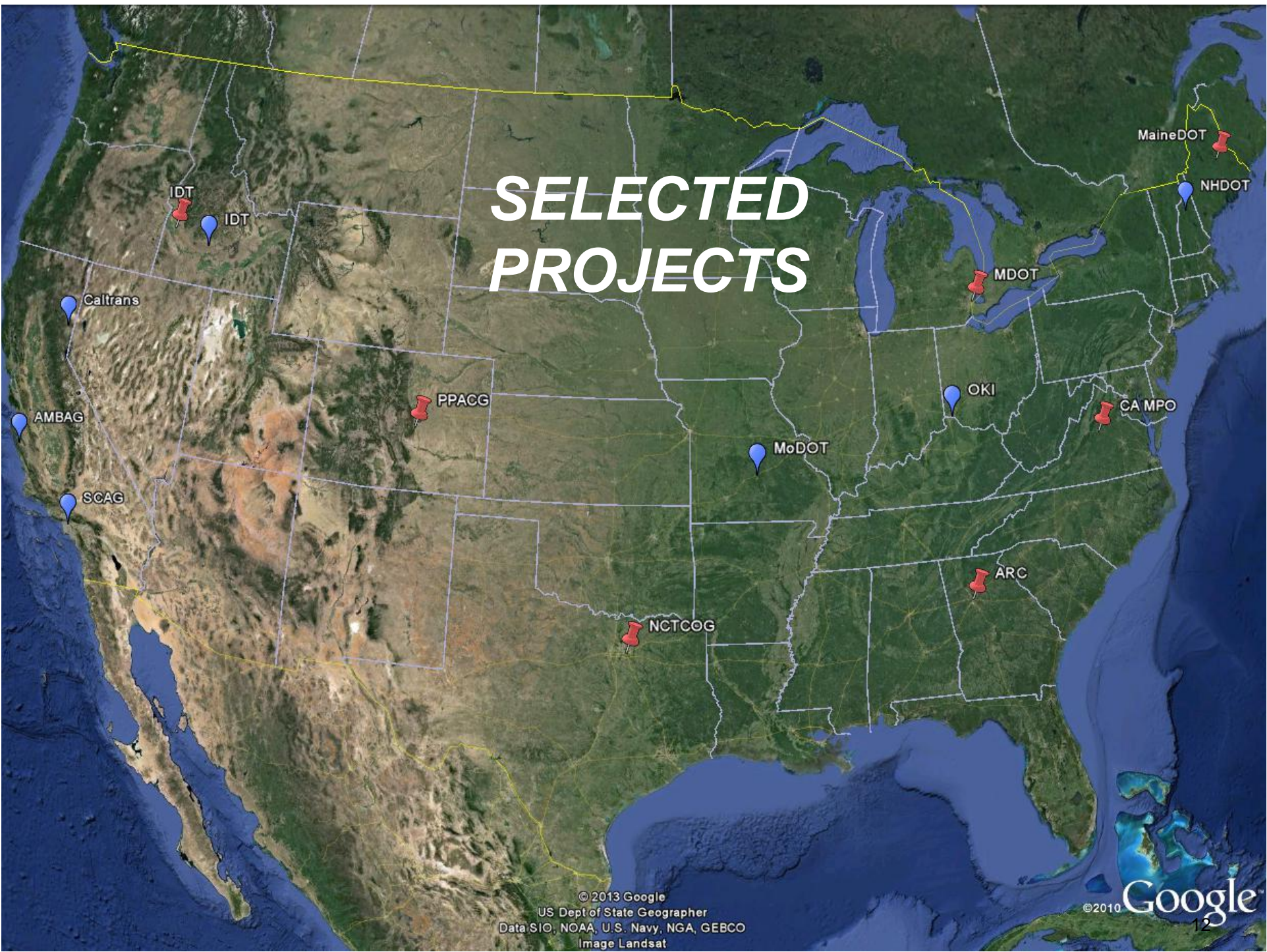


IMPLEMENTATION



- **Implementation assistance**
 - 1st round of SHRP2 assistance
 - Lead Adopter and User Incentives
- **Implementation activities**
 - Informational materials
 - Workshops and technical assistance
 - Outreach and training

SELECTED PROJECTS



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US Dept of State Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat

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IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Informational Materials

- Practitioner handbook / webinar
- Starter kits
- Informational video
- Case Studies

Workshops and Technical Assistance

- Implementation workshops
- Peer Exchanges
- On-call technical assistance

Outreach and Training

- Champion outreach
- Executive training
- Self-assessment survey and webinar
- State DOT and MPO business readiness assessment tools
- Community of practice
- Awards and recognition program

CONNECTION TO C40

Address the need to apply geospatial tools and data in planning and programming to prioritize areas for preservation and conservation.

- Stemmed from Eco-Logical
- C40A
 - Develop a national-level integrated, geospatial planning tool
- C40B
 - Application of geospatial tools to planning and programming

NEXT STEPS

- Implementation assistance projects
- Implementation activities
- C40 research is underway
- Integration with TCAPP (complete)





EXPEDITING PROJECT DELIVERY

SHRP2 Capacity
Product C19

July 16, 2013

EXPEDITING PROJECT DELIVERY

SHRP2 C19

Challenge

- Navigating the environmental planning process associated with highway capacity projects is time-consuming and costly.
- At the same time, elected officials and the public demand that highway projects be delivered with:
 - Fewer delays
 - Greater transparency and collaboration
 - Address environmental challenges

Solution

Guidebook that identifies **24 strategies** for **addressing or avoiding 16 common constraints** in order to **speed delivery** of transportation planning and environmental review projects.

EXPEDITING STRATEGIES

24 Strategies; Organized in Six Groups (overlap)

1. Improve internal coordination and communication
2. Streamline decision-making
3. Improve resource agency involvement and collaboration
4. Improve public involvement and support
5. Demonstrate real commitment to the project
6. Coordinate work across phases of delivery

BENEFITS

- Fewer project delays
- Expedited planning
- Faster resolution of delays
- Lower project costs
- Improved public trust



IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

- Implementation Planning Workshop
 - May 14-15, 2013

- Implementation Strategy Themes
 - Organizational awareness and access
 - Training and technical resources
 - Incentives
 - Guidelines, model agreements, policies, and processes
 - Marketing and branding

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- Implementation Webinar: July 23
- Application period opens: August 2
- Application period closes: September 6
- First awards: mid-October





TRANSPORTATION FOR COMMUNITIES- ADVANCING PROJECTS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

SHRP2 Capacity
Product C01:

TCAPP

July 16, 2013

OVERVIEW

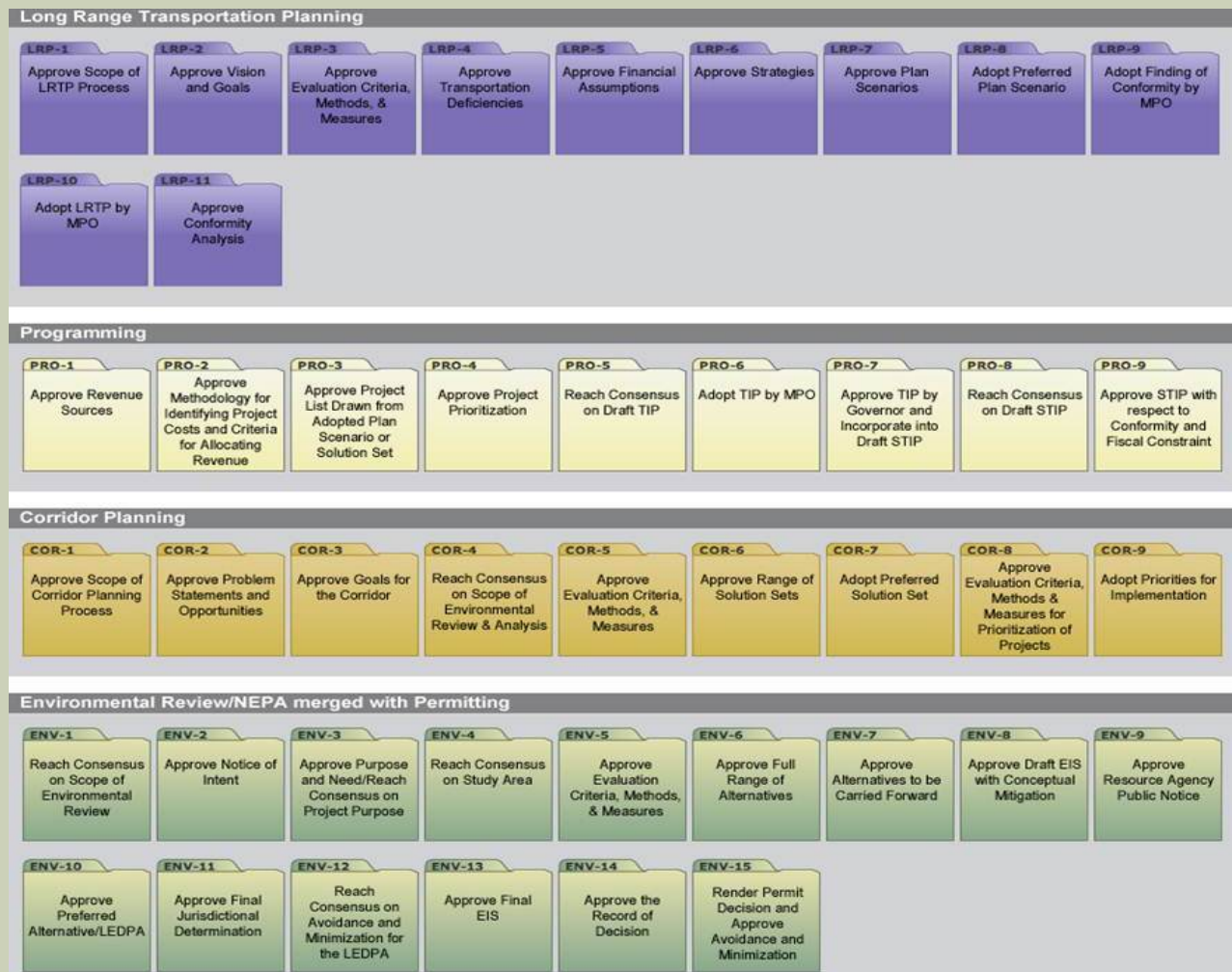
- Web portal to support collaborative decision making
- Help navigate critical decision points in:
 - Long-range planning
 - Corridor Planning
 - Programming
 - Environmental review and permitting
- Integration location for other SHRP2 capacity products



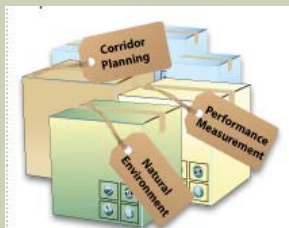
DECISION GUIDE

The Decision Guide is the foundation of TCAPP.

Built on key decision points.



FEATURES



- Applications

- Assessments

- Stakeholder Portal

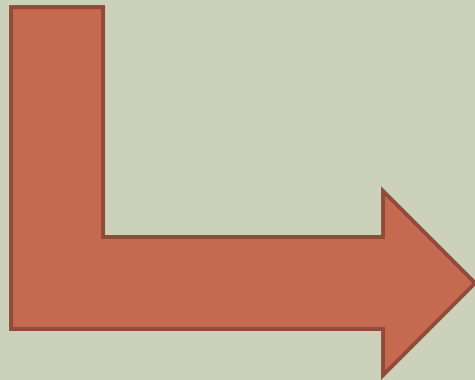
- Partner Portal

AASHTO ASSESSMENT

Assess the usefulness, usability, and longevity of TCAPP .

Assessment Approach

- Training and assessment workshops
- Technology Assessment



Findings

- Add functionality
- Upgrade design
- Improve content
- Long-term host
- More intuitive
- Rebrand and rename

IMPROVEMENTS

AASHTO, TRB, and FHWA have developed recommended improvements for the redesign of TCAPP.

- Short, medium, and long-term
 - Prior to implementation
 - During implementation
 - After implementation

- 3 Improvement Areas
 - Site Design
 - Navigation
 - Content



NEXT STEPS

AASHTO, TRB, and FHWA have agreed that TCAPP will be hosted, managed, and updated by FHWA.

- FHWA will be responsible for:
 - Conversion
 - Improvements
 - Expert Task Group

- Improved website expected July 2014
 - Current website to remain available

UPCOMING IMPLEMENTATION

SHRP2 Capacity Products scheduled for implementation in 2014 and 2015:

- C03/C11:** Economic Impact Case Studies and Analysis Tools (TPICS)
- C08:** Transportation Visioning in Communities (T-VIZ)
- C10:** Partnership to Develop an Integrated, Advanced Travel Demand Model
- C15:** Freight Planning Guide
- C20:** Freight Demand Modeling and Data Improvement Strategic Plan

QUESTIONS?

Email: goSHRP2@dot.gov

SHRP2:

www.fhwa.dot.gov/goSHRP2

SHRP2 Research:

www.TRB.org/SHRP2

SHRP2 at AASHTO:

<http://SHRP2.transportation.org>

