

# Environmental Updates

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Federal Aviation  
Administration



Federal Aviation  
Administration

# Overview



- Environmental Program Deadlines
- ALP Changes and NEPA
  - NEPA Triggers
- Planning and NEPA
- Pitfalls During NEPA
- Program Deadlines

# Environmental Program Deadlines



- January 15, 2024
  - Environmental actions (Environmental Assessments and Categorical Exclusions) must be completed for all FY-2024 projects. Deadline may be extended if substantial environmental actions have been completed and only minor items requiring resolution remain.
- March 1, 2024
  - Environmental actions for FY-2024 projects **MUST BE** completed for remaining projects (entitlement only design grants and equipment/planning/environmental grants)  
No extensions.



# ALP Changes and NEPA

## Federal Actions that Trigger NEPA

- Federal Funding
  - AIP
  - PFC
  - BIL
- Federal Approval
  - Land Release (Release AND foreseeable use)
  - Airport Layout Plan (ALP) changes



# NEPA is not a Good Place to be doing Fundamental Planning

That's like leaping off a cliff and trying to knit yourself a parachute on the way down.



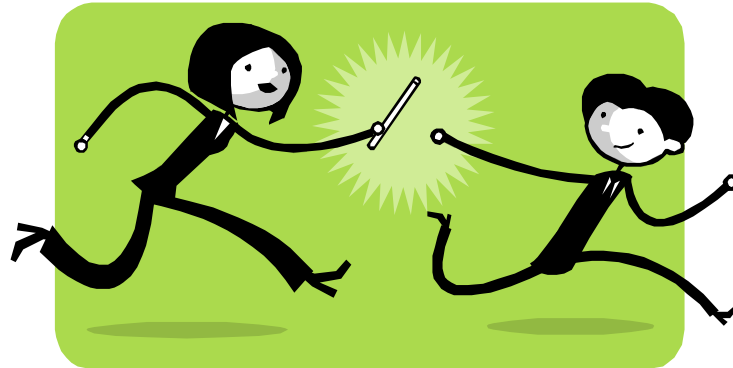
No plan ever failed due  
to good planning.



# What is required to begin the NEPA process for a Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)

The project has been discussed with the PM and Planner AND

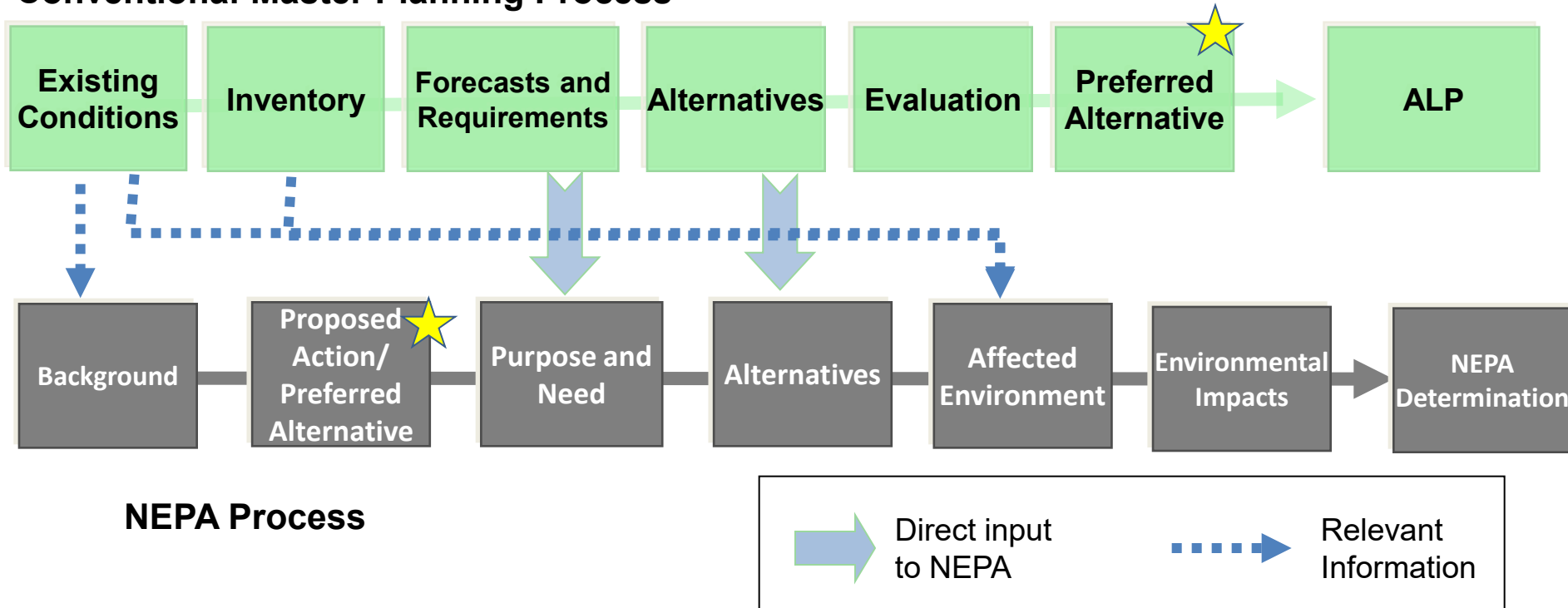
- Is an **eligible** project;
- That is **justified**;
- **Shown** on the ALP; and
- Has a **Funding Plan**;



Provide a clear and simple layout of the project with the CAT-EX documentation

# How Planning & NEPA Relate for an EA

## Conventional Master Planning Process



- Both require supporting information/data
- Both encourage early coordination

# NEPA – What Slows us Down?

Planning... The key to streamlining the environmental process is GOOD PLANNING!

- Incomplete/Stale Planning
- Poorly Justified
- Project Drift

## Poor Communication

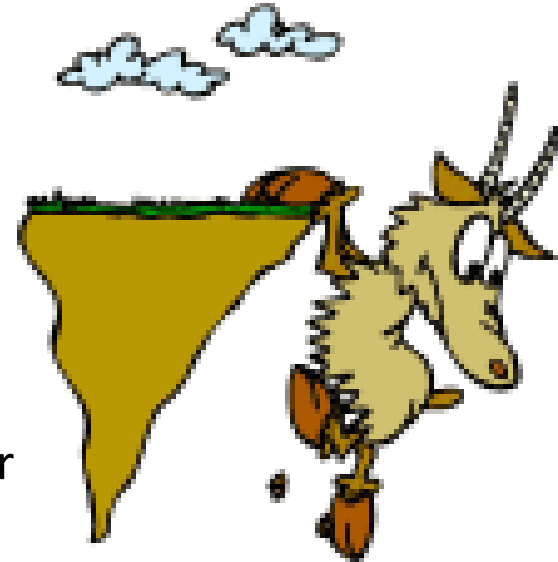
- Planning/Engineering/Environmental/Sponsor

## Project Management

- Sponsor/Prime/Sub-Consultants/FAA

## Time Management

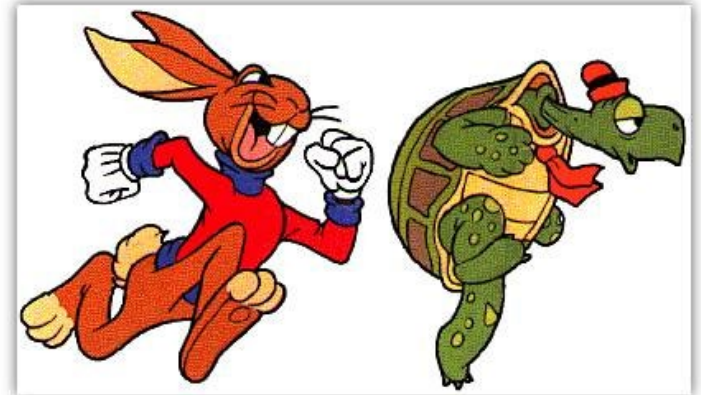
- Timing of field surveys
- Coordination with Agencies and Tribes
- FAA Internal Coordination
  - Line of business and Legal Reviews





# NEPA – What Slows us Down?

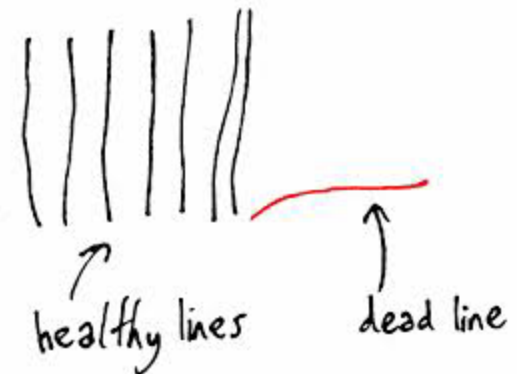
- Document Quality
  - Poor writing
  - Unsubstantiated statements
  - Unresponsive to comments
  - Tell the story! Must take technical info and put it in a form that the public can understand
- Expertise
  - NEPA Experience
  - SMEs for resource categories of concern



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# Questions?

