

## CLEARANCES

9/2/2021

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING:

- An environmental clearance means the project has been reviewed under all applicable environmental requirements and is “cleared” for construction.
- For federal-aid projects, environmental clearance is generally associated with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).
- Environmental Planning within ADOT consists of Environmental Planners, Air Quality experts, Noise Technical Experts, Archaeologists, Biologists, Hazardous Materials Specialists and Water Resources.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) GROUP

- ROW acquisition is a time consuming process. Plan accordingly.
- Without a NEPA clearance, ROW cannot initiate negotiations for property acquisitions or submit to government agencies to begin their submittal process.
- Eminent Domain – Government can take private property and convert it into public use with compensation.

## UTILITY AND RAILROAD (URR) ENGINEERING

- URR is responsible for clearing the ROW of utility conflicts in advance of highway construction projects.
- A URR clearance is required prior to any project advertisement.
- Utilities are electric power, gas/oil lines, telecom/cable TV, water, sanitary sewer, reclaimed water and the railroad. The railroad is considered a utility.