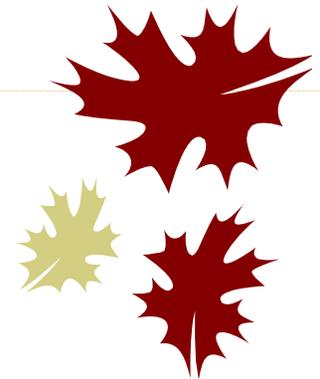




FHWA's Changing Role in the Transportation Program

Cathy Kendall, AICP
Acting Environmental Coordinator
FHWA-FL, PR and VI





Past Role of FHWA

- To oversee the construction of the interstate system
- Emphasis on engineering oversight on nearly every project



FHWA's Current Role

- Interstate complete
- Types of projects have expanded to State and local roads, sidewalks, bikeways, ITS, enhancements and public-private partnerships
- Environmental/planning role has expanded with new regulations and coordination needs
- Less engineering oversight, but more financial oversight
- Focus on process and outcome will follow



ARRA Project Reviews – a sampling technique

- Focus on Programmatic Categorical Exclusions (PCEs) and reevaluations for the Environmental Program
- Included file audits at the districts, interviews and field reviews
- Recommendations made on findings in order to improve
- Reviews expanded to nonARRA projects



Past Process Reviews for FHWA-FL Env. Team

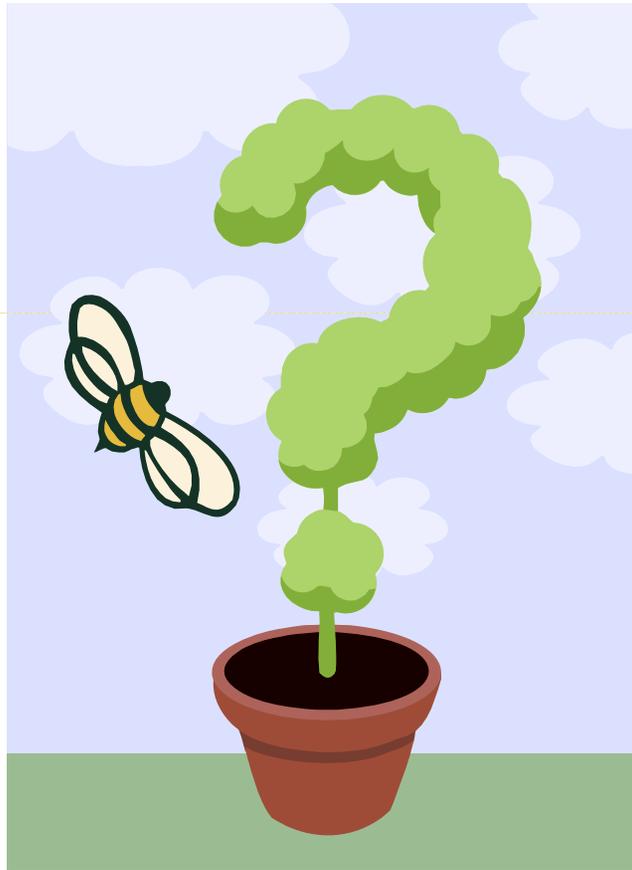
- 2008/09 Noise (Linda Anderson)
- 2007 Section 106 Process (Cathy Kendall)
- 2006 Categorical Exclusions (George Hadley and Cathy Kendall)
- Each of these process reviews has resulted in recommendations to improve specific things in our program

Current Process Review for FHWA- FL Environmental Team

- 2011/12 Consultant Contracts
(currently underway and being conducted
by Joe Sullivan)



Future Environmental Process Review



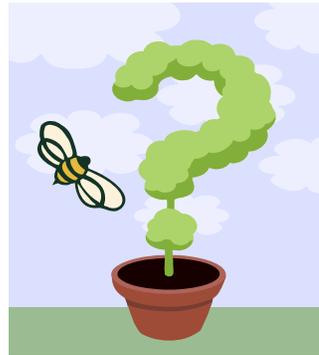
Future Role of FHWA – Performance Management?

- Developing metrics to evaluate programs, processes, policies and possibly projects
- Conduct reviews to see how well we, the State DOTs and other project partners are meeting the established metrics
- Based on results, alter programs, processes, policies and possibly funding



Future Role continued

- Who would establish the metrics?
- Would we still sign NEPA documents?
- Would we still get to come to ETAT meetings?
- Would we refine our focus back to just that of the Interstate system?





Clues to FHWA's Future Role

- Results from California's delegated NEPA process
- A dwindling Highway Trust Fund
- Current emphasis on developing Programmatic Agreements to help streamlining projects
- Whatever is being discussed as part of the developing legislation to replace SAFETEA-LU

In the meantime...

