

Summary of Right-of-Way Activities

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Right of Way Office & Legal Counsel

What we will discuss today

- Laws & Regulations Concerning Right-Of-Way (ROW) procedures
- The Role of the ROW Office
 - Project Planning Identification of Property Owners
 - Appraisal
 - Review Appraisal
 - Acquisition
 - Relocation
 - Filing of deeds & easements
 - Property management including vacating property no longer needed
 - History of DOT and Right-of-Way Ownership Types



Laws and Regulations for Property Acquisition

Federal Laws and Regulations

Federal Law - passed by U.S. Congress:

- 23 US Code Highways.
- 42 US Code Transportation.

Code of Federal Regulations:

- 49 CFR Part 24 Transportation.
- 23 CFR Part 710 Highways.

The Uniform Act

State Laws and Regulations

The South Dakota Constitution (Article VI, Section 13) and state statutes require that when property is taken for a highway construction project, the state must provide the landowner with just compensation for the taking. The term just compensation as provided for in the constitution and statute is the full market value of the property at the time of taking. The measure of just compensation in cases involving a partial taking is the difference between the market value of the unit before the taking and the market value of what remains after the taking.

The policies and procedures are set forth in the SD DOT Right of Way Program Manual.



The Uniform Act

The Federal law governing relocation assistance and real property acquisition.



How is the Act Applied?

- 1. Appraise properties unless
 - The landowner donates his/her property & releases state from this obligation
 - Agency determines that an appraisal is unnecessary and a Estimate of Value is prepared
- 2. Allows owner to accompany the appraiser.
- Establishes just compensation.
- Negotiate and purchase property.
- Assist land owners and tenants with relocation.





Valuing the land needed for a project

- Donation
- Established payment for low value acquisitions
- Waiver Valuation (if simple straight forward acquisition AND under \$25,000)
- Appraisal



Appraisal for Eminent Domain Situation

Appraisals for eminent domain proceedings are different than those done for lending or insurance purposes:

- Appraisers value the fee simple interest of the property the cleanest title to property available under civil law; although it cannot be absolute, it presumes that there is no other claim to ownership to the property.
- The valuation is made without regard to the value of easements or leaseholds that may be attached to the property.
- The owner of the property being appraised must be offered an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during the inspection of the property.
- The definition of Market Value is unique to ROW needs
- Non-compensable items are not included



Appraisal Review

All appraisals used under the Uniform Act are subject to the review and approval by a review appraiser prior to the commencement of negotiations. The total appraisal process is not complete until the review of the appraisal has been completed and a determination made as to whether the work performed by the appraiser adequately supports the market value opinion for the property. The review appraisal will provide the basis for the written offer to the property.



Real Property Acquisition

- Sensitive topic to the public involving direct contact between SDDOT and people affected by transportation projects. In most cases the land is "not for sale" at the time property acquisition is needed for a highway improvement project.
- SDDOT primary goal regarding real estate acquisition is to acquire right-of-way through negotiation – avoiding condemnation process whenever possible.



When Negotiations Fail

Three Alternative Settlement Techniques:

- Administrative Settlements.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Mediation.
- Eminent Domain and the Condemnation Process.





Relocation Payments and Services

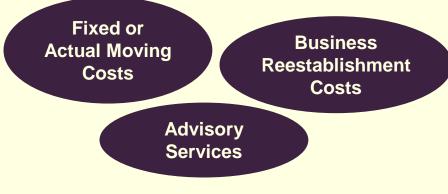
Residential:

- Moving costs (based on fixed amount or actual cost).
- Advisory services.
- Replacement Housing Benefits.



Nonresidential:

- Moving costs (fixed or actual) including searching expenses.
- Business reestablishment costs.
- Advisory services.

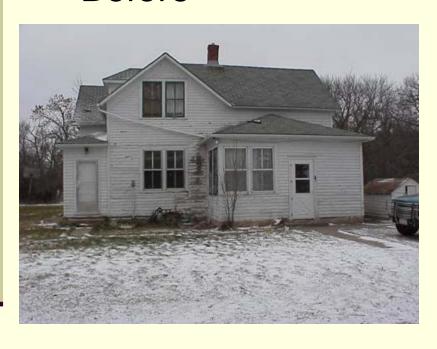






Farmstead Relocation Example

Before

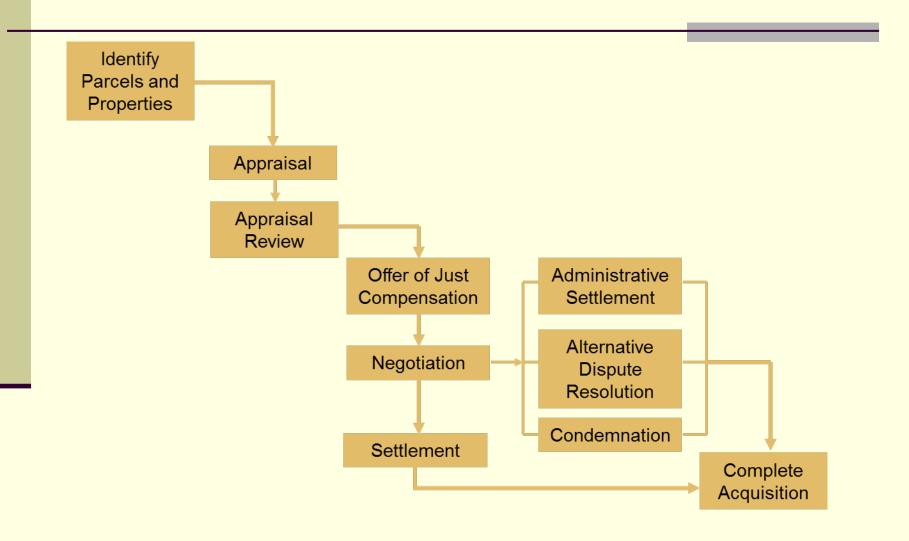


After





Steps in the Acquisition Process



After property is acquired

- Lien Releases
- Record Deeds & Releases
- Manage property and ROW



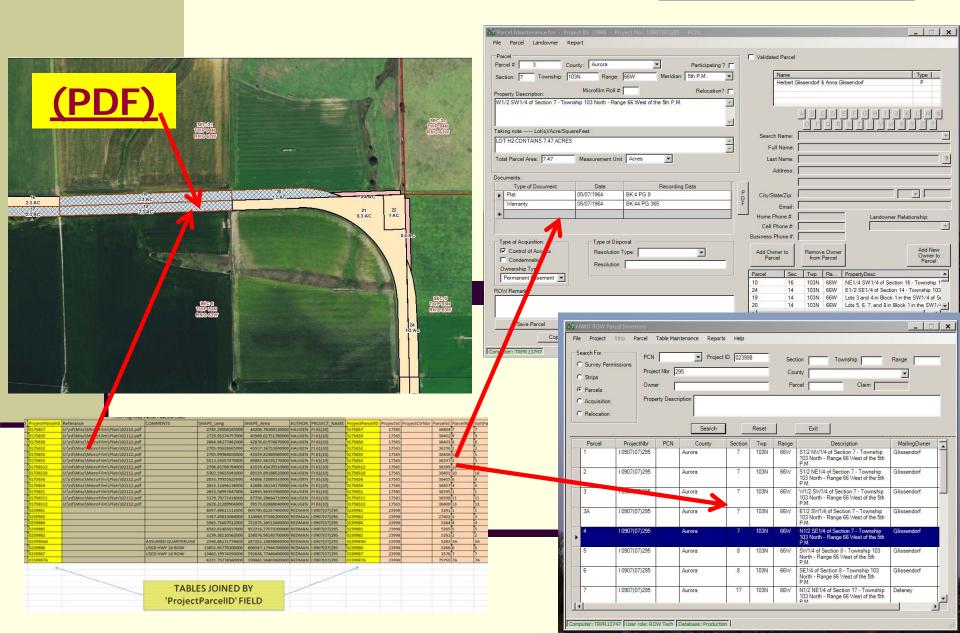
After property is acquired: Transportation Commission Action items

Any time there is a change in property interests DOT holds, the Transportation Commission must approve the proposed action. These typically are:

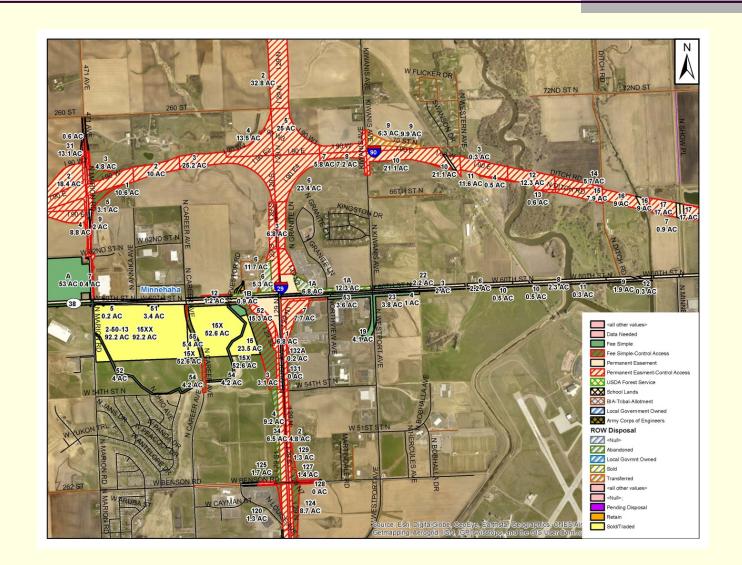
- Abandonment
- Transfer
- Trade/Exchange



Improve Retrieval of Property Records



I 90 & I 29 in Northwest Sioux Falls South Dakota



SDDOT History – The Roots

- Dakota Territory created in 1861 Legislation provided for six roads.
- 1868 the first road law went into effect providing revenue for road upkeep. Citizens could either pay an annual tax of \$2.50 or work two days to help maintain the roads.
- 1917 SDDOT is created.
- 1919 Transportation Commission is created through SB 220 to help direct construction and maintenance of the road infrastructure for South Dakota. The first meeting was held April 7, 1919.

SDDOT History of Right-of-Way "Buying the Land"

- Before July 1, 1939 No Purchase Power Counties acquired.
- July 1, 1939 to July 1, 1986 ROW Purchase
 - State could purchase right-of-way (ROW), but not fee interest needed for highway construction. State could hold fee interest in property (land).
 - Supreme Court Ruling from cases determined: All ROW could only be acquired by a Highway Use Deed (permanent easement) Most ROW in this time period was acquired with a warranty deed Supreme Court ruling makes title work a challenge for this time period. When this ROW is no longer needed, the state will abandon its interest & ROW will revert to former owner or assigns.
- After July 1, 1986
 - State given authority to purchase ROW in Fee Title. SDCL 31-19-42
 - Through condemnation proceedings, the State is granted permanent easement only. When this ROW is no longer needed for highway purposes, the state will abandon its interest & the ROW will revert to former owner or assigns.
- July 1, 2010 Local governments given authority to purchase ROW in Fee Title.

An Interesting Appraisal, Relocation and Acquisition Challenge



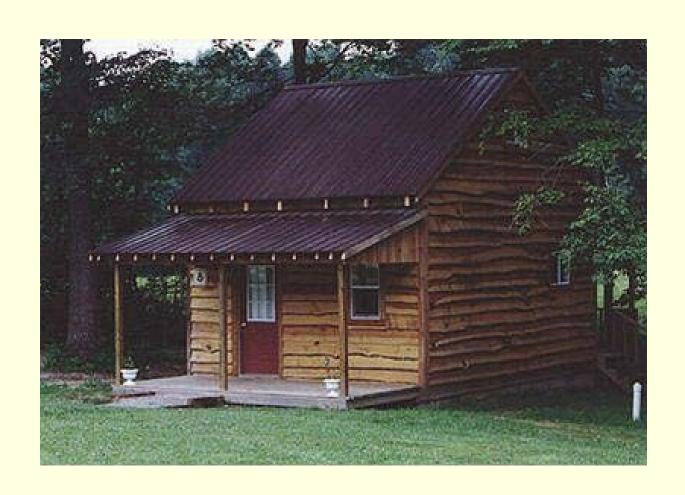
Your House As Seen By Yourself...



Your House As Seen By Your Lender...



Your House As Seen By Your Buyer...



Your House As Seen By Your Appraiser...



Your House As Seen By Your County Tax Assessor...

