

An aerial photograph showing a multi-lane highway interchange. To the left, there is a residential neighborhood with houses and trees. Below the highway, a large solar farm is visible, consisting of rows of photovoltaic panels. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and dense evergreen forests. The sky is clear and blue.

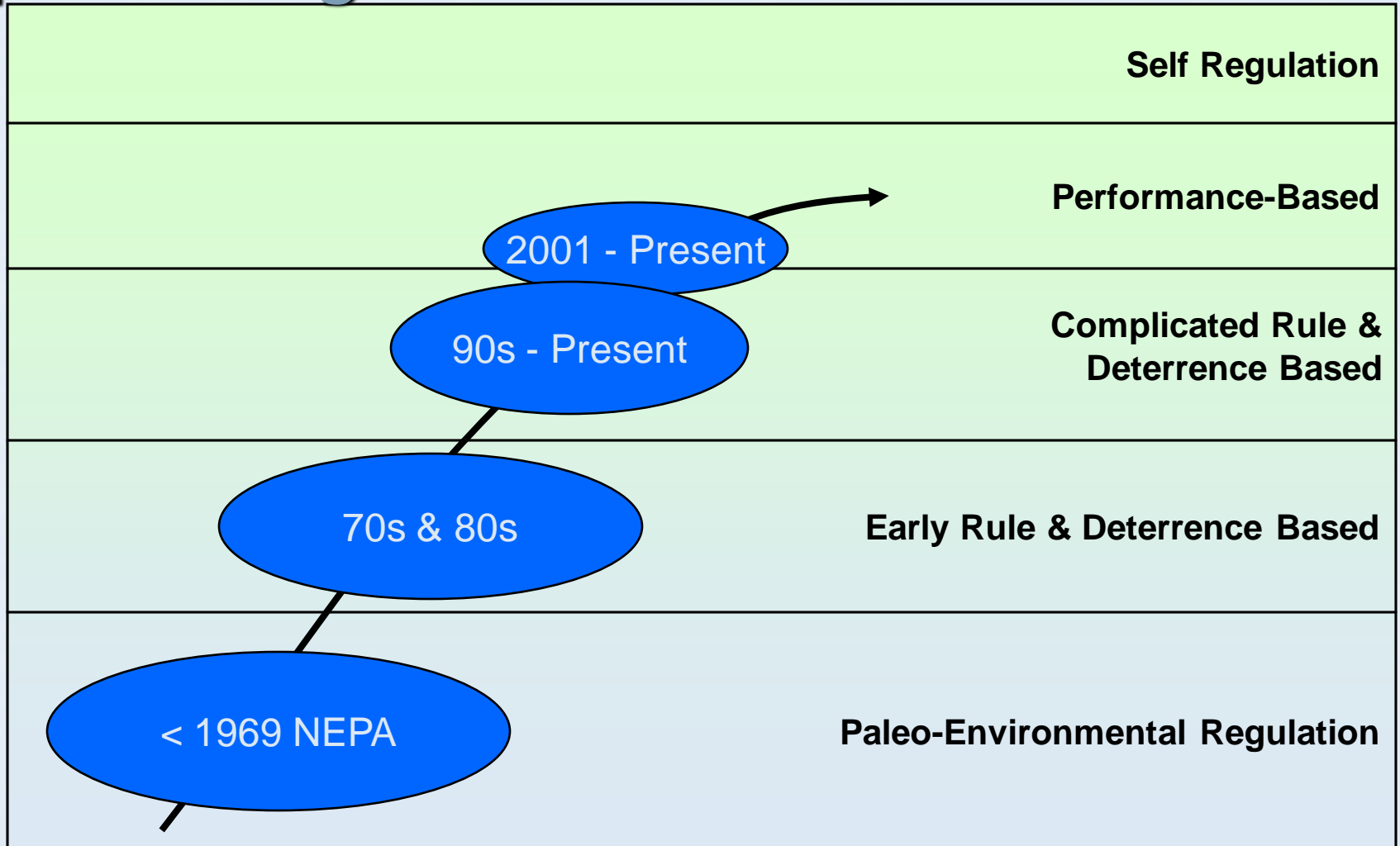
JTA Section 18

Better, Faster, Cheaper for
Highway Construction Projects

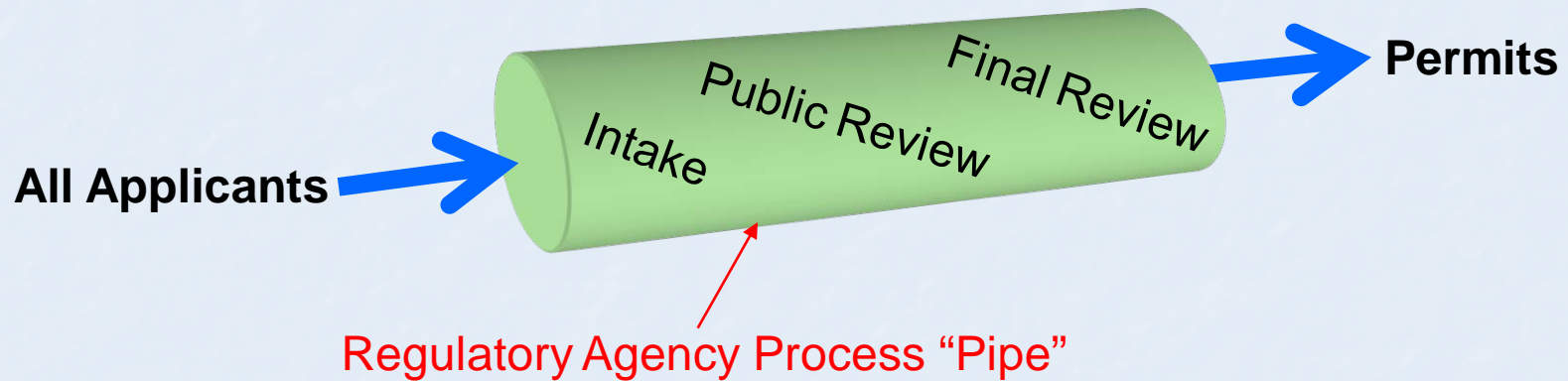
*TRB Waste Management and Resource
Efficiency Workshop*

*Jennifer Sellers, Geo-Environmental
ODOT*

ODOT's evolving arc of environmental permitting



Early rule & deterrence permitting



- Simplistic terms and conditions
- Standards depend on individuals
- Wildly varying process times
- A lot of violations
- Adversarial relationships common

Complicated rule & deterrence permitting

Regulatory Agency Process "Pipes"

All Applicants



Permits

x Dozen Agencies

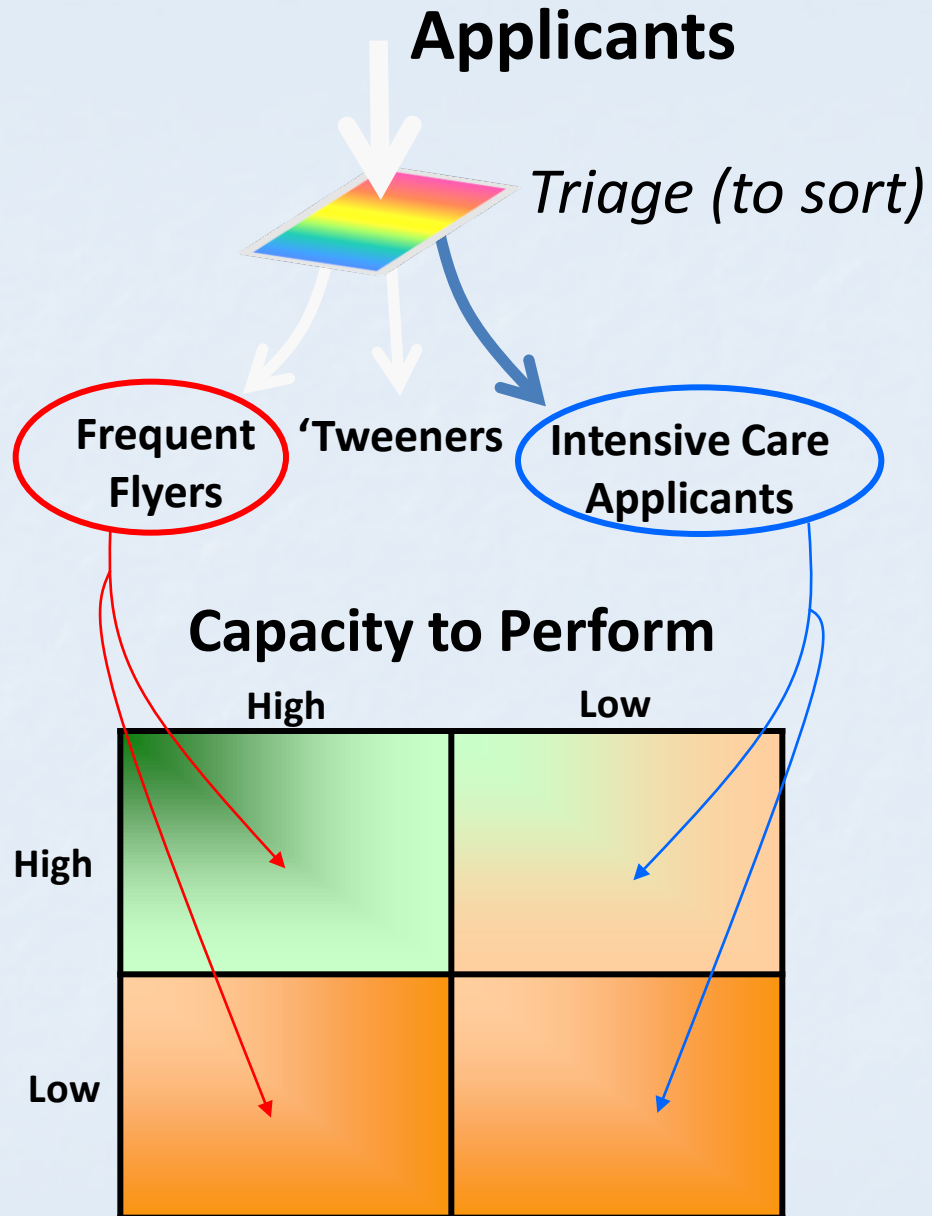
- Long lead times
- Bottlenecks
- Duplication
- Rework
- Back Logs
- Prescriptive terms and conditions
- Etc.

How to fix kinked up, clogged pipes?

- Triage the flow (sorting)
- Straighten the pipes

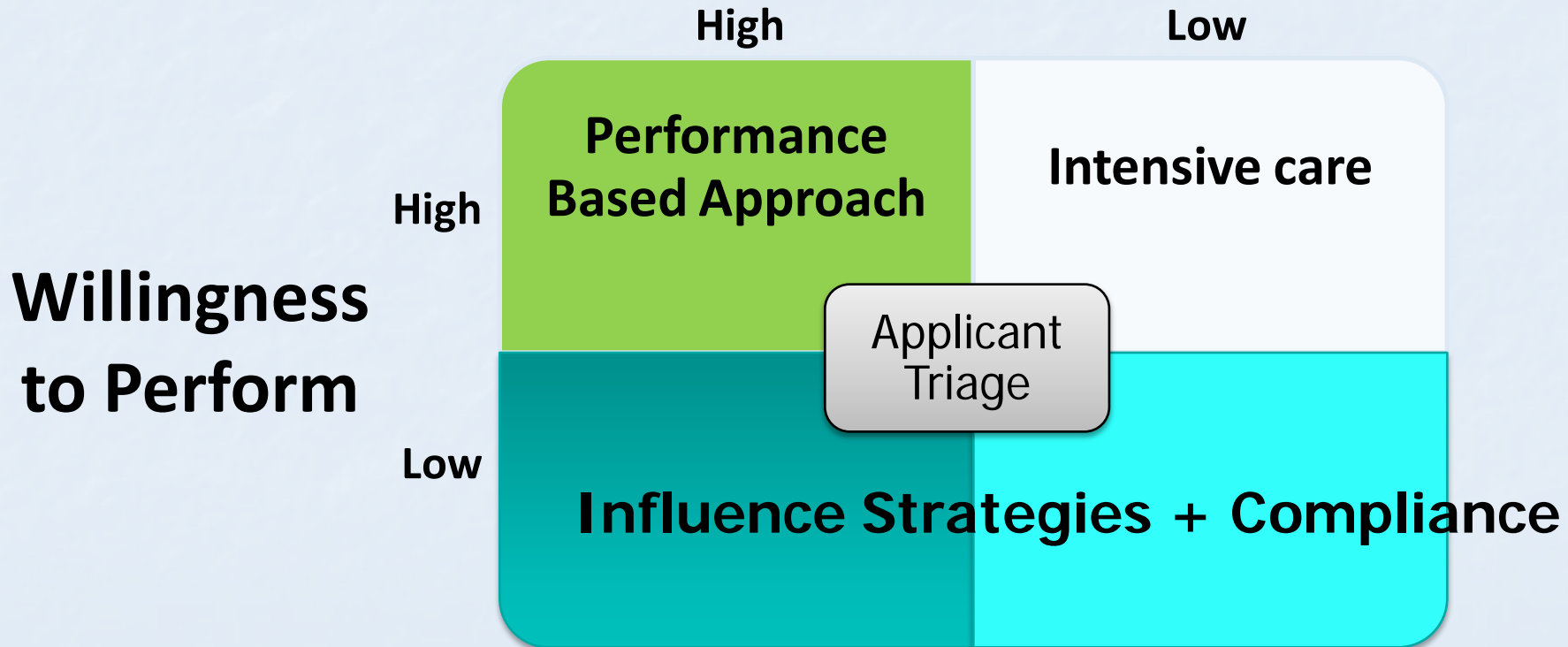


Triage environmental permitting applicants



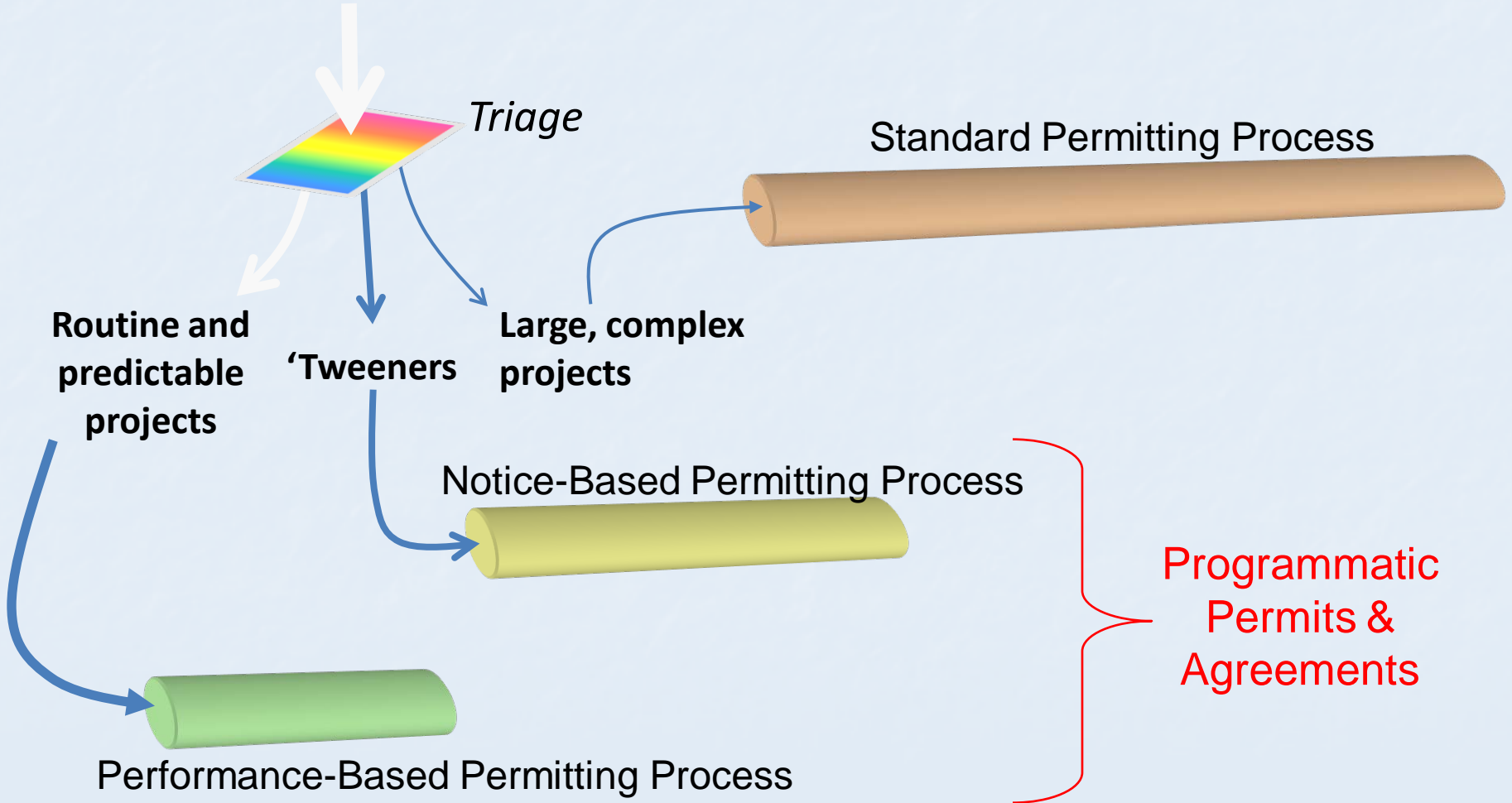
Environmental permitting strategies

Capacity to Perform



Triage the flow; straighten the pipes

State Transportation Projects



Elements of performance-based permitting

Instead of...

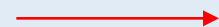
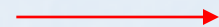
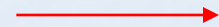
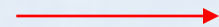
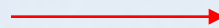
Complex procedures and procedural thresholds

Application processing for each project

Significant time & effort on permitting processes

Focus on compliance with administrative procedures

Treat all violations the same



Shift to...

Specify environmental performance standards to meet

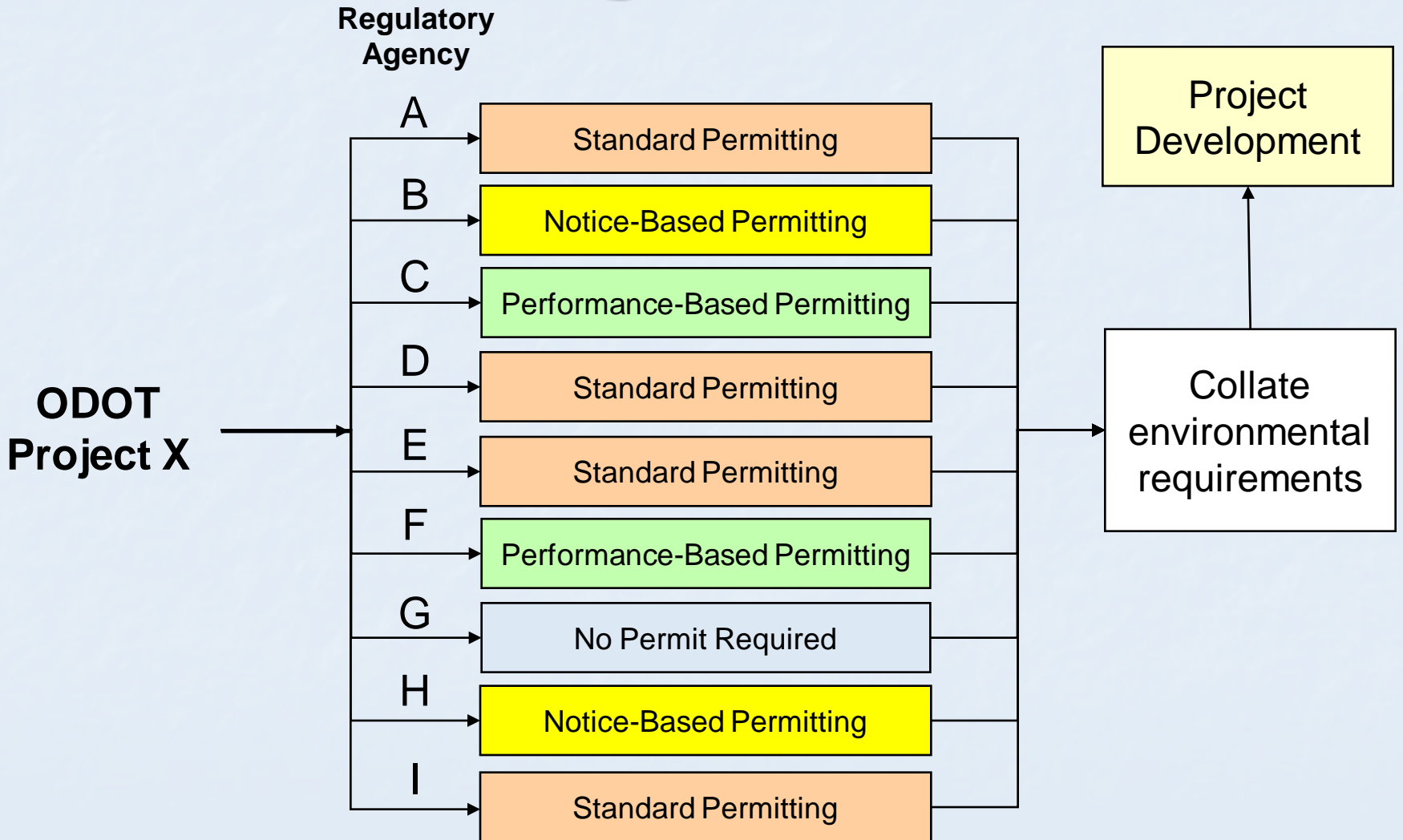
Assess and “certify” applicant’s design & construction processes

Monitor results: dashboards, sampling

Assist applicants in developing continuous improvement processes

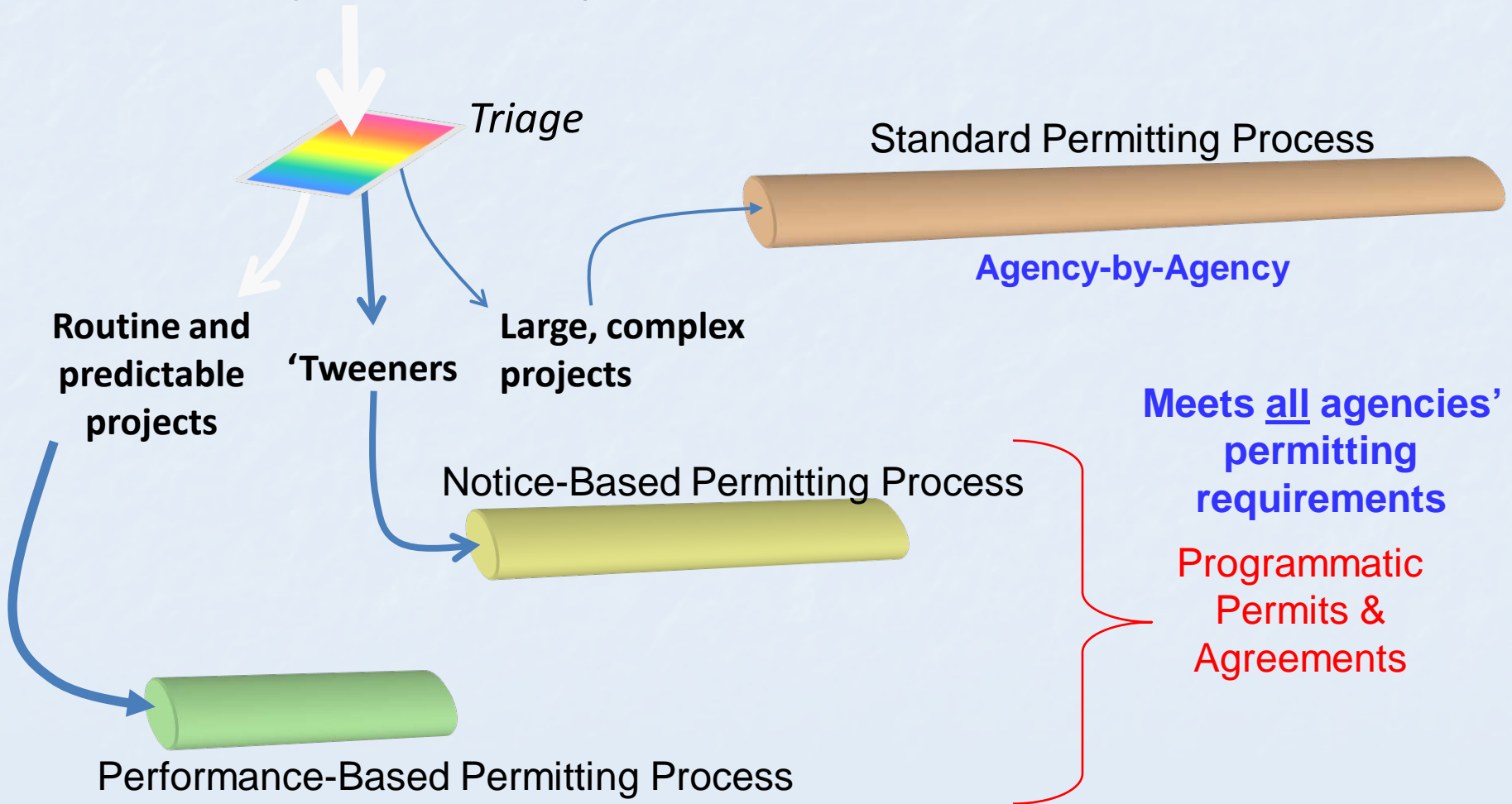
Strong enforcement in reserve for significant cases

Current challenges

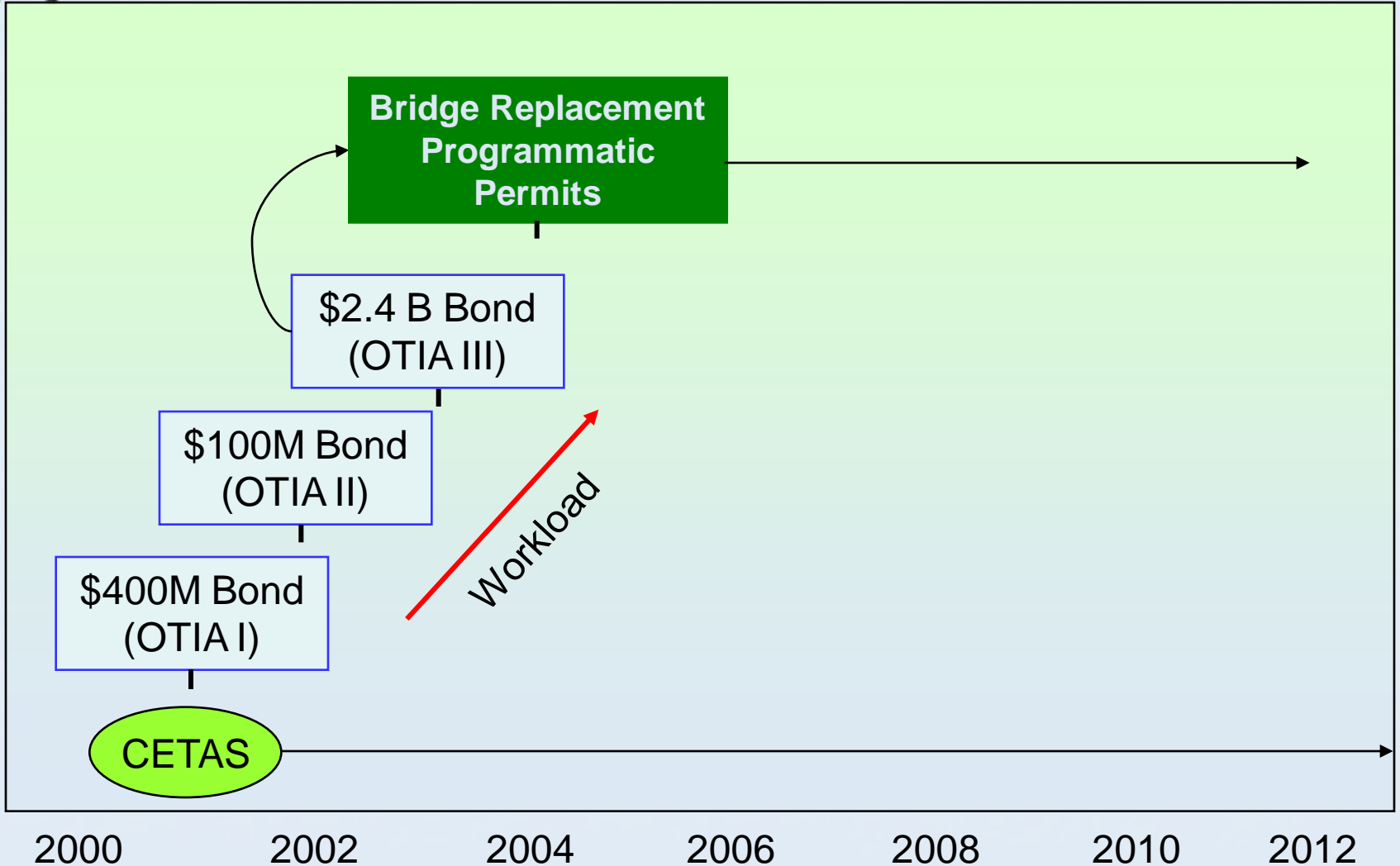


Desired future state

State Transportation Projects



ODOT's response to complicated regulatory pipes

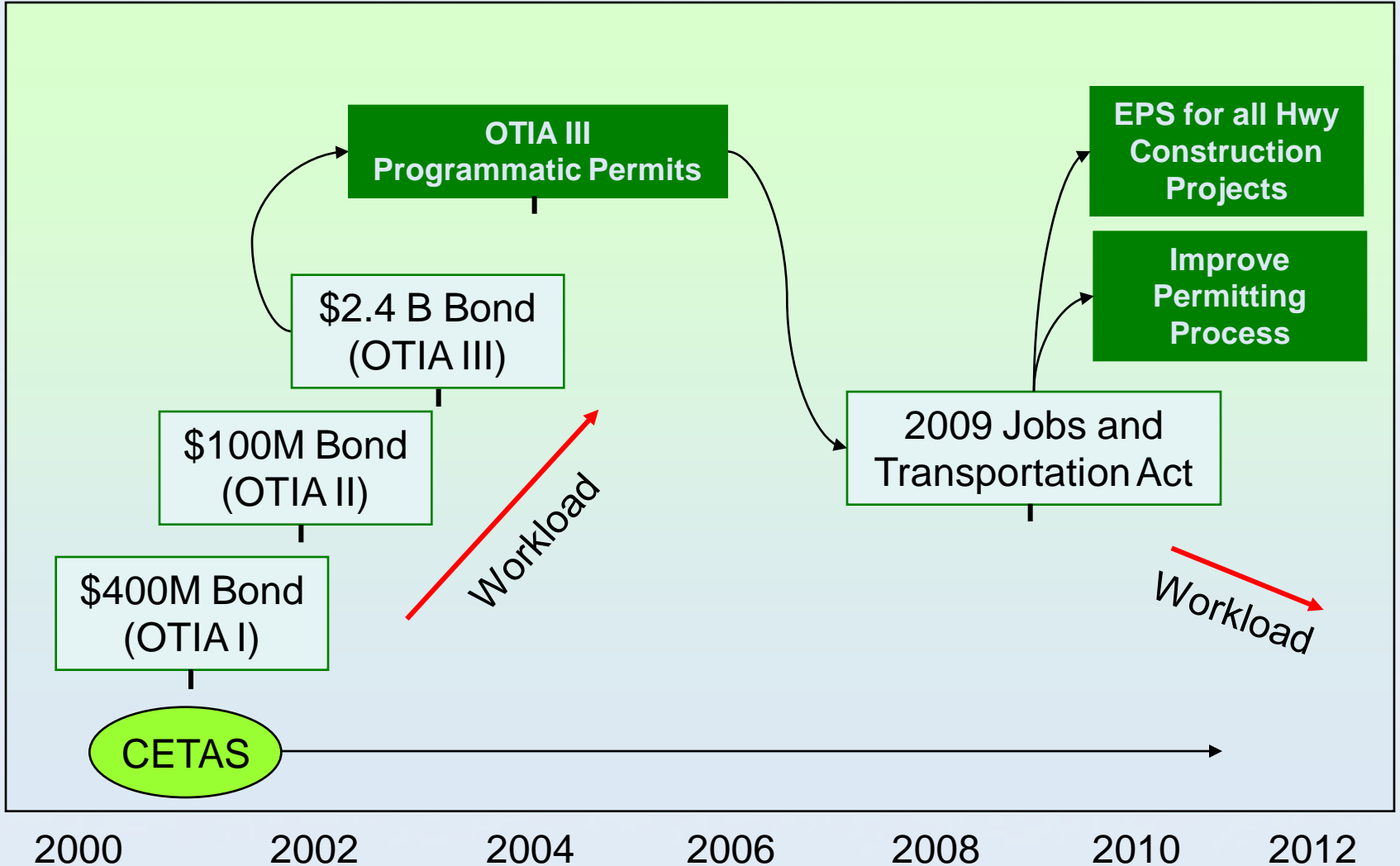


Performance-based permitting

**Transparency + Accountability + Consistency
= Certainty**

Performance = Trust

ODOT's performance-based permitting initiatives



2009 Jobs and Transportation Act

ODOT must...

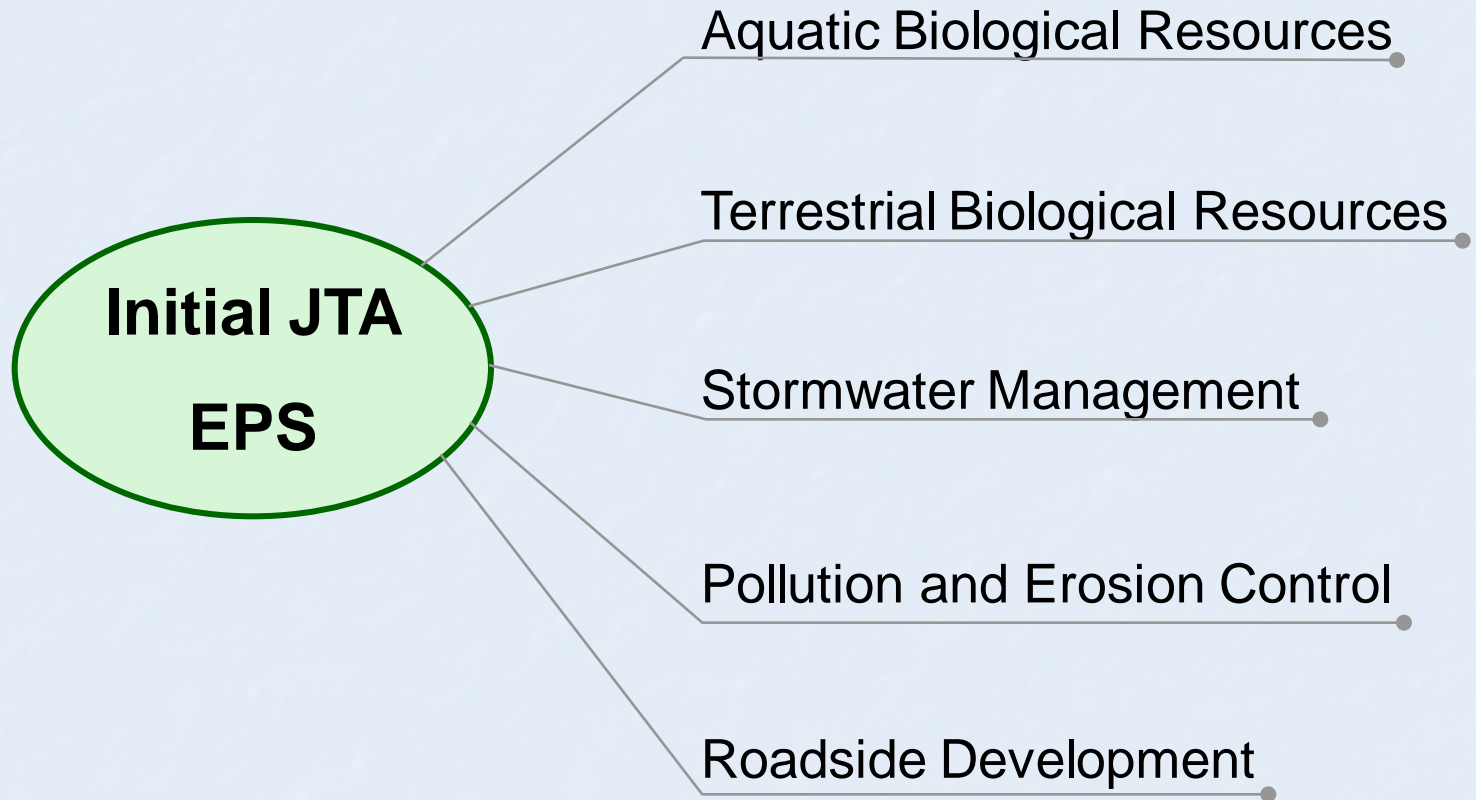
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- Develop Administrative Rules to...**
 - Incorporate Environmental Performance Standards into..**
 - All state highway construction projects
 - Local Government highway construction projects funded by ODOT
 - Improve Environmental Permitting Process to...**
 - Reduce time to design projects
 - Reduce time to obtain permits
 - Reduce costs/delays of redesign
 - Maintain a strong commitment to environmental stewardship
 - Reduce state's dependence on foreign oil

Performance Standards

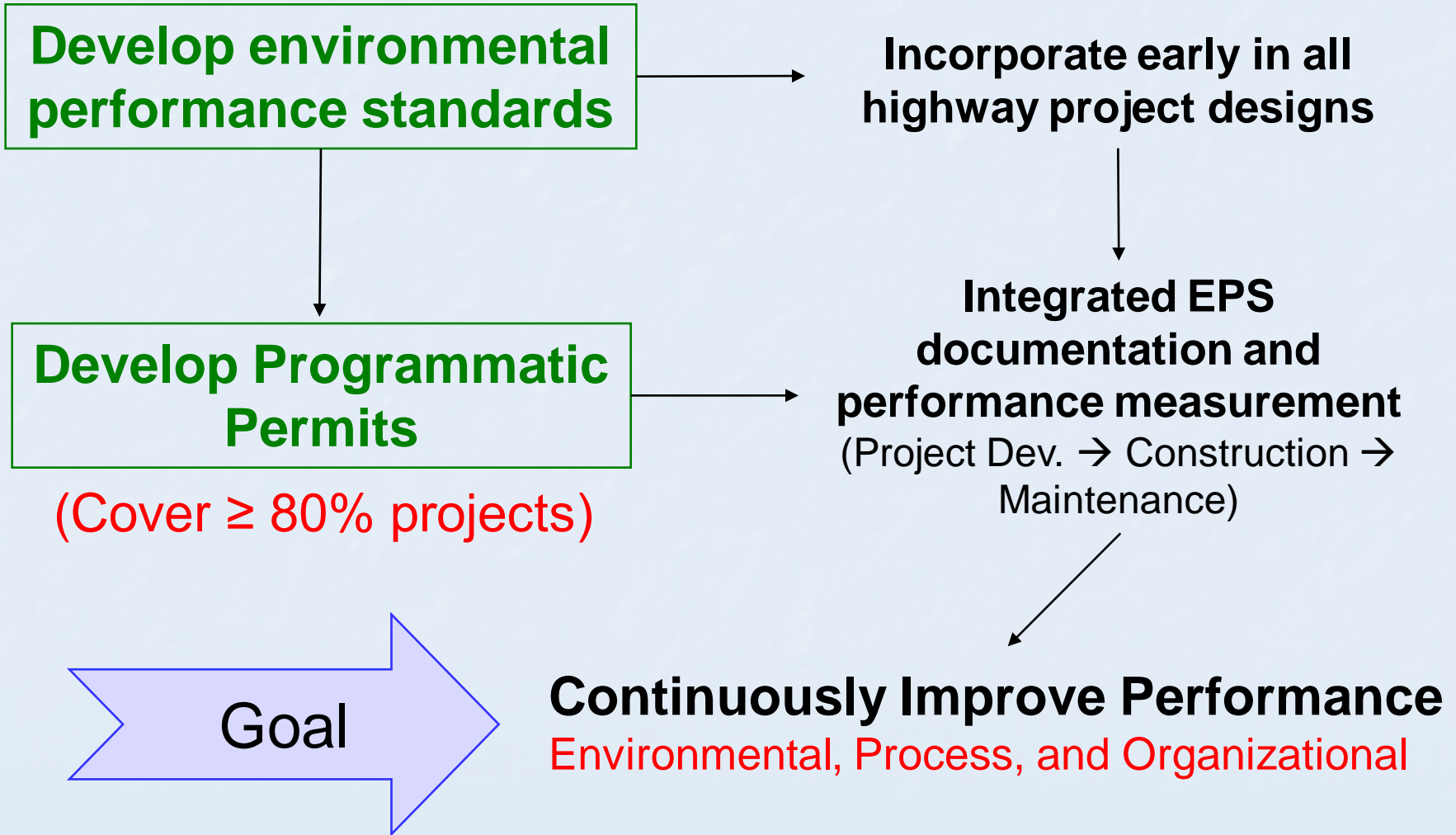
- Establish what the outcomes of performance should be

JTA Environmental Performance Standards

- Establish what the environmental outcomes of highway construction activities should be



Current Efforts



Long-term goals

Standard environmental permitting no longer an aspect of project development

Conflicts addressed in planning, not as critical path items for project development