Project Development Process

1. Prepare Project Study Report
2. Secure Project Programming
3. Prepare Draft Project Report
4. Perform Environmental Studies
5. Secure Project Approval
6. Obtain Approvals, Agreements & Permits
7. Prepare PS & E
8. Acquire Rights of Way
9. Prepare & Advertise Contract
10. Conduct & Complete Construction Project
11. Project Close-out
How Caltrans Develops Projects

The Caltrans project development process:

- Begins with feasibility studies and ends with a completed project.

- Has been designed through statute and regulations to provide many avenues for citizens and agencies to comment on project issues.
Prepare Project Study Report

- Prepare Project Initiation Document

- This includes scoping of the physical work, the budget and schedule to deliver the project. Also, the Need and Purpose of the project is refined.

- Typical Timeframe: 6 Months to 12 Months
Secure Project Programming

- Project competes for available funding from a variety of sources.
- Timing is dependent on funding cycle and project’s relative priority
- For RTIP funds, regional transportation planning agencies make decisions.
Prepare Draft Project Report

- Prepare Draft Project Report - engineering report that describes the work.
- Consideration of Alternatives
- Timeframe: parallel with Environmental Document
Perform Environmental Studies

- Environmental Studies Include:
  - Visual Impact analysis
  - Air Quality studies
  - Noise impacts
  - Water Quality studies
  - Hazardous Waste investigations
  - Hydraulic/Floodplain studies
  - Paleontology studies
  - Biological studies and assessments
  - Wetlands studies
  - Archeological surveys
  - Cultural and historical studies
Listed Species

- Federal Listed Species
- State Listed Species

Graph showing the number of listed species from 1973 to 2000.
Perform Environmental Studies

- Alternatives must be formally considered under a variety of circumstances
- Goal is to find least environmentally damaging alternative that fulfills Need and Purpose
- Timeframe on large documents averages 5 years
Secure Project Approval

- Project Approval/Environmental Approval
- FHWA and other regulatory Agencies must approve
Final Design

- Detailed Design, preparing of contract documents to be bid

- Entails range of activities from detailed engineering to color of walls and type of landscaping

- Timeframe: 2 years typical
Acquire Rights of Way

- Concurrent with detailed design
- Ensures that there is physical room and rights to build project
- Timeframe: Typically 6 months to 2 years
Obtain Approvals, Agreements & Permits

- Concurrent with R/W and Final design.
  Includes:
  - Permits
  - Cooperative Agreements
  - Freeway and Controlled Access Highway Agreements
  - Relinquishment Agreements
  - Maintenance Agreements
Prepare & Advertise Contract

- Design is complete.
- Right of Way - All needed properties have been obtained either by easement or acquisition, and all utilities have been taken care of.
- All permits and Agreements obtained
- California Transportation Commission must approve a fund request.
- Final project documents and bid package are then assembled for advertising.
Conduct & Complete Construction Project

- A Contractor is selected and the Construction contract is awarded

- **Timeframe:** Varies, 6 months to 3 years
Challenges - PSR

- Need and Purpose
- Scope of work clear and obtainable
- Consensus
Challenges - PA&ED

- Timeline for Environmental Analysis
- Reviews time by other agencies can be 40% or more of time
Typical Highway Improvement Project

Project Schedules

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Caltrans

- Ave.= 5.0
- 14.5

Transit (CA)

- Ave.= 4.0
- 6.0

Nevada

- Ave.= 6.4
- 10.1

Arizona

- Ave.= 2.5
- 4.5

Hawaii

- Ave.= 5.1
- 6.2

All other States

- Ave.= 5.3
- 10.8
Challenges - Design and R/W

- Ensuring Need and Purpose met
Streamlining Efforts

- Involve Resource Agencies at Project Initiation
- Manage MOUs - continuously improve
- Good project Scopes and Schedules
Streamlining

- Funds for staff at Resource and Regulatory agencies to deal with expanding Transportation Program
- Partnering meetings with EPA/CT/FHWA
- Enhance Coordination with Coastal Commission, NMFS, USEPA, USACoE, USFWS, SHPO, CDFG
Streamlining

- Reduce reworking project decisions by more involvement and outreach at critical times
- Perform activities concurrently when possible
- Utilize consultants for peak workloads and specialties