Social, Detour, Controversy

- Josh Grab
- 517-241-4548
- grabj@michigan.gov

Deal with the human side of environmental concerns
Look at the project design details
- The project Footprint is a Secondary Concern
Reviews rely heavily on the PM Environmental Questionnaires
  - More Information = Better Write-up
  - The Questionnaires come out before some answers may be known.
  - Result in emails or phone calls as the project is designed.
Social

- Covers:
  - Fee ROW, Easements, Grading Permits.
  - Access to businesses and properties.
  - Pedestrian facilities

Pedestrian Facilities

- Look at the Project Area using Satellite Imagery
  - Sidewalks
  - Nonmotorized Paths
  - Desire Path or “Goat Path”
- ADA upgrades
  - Needed with: new road construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation
  - Optional on road maintenance: crack filling and sealing
- Mitigation is done by keeping adjacent pedestrian facilities open, Where and When Possible.
- The MDOT “Work Zone Safety and Mobility Manual” (Chapter 5) Located at
Other Aspects of Social

- Non-Motorized Trails
- Waterway Closures
- Informational Public Meetings
- Rest Area and Park N Ride
- Temporary Closures

Detour

- Required for Review to:
  - Avoid potential environmental justice issues
  - Minimize or avoid other potential social issues
  - Maintain safe motorist movement

- For clearance I need:
  - Route of the detour
  - Duration of the detour

- Detours can trigger Controversy
Detour Mitigation

- Avoiding the detour with crossovers, temporary signals, flagging
- Shorten the detour by using local streets, with permission
- Timing the project to avoid the school year, major/local festivals holiday weekends
- Using different routes for trucks and car traffic
- Using signs to indicate that businesses are open during construction

Controversy

Controversy is determined on an individual project basis.
Projects with Potential for Controversy include:

- Changes in traffic patterns / function
- Permanent Road Closure or “Cul-de-sac” of a road
- Removal or closure of a pedestrian bridge
- ROW encroachments
- Displacements
- Active Traffic Management (ATM) lanes
  - Ramp metering and Dynamic Shoulder Use
  - US-23 Flex Route, North of Ann Arbor
Controversy
Projects with Potential for Controversy contd.

- Economic impacts
  - Removal of parking
  - Construction impacts
  - Long Detour / Bridge Closure

- Any job that MDOT Environmental or Region and Local staff feel has a chance to be controversial based on:
  - Location
  - Type of job,
  - History of similar jobs in the area

Controversy
Projects that will most likely need Public Meetings:

- Road diets. 4 to 3 lanes are the most common but any reduction in capacity is considered to be a road diet
- Roundabouts
Holding a Public Meeting

- Public Meetings can bring the opportunity to learn more about issues that matter to the community.

- Public Meetings should be held by the Base Plan Date.

- There is a dilemma of having the meeting too early vs too late in the design process.

Meeting Recommendations:
- Open house, Presentation, Town Hall
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- At least 2 hours long, Late Afternoon /Evening
  - 4pm - 6pm and 5pm -7pm are the most popular
- As close to the project as possible
- Press Release 10-14 days before the meeting

Visual Aids:
- Map of Project Limits
- Boards that focus on impacted areas
- Micro Simulation
Holding a Public Meeting

Visual Aid Examples

Forms to be used at the public meetings.

- Title VI. MDOT form 5400 page 5. This form is voluntary for the public to fill out, but must be available during the meeting.
- Sign-in sheet. Also located in form 5400 page 6. Every member of the public attending the meeting is asked to sign in on this sheet.
- Comment Sheet.
Controversy Mitigation

- Public comments can be used to improve a project's design.
  - Changes in design that can address the public’s concerns include:
    - Shortening or lengthening the project limits
    - Adding pedestrian paths
    - Refuge islands on long crosswalks
    - Adding bike lanes
    - Adding parking
    - Lengthening turning queues

Thank You!

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