



Matanuska Susitna Borough Assembly Worksession



Environmental Process

- What is NEPA?
 - Procedural law that is triggered when Federal funds will be used for a project
 - Requires the following:
 - Determine Purpose & Need of project
 - Conduct public and agency scoping to solicit input on the project
 - Identify potential alternatives that might minimize environmental impacts while still meeting the P&N
 - Evaluate potential environmental impacts in an environmental document (EA or EIS)
 - Disclose information to the public and resource agencies and provide for additional opportunity for comment
 - Provide mitigation to minimize impacts
 - Goal is to streamline the NEPA process by integrating it with the environmental permitting process



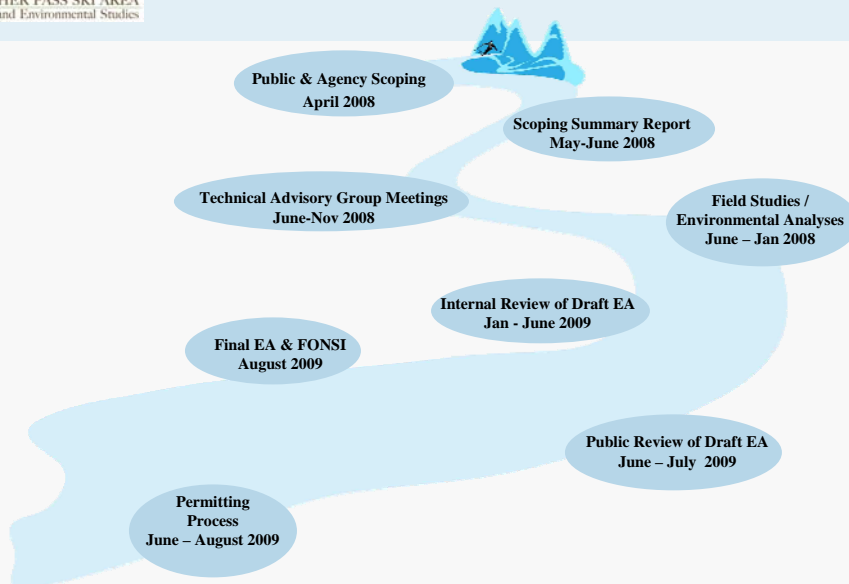
EA vs. EIS – How is it decided?

- FHWA determines whether an EA or an EIS is required.
- NEPA regulations (23 CFR 771) for FHWA state that an EA should be prepared:
 - For projects that are not included in their list of Categorical Excluded actions, and do not clearly require the preparation of an EIS, or
 - For projects where FHWA believes an EA would assist in determining the need for an EIS.

- FHWA requires an EIS when the Administration determines that the action is likely to cause “significant impacts” on the environment.
 - Potential indirect and cumulative impacts are considered
 - Can be triggered by public controversy

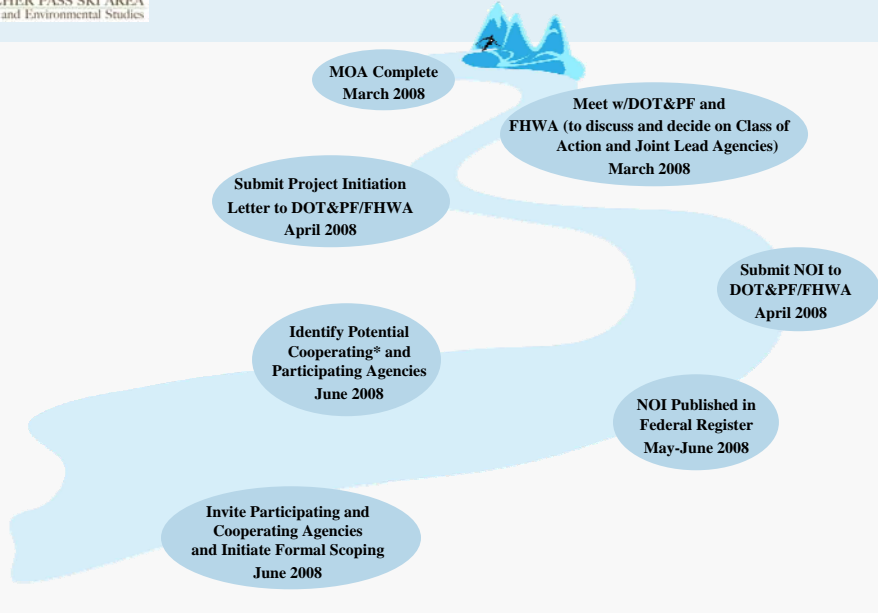


Project Schedule – EA





EIS Pre-Scoping Schedule



Project Schedule – EIS

