

# District 4 Design Newsletter

December 2013

## Utility Permits

By: Tim Brock, May Sanchez and Bruce Wallace

This article will let you decide whether or not the utility permit process is important to help support the Department's Mission. Many times we are asked by a Project Manager "Where do these utility permits originate"? Why is it so important to review a utility permit, can a utility permit affect production?"

Permits can originate from many different sources, such as, Municipalities, Utility Agencies, and even contractors that are anticipating working in the Department's right-of-way.

All permits are submitted through the Operation Centers to be processed. Each Operation Center will process the utility permit if it is not within the limits of a project under Design. When the utility permit is within the limits of the project under Design, then the permit package is forwarded to our office. The District Utility Office will review the permit application to ensure that it follows the Utility Accommodation Manual (UAM) and then it is distributed to the correct Project Manager (PM). The PM who is assigned to review the permit package is responsible to ensure that there are no conflicts with their project under design. It is requested by our office that the reviewer return the permit package back to us within a two week time frame.

Utility permits can also originate from the utility certification package that contains utility work schedules (UWS). Many times, it is overlooked just how important the UWS are for a Contractor bidding on a project. To explain further, the Final Plans Office sends the bid plans with the UWS to our office immediately after they ship the contract plans to be advertised. We send this information to all of the Utility Agencies that have associated utility work, plus the responsible Operation Center. Due to the short bidding time frame, it is important to ensure there are no utility conflicts with the project and that the road work can be accomplished within the specified time frame, without schedule delays or impacts because of a utility.

So how important are Utility Permits? To achieve production on a major reconstruction project without addressing known utility conflicts is unacceptable. The decisions that are made to recommend approval of a utility permit package are based on the overall knowledge of the potential impacts to the project about to be let for construction. It would be a complete disaster if a project was to go forward without the knowledge of where overhead wires for telephone, electricity, or underground utilities including cables, water lines and sewer systems were installed. If a utility permit is not reviewed it could create a direct conflict with the upcoming project.

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## Utility Permits continued

Utility permits are tracked on a daily basis by our office. A weekly reminder notice is sent to each of the Project Managers asking if there were any problems in reviewing the package within the allotted time frame. Please keep in mind that these reminders are not to criticize or to harass anyone if the utility permit is not completed within the allotted time. This seems to be the biggest concern for the reviewers. Our office assures that you will not receive a bad grade on your report card. We do ask that you do whatever means possible to return the utility permit package as quickly as possible, because it could actually affect our contract plans.

## New/Relocated Employee Introductions



**Eric Burnie - Section 3**

I was born in Ontario, Canada and raised in Palm Bay, FL. My favorite hobbies include motorcycle/ATV riding, soccer, golf, racquetball, surfing, and fishing. I graduated from Florida Institute of Technology in spring 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. I am very thankful to be a part of the district four design team, and I look forward to see what the future holds.



**Alia Wong - Admin**

My name is Alia Wong. I recently got married earlier this year, May 3, 2013. Although my husband and I just got married this year we were together for 10 years previously. We have no kids as of yet, just a Chihuahua (if that counts). I was born and raised here in Miami, Florida. My parents are from Trinidad, my mother is Indian and my father is Chinese. My hobbies include traveling, reading, and spending time with family.



**David De Torres - Structures**

David De Torres was born in Havana City, Cuba, and immigrated with his family in his early teen years. He completed his Bachelors and Masters of Science in Civil Engineering with a specialization in structural engineering at Florida International University. During his education in Civil Engineering he had the opportunity to be exposed to the design of different types of structures such as bridges, buildings, and water structures. In addition, he took other classes that provided him with knowledge of building and bridge rehabilitation using conventional methods as well as FRP composite materials. After graduating with his Bachelor's, he began to work with Bolton Perez Consulting Engineers as a Design Engineer. At the consultant office he was involved in the design of different structures such as underground water tanks for a pump station for the city of Doral, the re-roofing and roof structure analysis for new equipment additions for a warehouse building at the Miami International Airport and the expansion of a school for the Archdioceses of Miami. Moreover, he participated in the design of a bridge in Panama, and assisted with bridge inspections for District VI and MDX. He also assisted with mast arm and culvert inspections for District VI and the turnpike and was involved in a PD & E study for the widening of various bridges in the Turnpike. His hobbies include a variety of sports such as bike riding, in-line skating, water sports, and he would like to get a deep water diving certification in the future to practice underwater photography. David also plans to get his PE license as soon as he has completed the required years of experience, and he is very happy to have joined the FDOT design team in District IV.

New/Relocated Employee Introductions cont.



**Istvan Virag - Section 2**

I am originally from Caracas, Venezuela, and moved to the United States in 2003 to attend high school and college. I earned my bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Florida International University. I enjoy playing video games, Auto-cross, mountain biking, photography, spending time with friends and family, and keeping abreast of the latest technological advances.



**Adham Naiem - Section 2**

As a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut's civil engineering program I am eager to begin work with you all at the Florida Department of Transportation. When I am not interning with the City of Norwalk's Department of Public Works I participate in many recreational sports such as baseball and basketball. In addition, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family as well as reading and watching movies and television shows. As a Connecticut native I am both excited and terrified by the prospect of a winter without snow and am eager to discover what the sunshine state has to offer. I look forward to meeting you all in person and beginning work on the many exciting projects the Department is involved in.

Design Holiday Luncheon

