



**PROGRAM DELIVERY WORKSHOP**

JULY 2024 | WASHINGTON, DC

# Advancing Projects Involving Multiple USDOT Modes

**Navigating the Project  
Lifecycle Collaboratively**

# Agenda

- Moderated Roundtable
  - Planning
  - Project Development and NEPA
  - Real Property Acquisition
  - Project Oversight and Engineering
- Q&A

# Panelists



**Gina Solman**  
Transportation  
Industry Analyst



**Tony Lee**  
Community  
Planner



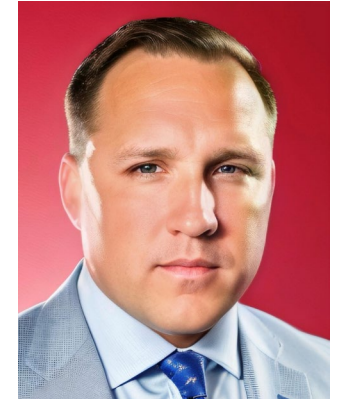
**Eric Rothermel**  
Environmental  
Protection  
Specialist



**Michele Palicka**  
Realty Specialist



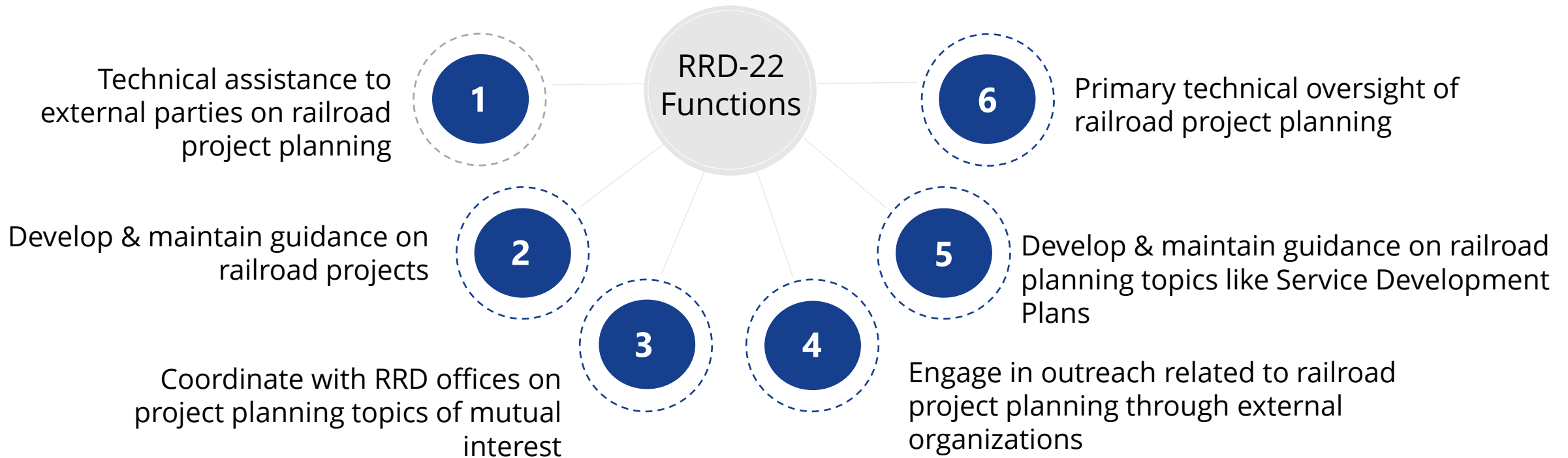
**Kevin MacWhorter**  
Attorney-Adviser



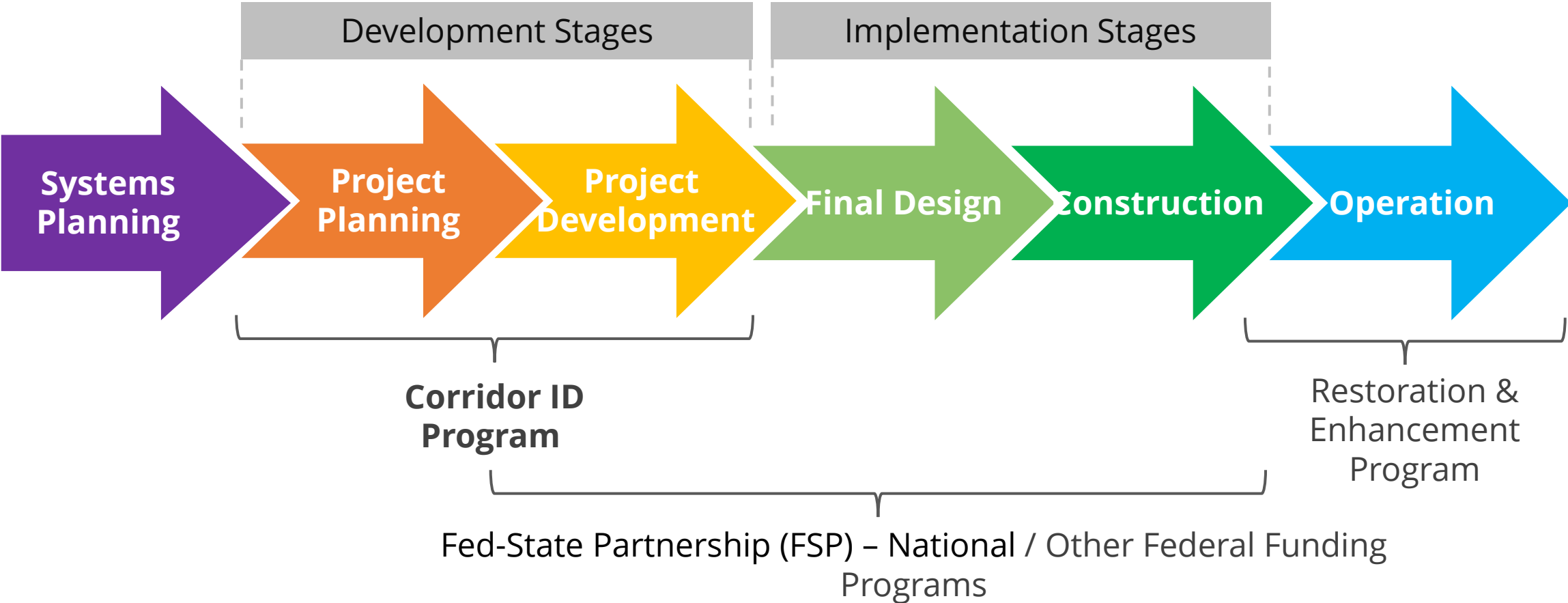
**Michael Kuchieski**  
Lead – NEC Project  
Implementation Team

# **Rail Planning & Engineering**

The Project Planning Division's mission is to oversee, coordinate, and participate in railroad project planning—from initial identification of capital projects to implementation.



# FRA Project Lifecycle & Funding Programs



# **Environmental Program Management**

# Office of Environmental Program Management

For rail stakeholders pursuing federal investment or project approval, RRD-30:

- **Oversees** implementation of environmental laws and regulations;
- **Advises** on environmental and climate policy; and
- **Ensures integration** of project development with environmental work

## Environmental Coordination & Strategy

Serves as the principal **advisory group** and provides senior-level technical assistance, strategy, and support for the office director and office staff.

## Environmental Policy

Oversees the **development and implementation** of environmental policy and clear guidance including:

- Human & natural environment
- NEPA policy, both internally and with rail stakeholders
- Realty and real estate matters

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

## Environmental Review

Oversees **compliance** with NEPA and other applicable environmental laws & regulations for projects with FRA funding or action.

## Cultural Resources

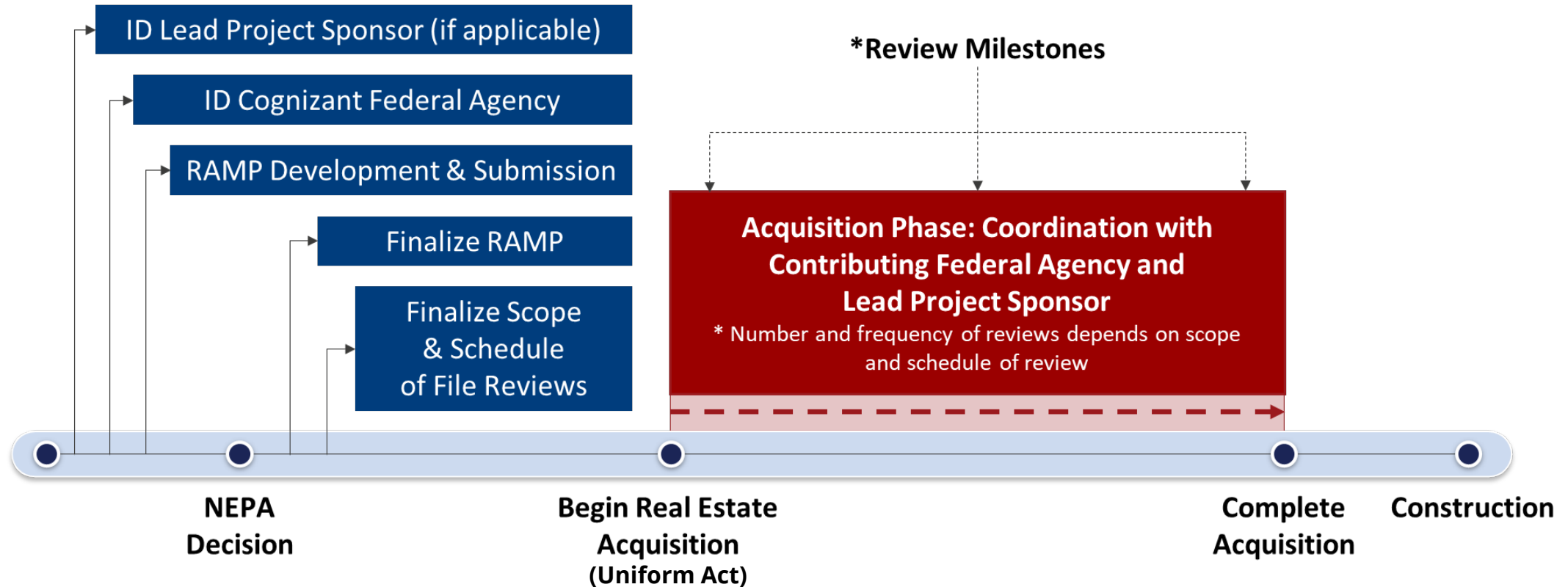
Oversees **integration of NHPA cultural resources and historic preservation requirements** and policies into FRA projects and programs.

NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act



# Real Property Acquisition

# Typical Project Timeline & Real Estate Acquisition



Applies to Multimodal-Funded Major Capital Projects: *Projects cost ≥ \$300 million, incorporate ≥ \$100 million in Federal investment, and includes investments from both FTA and FRA.*

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act, i.e., environmental review; RAMP: Real Estate Acquisition Management Plan

# Engineering and Oversight

# Engineering and Oversight

- **Problem Statement**

- FRA and FTA have different and/or duplicative oversight requirements
- FRA and FTA developed a joint SOP to harmonize oversight requirements on jointly funded projects

- **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

- Engineering and Oversight SOP outlines the process, roles, and responsibilities of FRA and FTA in performing project management oversight and engineering activities on Multimodal-Funded Projects

- **Lead Agency Solution**

- Lead Federal Oversight Agency: The Federal Agency that leads project oversight for a Multimodal-Funded project is responsible for coordinating and establishing expectations with the Project Sponsor and ensures overall project compliance with both FRA and FTA requirements.
- Non-Lead Federal Oversight Agency: The Federal Agency that provides funding but is not the lead for project oversight of a Multimodal-Funded project. The Non-Lead Federal Oversight Agency will still carry out grant management responsibilities and will monitor findings of reviews undertaken by the Lead Federal Oversight Agency and provide input where necessary.

# Engineering and Oversight

- **Key Assumptions**

- One combined and comprehensive financial plan
- One combined and comprehensive project management plan
- Focused on the oversight that occurs post obligation of grants funds for multimodal projects.

- **Lead Agency Selected by FRA and FTA based on following:**

- CIG Program funding
- FRA/FTA funding levels
- Cognizant agency for real estate
- Ownership/operation of infrastructure
- Entity managing major contracts
- Relationship project has with other FRA/FTA projects
- Lead Federal agency for NEPA
- Other relevant factors (e.g., safety)

**Questions?**

# Resources

- **DOT Navigator**  
<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>
- **DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard**  
<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>
- **Multimodal-Funded Projects**  
<https://railroads.dot.gov/grants-loans/multimodal-funded-projects>
  - FRA/FTA Real Property Acquisition Oversight SOP  
<https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/fra-fta-real-property-acquisition-sop>
  - FRA/FTA Project Management Oversight and Engineering SOP  
<https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/frafta-project-management-oversight-and-engineering-sop>

