Scoping a PD&E Study

Scoping a PD&E Study is a project development activity that identifies and considers project related issues that may affect quality, cost and schedule, determines the work activities to be performed for the project, and develops or refines key project parameters and requirements sufficient to define the project. PD&E scope development starts at the end of the Planning Phase and helps to focus the project activities on issues that have a potential to impact the project and actions needed during the PD&E phase.

The PD&E PM is responsible for scoping the PD&E Study. The PD&E PM should identify work activities and deliverables and prepare the preliminary schedule to complete the study. During scoping, the PM must work collaboratively with District staff and other project stakeholders to identify project needs and potential issues that will be addressed by the PD&E Study. Early input from the district offices and project stakeholders is essential for developing effective project scopes that consider broader project issues and needs.

Using ETDM to Support Project Scoping

The Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process identifies and defines the project issues coordination with resource agencies, regulatory agencies and the public through the Environmental Screening Tool (EST). The ETDM process links Planning and PD&E phases by carrying forward planning products, previous analyses, and planning decisions supporting the project into the PD&E Study. ETDM process consists of a Planning Screen and a Programming Screen. The Planning Screen is used to identify environmental considerations that assist in assessing projects for inclusion or advancement in Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and the Cost Feasible Plans. The Programming Screen builds on information from the Planning Screen (if applicable) and is considered the start of the PD&E scoping process. A programming Screen should be performed before creating the project scope of services so the screening results can be considered during its development. PD&E PMs are assigned during the Programming Screen and are responsible for working with the ETDM Coordinator throughout the ETDM process. Review the ***ETDM Manual*** for more details about the ETDM process.

Scope of Services Development Tool

Developers of the PD&E Study Scope of Services must have Statewide Environmental Project Tracker (SWEPT) accounts to access the scope development tool. Review the ***Instructions to Prepare Scope of Services*** for more information.

Linking Planning and Environmental Review Process

The PD&E Phase is intended to build on the decisions made and other products developed in the Planning Phase. Planning data and analyses can be included by reference in the PD&E Study, provided they meet conditions.

Alternative Corridor Evaluation Process

FDOT uses the Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) process to identify, evaluate, and eliminate alternative corridors on qualifying projects prior to the PD&E phase. The ACE process links planning and environmental review process. Adoption and use of ACE decisions in the NEPA process is subject to a determination by the Lead Agency. The ETDM screening facilitates the ACE process.

Environmental Considerations

The presence of environmental resources and potential project impacts on the resources must be considered by PMs when developing a PD&E study scope. The PMs must seek input from environmental subject matter experts when developing the scope. Special federal protection is established for endangered species, publicly owned park/recreation lands, historic properties, archaeological sites, wetlands, essential fish habitat, or concentrations of minority or low-income populations. The potential impact to these resources is typically identified during the ETDM process.