

CLEARANCES – ENVIRONMENTAL, RIGHT-OF-WAY and UTILITY 12/3/2020

KEY PRESENTATION POINTS – LEARNING GUIDE

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- Three types of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Class I
 - Environmental Assessment (EA) – Class III
 - Categorical Exclusion (CE) – Class II
- When starting a project, complete the Project Environmental Data Sheet (PEDS).
- Be sure to have a clear project description and scope of work.
- Communication changes quickly. Be sure to communicate new developments to the project team.
- Quick Reference Guide:
 - <https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2019/05/adot-quick-reference-guide.pdf>

RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) GROUP

- Be proactive with scheduling projects that include ROW.
- ROW should start at project initiation or at the project kick off meeting.
- Actively look for flaws in the design schedule that may impact ROW.
- The environmental/NEPA clearance may impact ROW. Be sure to track environmental activities on your project.
- ROW is not considered cleared until concurrence is obtained.
- Be sure to submit your signed ROW clearance memo or letter and your Real Property Interest Certification with necessary documents to your ADOT ROW coordinator.
- A conditional ROW clearance should be rare and not the norm.

UTILITY AND RAILROAD (URR) ENGINEERING

- Our cities and roads can consist of as many as 7 different types of utilities including – electric power, gas/oil, telecom/cable TV, water, sanitary sewer, reclaimed water and railroad (treated as a utility).
- When working with utilities, key objectives include:
 - Public safety
 - Project schedule
 - Project budget
- Utility related concerns should be addressed in the Utility Clearance Letter.
- Early coordination should take place, such as in the scoping phase, to determine the impacts utilities will have on the project. Be proactive to avoid utility conflicts.
- Become familiar with different types of data collection including:
 - Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)
 - AZ Blue Stake Center
 - As-Builts/record drawing