

When to Ask for State Funding for Your Project

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The State's Perspective from the Governor's Office to the Legislature

Governor's Office & Legislature

Trust Fund Balance

- Why can't the limited dollars be spent in a timelier manner?
- If these dollars are so needed, why aren't they being spent faster?
- Aren't the projects and requests on DEP's list ready to proceed?

How do we more wisely and timely ask for and spend these dollars?

Panel Discussion

- What goes into the decision making on funding requests at the local level?
- What is the consultant's role in assisting local governments with their funding requests and budgets/schedules?
- How can we better develop schedules and funding requests?
- How do we get a better handle on readiness to proceed?

Bottom Line

- Better schedules and budgets
- Better timing for local sponsor funding requests
- Improve evaluation of readiness-to-proceed

... A better project priority list submittal by DEP

... And beach dollars being spent within 18 months of their appropriation!

What Goes Into a Local Sponsor's Decision Regarding When to Ask

Legislative Appropriations

- Local governments typically request full project funding in the same year design/permitting for a renourishment project is begun.
- Lead times between design of projects and their construction can be anywhere from 3 to 5 years.
- This leads to confusion in the legislative appropriations process as to why funding is not being spent in a timely fashion.

Federal Funding

- The Federal government has addressed the time lags and uncertainties inherent in multi-year projects through the authorization and appropriations process for Corps Civil Works projects.
- Congress approves the size and scope of projects and their respective funding needs in a WRDA bill, establishing a level of certainty for project planners and budget committees.
- Appropriations to support authorized projects in the year in which they are capable to proceed are made sequentially (in an ideal world) matching funding with project milestones for multi-year projects.

Local Gov't Approach

- Consider a State authorization/appropriation process for beach and inlet management that utilizes phased funding.
- Consider funding models from other capital projects (e.g., water and wastewater).
- Focus on project milestones:
 - Feasibility studies and design
 - Permitting,
 - Easement or real estate acquisition,
 - Construction and mitigation
 - Post construction monitoring

Cooperation of Regulators

- Sequence funding requests with construction activity:
 1. Phase beach renourishment funding requests with timelines provided by applicants.
 2. Local governments can inform their local legislative delegation about the phased nature of multi-year beach projects and their funding needs.
 3. Phased activities can also be effectively communicated by FDEP when it submits the Fixed Capital Outlay, Local Government Funding Request.
 4. Regulators can interact more closely with the Bureau's project administrators to indicate potential issues or concerns early on in the process.

Example: Hardbottom Impacts

- Hardbottom impacts are created through permanent or ephemeral burial of sand from adjacent beach renourishment activities.
- Impacts between the time of burial and the time in which mitigation can effectively provide replacement live bottom can be on the order of 2 to 3 years and will result in additional mitigation for temporal loss.
- Additional mitigation requirements that come after the initial reef construction may have little or no matching funding.
- Temporal loss, and the cost associated with it, can be reduced if mitigation is commenced prior to beach construction to provide mitigation credit.

Funding For Mitigation

If Local Governments sought mitigation funding under a multi-year phased plan to build mitigation credits in advance of construction, then:

- Mitigation could be reduced, if not eliminated, for future impacts.
- Additional certainty for mitigation success is provided for the permittee and the regulatory community.
- Lower mitigation ratios due to the reduction in temporal loss would result in lower local and state cost shares for mitigation.

How Can Design Professionals Contribute to Getting the Timing Right

Three Questions:

- What?
- When?
- How Much?



Local Gov't Funding Request

FDEP Annual Requirement

- 10-Year Planning Document
- One Fiscal Year Ahead (Just submitted FY 2012-2013)
- Project Descriptions & Schedules
- Anticipated Costs by Year
- Parking, Zoning, Lodging, etc.
- Determines Ranking for Funding Eligibility

Ask for money in a timely manner with the LGFR as vehicle

Local Gov't Funding Request

Quarterly Reports

- Due: January / April / July / October
- Update Project Descriptions and Schedules
- Introduce New Projects
- Permitting & Design Updates
- Construction Schedule / Progress
- Monitoring Status

Bonus Points in Ranking!

Get The Timing Right

Long and Short Term Planning

- Identify Immediate / Ongoing Tasks
- Target a Construction Timeframe for Specific Projects
- Critical Path (Tasks) to Meet Overall Schedule
- Annual Budget Estimates
- Stay Current

Beach dollars being spent within 18 months of their appropriation!

Keep Funding Partners Informed

- Be Timely
- Current Expectations
- Recent Progress
- Unavoidable Changes
- Delays, Storms, Permitting, Design Modifications, etc.
- Update schedule and costs every year

Funding programs must build in flexibility to adapt to changes beyond the control of the local sponsor.

Questions & Discussion

- What goes into the decision making on funding requests at the local level?
- What is the consultant's role in assisting local governments with their funding requests and budgets/schedules?
- How can we better develop schedules and funding requests?
- How do we get a better handle on readiness to proceed?
- How can we plan appropriations that better adapt to unforeseen changes in project scope and schedule?