

Meeting was organized and facilitated by Mr. Rich Williams, GDOT. Meeting minutes were recorded and reproduced by Mr. Jordan Myers, ARCADIS.

Mr. Glenn Bowman opened the meeting by stated his desire for this forum to be an opportunity to improve the Ecology documentation process overall. He stated that his main goal was “Quality Documents On Time”, and that achieving that goal would require a united approach from both GDOT and consultant ecologists.

Mr. Williams facilitated the meeting, by first covering standard procedures and processes for future meetings, as outlined in the agenda. Next, Mr. Williams led a group discussion, and individual goals and action items were proposed by the attendees. These items will be addressed in future meetings, and their resolution/investigation will be a targeted focus of the committee.

Those goals/items include:

- Update and maintain consistency with the aquatic scope of work, and proceed with coordinating that update with USFWS.
- Achieve consistency in comments from FHWA reviewers
- Forecasting of upcoming projects and proposed project delivery in the future
- Clarify legacy/grand fathering of projects and under which scope of work they are to be completed, for addendums, and reevaluations
- Dissemination of new information relating to policies and procedures; i.e. protected species surveys, impact reporting, etc.
- Refining/defining the initiation of ecology studies as it relates to the PDP, reviewing similar procedures/experiences in other states
- Currently approximately 1,000 – 1,200 projects with let dates
- Technology for resource reporting; how should ecologists transmit resource locations and information to designers
- Potential for implementing tiered reports for different types of projects; i.e. different reports for ATMS vs. new location roadway projects
- Improved communication between environmental practitioners and designers
- Refining habitat surveys during the ecological assessment process, beginning with a wider corridor allowing for improved avoidance and minimization
- TDOT completes a tiered review process for EA’s that might be useful as reference
- Special Provisions, admittedly difficult to produce, are purposefully in the hands of consultants for projects, due to familiarity with the overall project and corridor. Special Provisions are maintained on the GDOT FTP site
- Avoidance and Minimization will have more focus in the future

Following the group discussion, Ms. Catherine Samay of the Georgia EPD gave a presentation on the newly adopted criteria for stream buffer variance applications. The presentation slides can be obtained through a request to Mr. Williams or Mr. Myers.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 25, 2011. Subsequent meetings will be held the last Tuesday of every other month.