



# PERMITTING COUNCIL

Transparency • Efficiency • Accountability

For Immediate Release

January 29, 2020

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## FPISC Executive Director Commits to Advance National Governor's Association Initiative

**San Francisco, CA** – Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) Executive Director, Alexander Herrgott unveiled a new model for streamlining infrastructure project reviews across Federal and State government this week as part of the National Governors Association (NGA) Chair's initiative, *Infrastructure: Foundations for Success*.

**“Governors can create a customized State Permitting Council, tailored to fit the unique needs of their states. This achieves NGA’s goal to centralize decision makers, provide coordinated project schedules, and reduce uncertainty and costs,”** said Herrgott. **“Thanks to Governor Hogan’s leadership in identifying common sense solutions to ensure public and private dollars are focused on building desperately needed infrastructure.”**

Herrgott’s proposal accelerates infrastructure development, from surface transportation to energy production and broadband. The proposed creation of State Permitting Councils includes a formalized plan for early stakeholder outreach and interagency coordination, a public tracking system, and additional resources through fees.

**“In states across the country, governors are working together in a bipartisan way showing real leadership, making real progress, and finding real solutions to the serious problems facing us,”** said Governor Hogan. **“Our nation’s governors on both sides of the aisle are finding new ways to innovate, to reform, and to drive the debate. My goal is to harness that strength and come up with all the best ideas in order to tackle the infrastructure issue that is so fundamental to our economy, environment, and our way of life.”**

**“I am pleased to work alongside my friend and colleague, Governor Hogan, on this vital initiative to help governors speed up the delivery of infrastructure and reduce costs,”** said Governor Steve Bullock. **“By adopting process improvement tools like those identified during this stakeholder summit, governors can support the development of critical infrastructure while ensuring the natural resources vital to our state’s economy, environment, and wellbeing are protected.”**

Mr. Herrgott’s presentation at the NGA Stakeholder Summit comes on the heels of the Permitting Council’s 15 Federal agencies and partners voting to affirm the White House Governors’ Initiative on Regulatory Innovation.

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Note to Editor:

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Enclosed for additional information:

- (1) State Permitting Fact Sheet
- (2) FAST-41 Fact Sheet

On December 4, 2015, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. Title 41 of this Act (42 U.S.C. § 4370m et seq.), referred to as “FAST-41,” established a coordinating framework designed to improve the permitting process for large-scale infrastructure projects across the nation.



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FAST-41 was developed as a bipartisan tool to identify, consistently monitor, and resolve issues and delays across 15 Federal agencies and partners to deliver a more transparent and predictable permitting process for large-scale infrastructure projects.

FAST-41 seeks to avoid and minimize interagency conflicts, communication failures, and delays that result when multiple agencies and permitting actions are involved for a single proposed infrastructure project. The Permitting Council implements FAST-41 tools and provisions to prevent uncertainty in the permitting process and unnecessarily extensive permitting timeframes.

FAST-41 challenges federal and state agencies to reduce overall permitting timeframes. Tangible permitting process improvements are delivered on a project-specific basis through:

- Dedicated executive level oversight within each Federal permitting agency - and the Permitting Council Executive Director - to ensure consistent and timely agency decision-making
- Tailored permitting roadmap and schedule - developed on a project-by-project basis\*
- Concurrent permitting processes and early identification of key topics for interagency discussion
- Statutory provisions governing major changes or delays to a project's permitting schedule – including required Executive Director approval\*\*
- Focus on early coordination with earnest consultation with all stakeholders
- Incorporation of best practices and data driven tools to improve the permitting process, ensuring transparency and predictability in the process for the public
- Formal dispute resolution
- Enhanced legal predictability

\*FAST-41 does not assume or guarantee approval as the permitting outcome.

\*\*FAST-41 does not modify any underlying Federal statutes, regulations, or mandatory reviews.