Project Screening Tool (PST)

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Background

- To better integrate NEPA into the Transportation Decision-making, SCDOT has started preparing an Advanced Project Planning Report (APPR) for most projects.

- SCDOT’s Office of Planning and Environmental, in cooperation with various resource agencies and the FHWA, prepares the APPR.

- The APPR assists with:
  - Providing MPOs and COGs information for determining a project's benefit and its impact to the human and natural environment.
  - Aids the SCDOT’s Regional Production Groups (RPG) with identifying human and environmental issues of concern at preconstruction level.
  - Provide cost estimates.
PST Application Drivers

- Improve the APPR Process by allowing project input via internet
- Provide easy access to GIS data
- Allow uploads and downloads of project files
- Allow comments from agencies and public
- Share customized analysis with other users via online database
- Show project impacts on map
- Improve communication tool during transportation planning
Development

- To improve the (APPR) process Project Screening Tool (PST) was developed.
  - Web based tool.
  - Allows project comments to be added through the website.
  - Incorporates GIS data (provided by resource agencies) to aid in identifying impacts to a project.
  - Maps can be redlined in order to add or document comments.

- Impacts assigned to four categories (with maps):
  - Natural Resources
  - Environmental/DHEC Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - and Socioeconomic/Other Resources
Development

- GIS data organized and assigned to each category.

- User selects one or all of the categories of interest to view the features on the map.

- PST allows non-GIS users to use spatial data easily.

- Additional Improvements with future phases.
- Credentialed login
- Provides:
  - Base map
  - Project search
  - Project review
  - Project files
- Outside agencies can search and comment
Search by:
- Location
- County
- MPO
- COG
- RPG
- District
- Name
- PCN
- Impact
## PST – Project Search Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>PCN</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Widening of SC 707</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>3/25/2010</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edit, Delete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 791, Georgetown and Horry Counties</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>3/22/2010</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edit, Delete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Coast Greenway in city of Georgetown, Horry County</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>2/10/2010</td>
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<td>SC 261</td>
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<td>SC 65</td>
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<td>1/25/2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Beach Connection at 2nd Avenue</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>1/22/2010</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 90 Extension, Horry County</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>1/19/2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Widening of US 378, Marion and Horry Counties</td>
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<td>11/2/2009</td>
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</table>

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**Source:** South Carolina Department of Transportation

**Image:** Planning Environmental

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**URL:** [PST: Project Search Results](https://www.pstweb.org/ProjectSearch.aspx)
**PST – Project Data**

- Provides:
  - General details
  - Description
  - Purpose & Need
  - Milestones
  - Impact summary
  - Link to project file
  - Alternatives
  - Projected AADT
  - Functional Class
  - Study Area

### Description

The extension of SC 90 from US 501 Bus. to US 501

### Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to relieve congestion on US 501 Business through historic downtown Conway. US 501 Business is currently a LOS F and is projected to be a LOS F in 2033 with 75,269 average daily trips in the peak season.

### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Project Review Started</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 19, 2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Impact Summary

No Impacts Assigned.

### Project Files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Document (click to download)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Functions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Draft APPR SC 90</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assign impact rating for:
- Community/Socioeconomic
- Cultural
- Environmental
- Natural Resources
Review of Project Comments

- Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (7/2/2010) by Mark Giffin, Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
  Effect on Water Quality and Quantity: Unknown
  Identified Resources and Level of Importance:
  Congaree Creek
  Comments of Effects to Resources:
  Triple box culvert may need to be enlarged to accommodate flows under widened road due to bend in Creek. Stormwater from Creek crossing and approaches should be routed to upland detention structures prior to discharge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative 1:</th>
<th>Historic Site</th>
<th>Water Quality Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widening SC 6 to Five Lanes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click a rating above to view the impacts for that issue.
PST – Project Files and AADT Projections

- Ability to upload and download project files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Document (click to download)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/15/2009</td>
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<td>Archives Comments</td>
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<td>Nick Valdil-Rad SCDOT</td>
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<td>Nick Valdil-Rad SCDOT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Alternatives

- **Alternative 1**
  - **Description**: Widening of Roper Mountain Road to five lanes
  - **Estimated Cost**: $5,600,000
  - **Type**: Widening
  - **Functional Class**: Urban -- Collector
  - **Urban Service Area**: In/Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Conditions</th>
<th>Needs Plan Conditions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AADT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>23,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Config</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanes Undivided</td>
<td>Lanes Undivided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding Source**: GPATS 2007-2012 STIP
PST – Evaluating Alternatives

- Ability to create & evaluate alternatives
- View map of alternative
Identifying Impacts at planning stage
Identifying Resources or Impacts within the study area from Aerial Photos
Evaluating Existing Pavement Conditions
Summary

The PST provides SCDOT the following benefits:

- Enhances the level of detail during the planning process for Project Development.
- Provides the Preconstruction unit with useful information to expedite project development.
- Identifies ”show stoppers” early on during the planning phase to reduce delay and save money.
- Creates a tool to engage Resource and Federal agencies early on in the planning process.
- Provides a GIS application for non-technical staff.
- Enhances the STIP process by providing a pre NEPA screening prior to obligating Federal funds.
Questions?