













#### Purpose of 49 CFR Part 24 / Uniform Act

To ensure that <u>owners of real property</u> to be acquired for Federal and federally-assisted projects <u>are treated</u> <u>fairly and consistently</u>, to encourage and expedite acquisition by agreements with such owners, to <u>minimize</u> <u>litigation</u> and relieve congestion in the courts, and to <u>promote public confidence</u> in Federal and federallyassisted land acquisition programs;

To ensure that <u>persons displaced</u> as a direct result of Federal or federally assisted projects <u>are treated fairly</u>. <u>consistently</u>, and <u>equitably</u> so that such displaced persons <u>will not suffer disproportionate injuries</u> as a result of projects designed for the benefit of the public as a whole;

To ensure that Agencies implement these regulations in a manner that is <u>efficient and cost effective</u>.

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## PUBLIC USE v. PUBLIC BENEFIT

"The governmental taking of property from one private owner to give to another in furtherance of economic development constitutes a permissible "public use" under the Fifth Amendment. Supreme Court of Connecticut decision affirmed."

U. S. Supreme Court Decision - Kelo v. City of New London, 545 U.S. 469 (2005)



























### **Consultant Prequalification**

- Local Agencies employing consultants for TDOT/FHWA funded projects <u>MUST</u> use prequalified consultants.
- Prequalified Consultants are listed on the TDOT web site: http://www.tn.gov/tdot/topic/consultantinfo
- Small Local Agencies will have to employ consultants in order to maintain separation of acquisition functions





#### Important!!

- NO Right of Way activities are to be initiated until your agency has received a notice to proceed from TDOT
- Reimbursement of projected expenditures is contingent on compliance with the Uniform Act and other governing Federal and State requirements.
- You must follow the Uniform Act even if you don't utilize Federal funds in the Right of Way Phase of the project.



















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## WHY IS EXCESS LAND **IMPORTANT TO ME?**

If you want to use State ROW for your project, it MUST go through the excess land process.

This applies to non-roadway appurtenances such as enhancements, greenways, sidewalks, bike trails, etc.

If you buy property using federal funds, all uneconomic remnants must go through the excess land process before being disposed of.

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## **THE PROCESS**

- Submit request to Regional Coordinator.
- Request goes before Committee to be recommended, deferred, or denied.
- Environmental Document is prepared if needed.
- Appraisal is prepared if needed.
- Document of conveyance is prepared and executed.





## **THE PROCESS**

- When submitting your request to TDOT, we will need your design plans in order to approve your request.
- There should be <u>ONE</u> point of contact for your agency.
- The more information you can provide on the front end, the less delays we will have during the process.

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#### **ITEMS WE'LL COVER**

- Need For An Appraisal
- Consultant Selection
- Identify & Define The Property
- Types Of Acquisitions
- Appraisal & Appraisal Report
- Appraisal Review & Appraisal Review Report
- Approved Offer (Administrative Function)







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## INTEREST(S) ACQUIRED

Fee-Simple

Permanent Drainage Easement

Permanent Slope Easement

**Temporary Construction Easement** 

Air-Rights

**ALL** acquisitions **<u>MUST</u>** be paid for in accordance with their respective contribution to the whole.

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#### DEFINITION OF AN APPRAISAL FOR EMINENT DOMAIN

"A <u>written</u> statement, <u>independently</u> and <u>impartially</u> prepared by a <u>gualified</u> Appraiser setting forth an <u>opinion</u> of <u>defined value</u> of an <u>adequately</u> <u>described</u> property as of a <u>specific date</u>, supported by the presentation and analysis of <u>relevant market</u> information."











#### **UNECONOMIC REMNANT**

After a partial acquisition, the remaining portion of a tract which the acquiring agency has determined to have little or no value or utility to the owner"

- **Determined by Review Appraiser**
- · Reported on Form 2
- Two Offers Made to Property Owner
- To acquire only what is needed
- To acquire the whole tract

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#### APPRAISAL WAIVER OR NOMINAL PARCEL PAYMENT (NPP)

- The Appraisal Waiver (NPP) is for use by agencies that have <u>staff knowledgeable</u> in the local real estate market and real estate valuation for fair market value.
- Acquisition less than \$10,000
- Simple, Non-Complex Acquisitions
- Must be based on Market Sales Data
  - Dollar per unit rates should be consistent with tracts that have been appraised\*
  - Don't use Tax Assessment Values. They are <u>NOT</u> equal to Fair Market Value.

















#### Guaranteed Ways to Lose \$ Federal Funding \$

- Don't provide the property owner the <u>opportunity to accompany</u> the appraiser.
- Don't offer fair market value based on an **appraisal**.
- Ignore an <u>uneconomic remnant</u> so that an alternate offer can't be made to the property owner.

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#### Module Objectives

- Provide an overview of the land acquisition process, emphasizing that the Uniform Act and TDOT Right of Way procedures must be followed.
- Encourage discussion relating to the acquisition process.
- Answer questions relating to the acquisition of Right of Way







#### NOTICE OF **PROPOSED ACQUISITION**

The acquiring agency is required to give written notification to those whose property is impacted by the project. The notice:

- Must describe the project
- Must identify the acquiring agency
- Must contain contact information
- Be delivered to landowner as early as

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#### PERSONAL CONTACT

Make all reasonable efforts to contact the property owner in person.

Schedule meetings (both time & place) that are convenient to the property owner.

Explain property acquisition process, including negotiations and Local Agency responsibilities.

If property owner lives out of the general project area, contact may be made by mail.



#### **NEGOTIATOR LOG**

A comprehensive record of all communication and interaction with property owners.

Provides an accurate record of communication.

Documents that the acquisition was done in an appropriate manner.

Provides paper/audit trail of work completed on individual parcels by Local Agency staff.

May be subject to open records laws, therefore should remain professional and free of irrelevant commentary.

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 ACQUIRING PROPERTY BY DONATION
 Gifts of real property by a private property owner.
 Landowner must be informed of their right to receive just compensation for the acquisition.
 Must acknowledge in writing that they have been informed of their right to receive just compensation and still wish to donate.
 Acquiring agency may exchange construction features for donations.

# WRITTEN OFFER A the offer to acquire right of way must be made in writing. A the offer must itemize property interests and improvements to be acquired and the amount of compensation for each. A Provide a tract map clearly indicating the are needed for the project. A Provide a legal description of the area sought.



### **OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER OFFER**

- Local Government must provide owners reasonable time to consider offer (30 days)
- Eliminates any appearance of coercion.
- Provides owner opportunity to gather and present information that may affect determination of property's value.
- Local Government must consider any information brought forward by owner that was not considered during the appraisal period.

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#### **COERCION:** Where is the line?

Neither the amount of the offer nor the status of negotiations are to be discussed in a public forum until the tract has been acquired.

Property owner cannot be told the project will not be built if they do not donate the property.

Sunshine Rules will severely limit discussions open to the public regarding the acquisition progress of a project and specifics about the property owner's acquisitions.

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT

- If used, Administrative Settlements are made **before** invoking an agency's condemnation authority.
- Settlement offer is typically more than the approved offer of just compensation.
- Local Governments should consider administrative settlements when reasonable efforts to negotiate an acquisition have failed, but there appears to be a potential for agreement.



#### BASIS FOR MAKING ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENTS

- All available appraisals, including the owner's.
- The approved estimate of Fair Market Value.
- Recent court awards for similar type properties.
- The negotiator's recorded information.
- The range of probable testimony as to Fair Market Value should condemnation be filed.
- The estimate of trial cost.
- The opinion of legal counsel, when appropriate.

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#### WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENTS

- Must prepare a written justification outlining administrative increase.
- A discussion of available information that supports the increase.
- Cannot be approved by the negotiator, must be approved by appropriate, independent agency official.
- Must include an itemized breakdown of approved administrative settlement offer.

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#### EMINENT DOMAIN and CONDEMNATION PROCESS

#### Eminent Domain

- The <u>legal doctrine</u> that government has the power to acquire private land for public purposes.
- Governments invoke condemnation proceedings as a last resort.
- invoke eminent domain.Conducted in a

Legal process to

Condemnation

judicial venue.

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#### **INVERSE CONDEMNATION**

A property owner may sue for damages to his property attributable to a project which, for whatever reason, was not properly taken as part of the project's right of way program.

For instance, a property owner who loses access to his property because of a new construction project may sue for damages.

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#### **TENANT OWNED IMPROVEMENTS**

 Tenant-owned real property improvements are eligible for compensation if the improvements are removed or adversely affected by the proposed acquisition.

Tenant-owned improvements are treated as real property.

Acquisition of tenant-owned improvements follows same procedures as acquiring from real property owners.



#### **TENANT OWNED IMPROVEMENTS**

Just compensation based on the amount that the improvements contribute to the fair market value of the property, or the cost of removal, whichever is greater.

Examples of tenant-owned improvements may include buildings, gasoline dispensers, canopies, walk-in coolers, etc.

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## **Right-of-Way Deeds**

#### The PROBLEM:

 Inconsistent preparation of right-ofway deeds by Local Public Agencies

#### The RESULT:

 Incorrectly drawn deeds are having to be corrected and re-recorded.

#### The CONSEQUENCE:

Project schedules are disrupted and costs are increased.

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## **Right-of-Way Deeds**

#### The SOLUTION:

 Provide clear right-of-way deed preparation guidance to local public agency attorneys and legal staff.

#### The RESULT:

• A major delay in granting right-of-way certification can be eliminated.

#### The BENEFIT:

 The project has a better chance of staying on schedule and within budget.



## **Right-of-Way Deeds**

Guidelines are now available on-line on the Local Programs Development Office website.

 Representative draft copies of the deeds <u>must</u> be submitted for review through your LPA coordinator before they are signed and executed.





## **Right-of-Way Deeds**

- Tract Number and Project Numbers (State & Federal) must be shown on the first page of every deed.
- Fee and Easements acquired on a tract must be listed on the same deed.
- Complete Legal Descriptions are required for certain types of acquisition.
- Time limits for construction easements are explained.





## **Right-of-Way Deeds**

- Required wording is provided for ROW acquired through donation.
- Required wording is provided for stating the amount paid for the ROW acquired.
- The name of the attorney who prepared the deed must be shown on the deed.
- Slope easements are now considered permanent. New required wording is provided.

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## How to Delay **Right-of-Way Certification**

- Don't send draft copies of deeds to your LPA coordinator for review.
- Don't provide correct tract and project numbers on Page 1 of every deed.
- . Don't state the con\$ideration in a deed if money changes hands.
- Don't provide your attorney with access to the guidelines. TN TDOT



## More Ways to Delay **Right-of-Way Certification**

- Don't use the required wording if the . owner donates the right-of-way.
- Don't use an attorney to prepare the deed(s).
- Don't think that legal descriptions aren't required.
- Don't stay in touch with your LPA coordinator. TN TDOT





#### CERTIFICATION

Local Government Official will certify to TDOT LPA Coordinator that all acquisition activities have been performed in accordance with the Uniform Act and TDOT Right of Way Procedures.

Certification cannot be made until the Local Government has a Warranty Deed or Court Possession for all tracts.

Acquisition of right-of-way for a State Route <u>MUST</u> be acquired in the name of the State.











#### **Uniform Relocation Overview**

- Everyone (owners, tenants, business, farms, etc.) <u>occupying</u>\* the property is presumed to be eligible for relocation services and benefits.
- You must pay to move personal property located in the right-of-way.
- Replacement housing must be available prior to requiring a residential occupant to vacate.

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• **Everyone** is entitled to advisory assistance.


























	Relocation Notices
	General Information Notice
	<ul> <li>Informs person that he/she may be displaced.</li> </ul>
iti	<ul> <li>Informs person that aliens not lawfully present in the United States are ineligible for relocation benefits.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Informs person that they will have no less than 90-days to relocate (from the date of the offer/date of possession).</li> </ul>
	Notice of Relocation Eligibility
	<ul> <li>Establishes eligibility for relocation benefits.</li> </ul>
#	<ul> <li>Eligibility begins at the Initiation of</li> </ul>
	Negotiations.
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## **Relocation Notices**

- No displaced person will be required to move without at least 90-days advanced written
- Provides displaced person with the date that the property must be vacated. Delivered at or after closing.
- With relocations, comparable replacement housing must be available before displacee can be required to move.

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#### **Post Acquisition** 1 **Property Management** (Clearing the Right of Way) Owner Retention Opportunity only offered to Property Owner. Salvage value based on appraised value of salvable improvements Performance deposit Reduces demolition costs/ increases administrative cost. Time critical, may cause delays in construction. **Public Sale** Sealed Bids or Auction Format Decreased Demolition/Increased Administrative Costs

May Cause Construction Delays

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#### Local Review Checklist

- ROW Plans sent to all utilities known on project.
- The utilities are provided 120 days to respond w/location.
   I tility approved to use consulting Engineering Firm:
- Utility approved to use consulting Engineering Firm: Approved request forms
   Approved overhead rate; Approved Profit; Approved cost Authorized Engineering
   Utility, submits relocation of conflicts;
- Utility submits relocation of conflicts:

   a) Location (rainbow) plans
   b) Estimate of cost for compensation
   c) Schedule of Calendar days
   Approved plans;Approved overhead rate;Approved Cost
   Approved Calendar Schedule
   Reviewed TDOT permit for occupation of State ROW if applicable
   Authorized utility relocation
- Invoices Review and approve Relocation <u>ACTUAL</u> cost

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## State System / ROW Requirements

 Projects on State System Routes will be required to meet TDOT Rules and Regulations for Accommodating Utilities within Highway ROW (1680-6-1) Projects on Local Agency System will be subject to any Rules and Regulations the Local Agency maintains. The Local Agency will be required to document to TDOT that a variance from State rules was allowed, and cite any local agency rules

trom State rules was allowed, and cite any local agency rules that apply.
 Projects on State System Routes will be required to notify utilities & rolling project double project double project.

utilities & railroads during project development to solicit comments on potential conflicts. (TCA 54-5-853) 3. Projects on State System Routes will be required to provide right-of-way plans to utilities & railroads, requestion that

right-of-way plans to utilities & railroads, requesting that relocation plans, estimates, and work schedules be submitted within 120 days after receipt. (TCA 54-5-854) 4. Projects on State System Routes will be required to provide

revisions to the right-of-way to utilities & railroads, requesting that revised relocation plans, estimates, and work schedules be submitted within 45 days after receipt. (TCA 54-5-854)

 Statistical Structure
 Railroads

 Statistical Structure
 Reading Structure

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# **State Certification of LPA Projects**

Documentation Accommodation of Utilities on ROW: a) Utilities comply with TDOT Rules & Regulation. b) Local Agency approved variance from TDOT Rules & Regs c) Utilities comply with TDOT Rules & Regs d) Utilities comply with Clear Zone requirements.

- e) Utilities issued by TDOT Permit for installations on State ROW
- Date Utilities/Railroads first notified of project.
- Dates of all project development meetings where Utilities/Railroads were invited to comment on plan development.
- Date Utilities/Railroads provided project right-of-way plans and/or revisions. (45 Days provided for response to revisions)

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## **State Certification of LPA Projects**

Date Utilities/Railroad returned relocation plans, estimates, & work schedules for relocation of conflicts. (Min.120 Days) Documentation project complied with Federal Rules & Regulations regarding utility reimbursement and Federal Accounting standards for cost estimates.

Documentation on all identified Utilities/Railroads contacted for coordination on the project:

a) Utilities contacted which have No Facilities on project. b) Utilities contacted that have No Conflict on the project.

c) Utilities contacted that will relocate at No Cost to project. d) Utilities contacted that have executed contracts for the

Reimbursement of cost to the project.

(Contracts for Reimbursement)

Local Agency can expect that TDOT will audit the project for compliance. TN TDOT







