WELCOME

LOCAL AID

LISTENING TOUR

MERCER-MORRIS-ESSEX-CUMBERLAND

**ENVIRONMENTAL** 

**BRIDGE • PAVEMENT** 

CIVIL RIGHTS • NJ I-BANK

Division of Environmental Resources

Elkins Green | Director

### BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM RESOURCES

### **Balance**

Safe & Efficient Transportation



Human & Natural Environment

We strive to find the balance between compliance with environmental regulatory requirements and efficiently moving projects through the Project Delivery Process

### STATE AND FEDERAL PROCESS

# **State Funding**

- 1. EO #215 Assessment (Exempt, EA or EIS)
- 2. NJDOT can determine if a project is exempt from EO #215
- 3. NJDEP Approves EA's and EIS's

# **Federal Funding**

- 1. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - (Self- Certified CE, CE, EA, EIS)
- 2. NJDOT can approve Self-Certified CED's
- 3. TES's may be required
- 4. Coordination with federal and state agencies may be required
- 5. FHWA approves all other CED's
- 6. EA's and EIS's have circulate for public and agency review

### STATE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Executive Order #215
- SHPO
- DLUR Permits
- Green Acres
- NJ Meadowlands Commission
- Highlands Council
- Pinelands Commission
- Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission









#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER #215 APPLICABILITY**

EO #215 requires departments, agencies and authorities of the State to prepare and submit an EA or EIS to NJDEP for projects with anticipated construction cost of \$1 million+ and/or the state grants at least 20% financial assistance.

- An Environmental Assessment is required for projects that cost \$1 million or more
- An Environmental Impact Statement is required for projects that cost \$5 million or more and involve land disturbance of five (5) acres

### PROJECTS THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM EO#215 REVIEW

- Maintenance or repair projects (a);
- Facilities or equipment replaced in kind at the same location (b);
- Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA);
- Require an EIS pursuant to NEPA;
- Classified as a Categorical Exclusions (CE) pursuant to NEPA.



## NJDEP/NJDOT MOA

- Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation or reconstruction, provided that additional lanes are not added, and that less than 11 feet of pavement is added to either direction.
- Intersection improvements, involving channelization, corner cutbacks, and addition of turning lanes.
- Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement on essentially the same alignment.
- Realignment of less than 1000 feet of one or more segments of roadway to correct substandard horizontal and vertical geometry, or to construct new approaches to a realigned bridge, provided that the total new alignment on a particular project is less than 2500 feet.

## PROJECTS NOT EXEMPT FROM EO #215 REVIEW

- 1. New roadway on new alignment
- 2. Major widening



### EO #215 PROCESS

### **Exempt Projects**

- Submit EO #215 Exemption request to Local Aid
  - Include Project Description, construction cost, grant amount, project plans and any required environmental approvals or permits
- NJDOT Local Aid will forward the request to BEPR for review (30 days)
- BEPR will prepare an EO #215
   Exemption letter and sent it to the Project Sponsor and NJDEP

### **Non-Exempt Projects**

- Submit project information to Local Aid
- Develop EO #215 Document SOW in consultation with BEPR and NJDEP – Office of Permit Coordination and Environmental Review
- Prepare EO #215 Document and submit to NJDEP via BEPR
- NJDEP Review
  - 20 days administrative completeness review
  - 60 days department review, if the review is not completed in 60 says the document is deemed approved



# EO #215 Exemption

Issuance of an exemption does not relieve you of your responsibility to comply with the requirements of any Federal, State, or local agency may have jurisdiction.

- NJDEP LURP Permits
- Green Acres
- Historic Sites Council review
- Contaminated or Hazardous Waste Sites...
- USGC
- ACOE

# STATE FUNDED PROJECTS AND NEPA

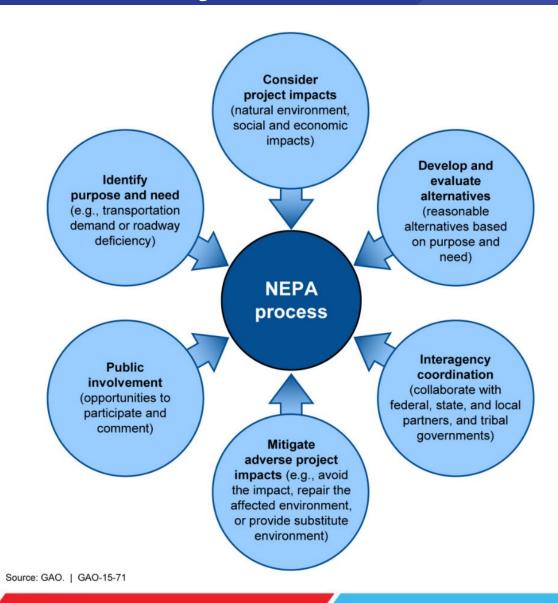
State funded projects must comply with NEPA if a permit or action requires approval from a federal agency (i.e. ACOE or USCG)

- The agency responsible for complying with the requirements of NEPA is the Lead Federal Agency
- We must follow the NEPA policies and procedures of the Lead Federal Agency

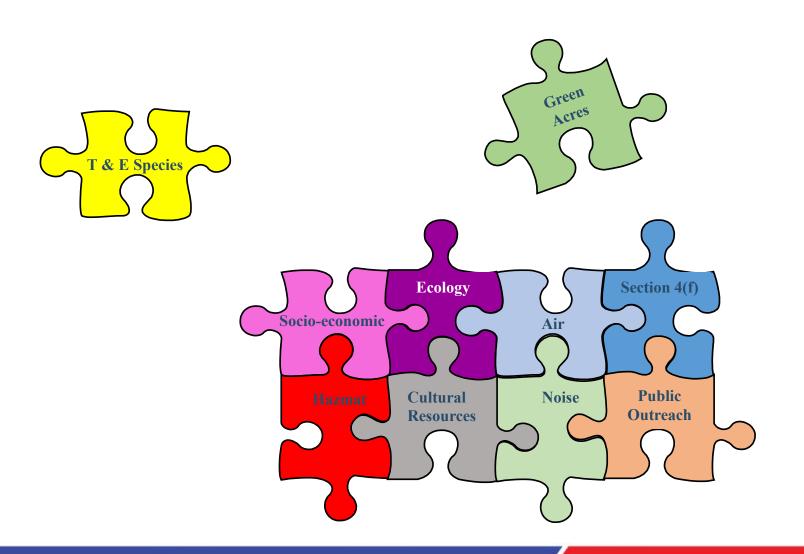


## NEPA PROCESS FOR FHWA FUNDED PROJECTS

- Assess the Social.
   Economic, and
   Environmental Impacts
- 2. Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate Environmental Impacts



## ENVIRONMENTAL DISCIPLINES



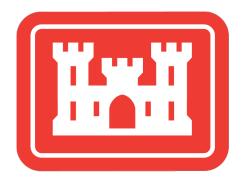


### COORDINATION/APPROVALS FROM STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

- Federal Highway Administration
- NJ Permitting Agencies (i.e. NJDEP)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- NOAA/NMFS
- USDOI











### ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

- Environmental Screening
- Technical Environmental Studies

   (i.e. CR Studies, Section 4(f) Evaluation)
- MOA
- NEPA (Self- Cert CE, CE, EA/FONSI, EIS/ROD)
- Environmental Reevaluations (Right-of-Way, Design Change and Construction)
- Permit Applications, Green Acres and HSC Applications
- Construction Environmental Checklist and Environmental Plan Sheets







### LOCAL PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

**Local Concept Development** 

Purpose and Need Statement

**Environmental Screening** 

**Public Outreach** 

**Alternatives Analysis** 

**NEPA Classification** 

Local Preliminary Engineering

Technical Environmental Studies

**Agency Coordination** 

Environmental Documentation

Approved Environmental Document

Final Design/ROW

Additional Environmental Studies

Permit Agency
Coordination and Permits

**ROW ER** 

Environmental Commitments/ Mitigation

**Construction ER** 

Construction

Ensure Compliance with Environmental Commitments

### EO215 vs. NEPA

# EO 215

Reduce or Eliminate Adverse Environmental Impacts

Classification based on project cost/land disturbance (Exempt, EIS , EA)

Advance to Design w/o Environmental Approval

Follow NEPA process of Lead Federal Agency

Obtain federal and state approval/permits

## NEPA

Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Environmental Impacts

Classification based on project type (CED, EA, EIS)

Can not advance to Design w/o Environmental Approval

ER's required to obtain ROW and construction authorizations

Obtain federal and state approvals/permits

# **THANK YOU!**

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