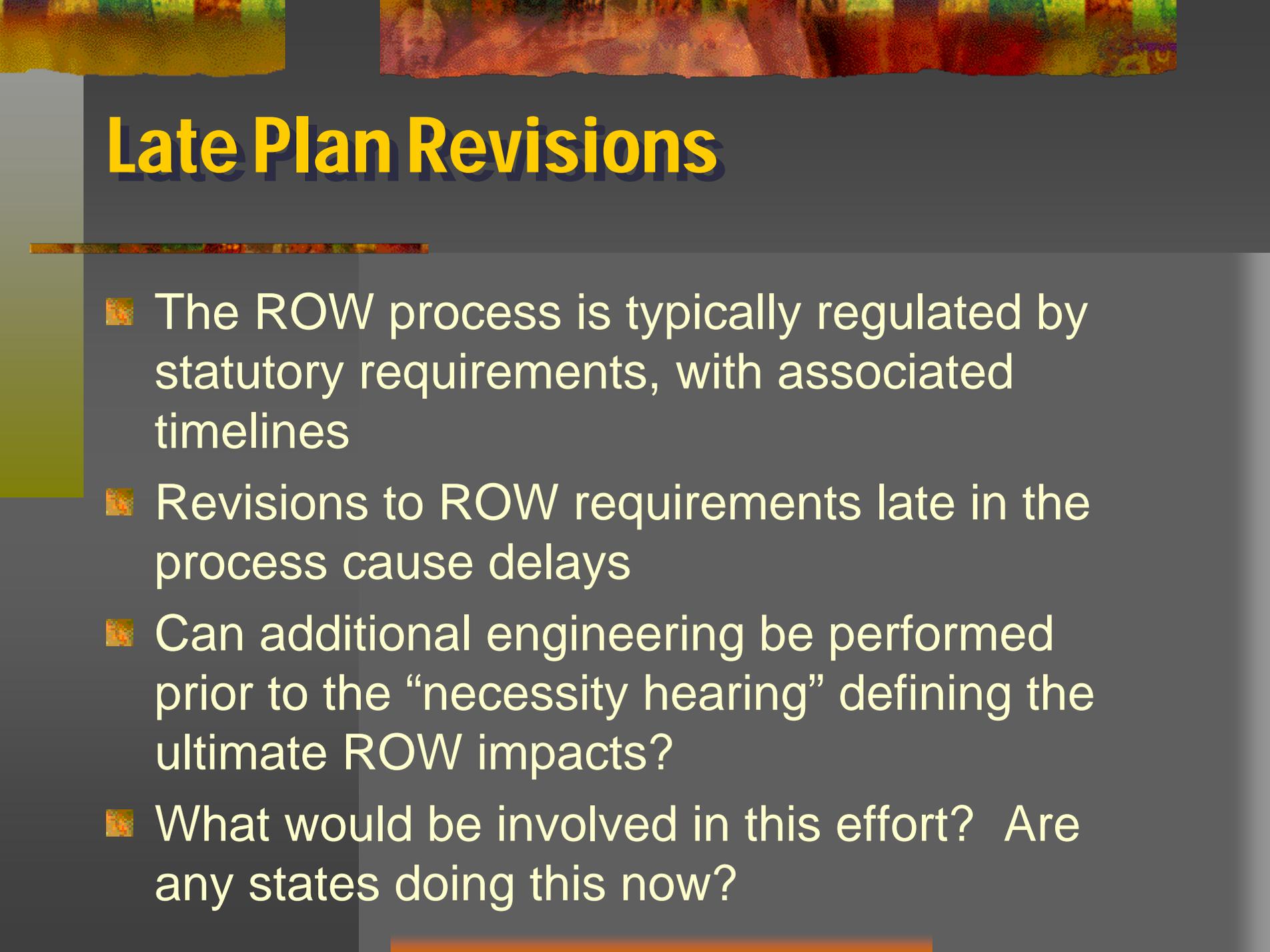


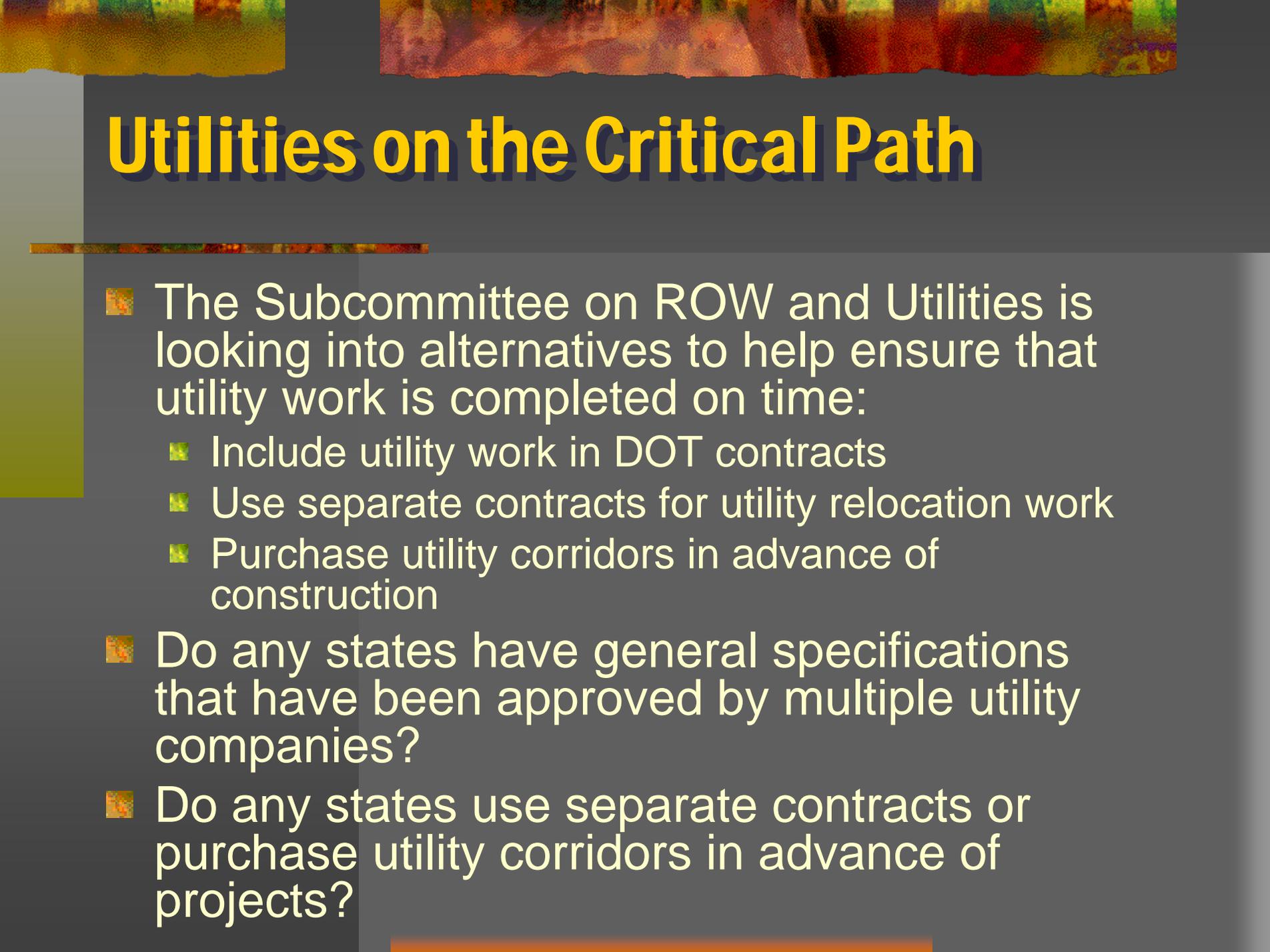
Cross-Cutting Issues from the Subcommittee on Right-of-Way and Utilities

Chuck Schmidt, Vice-Chair, Utilities
New Hampshire DOT
June 13, 2007



Late Plan Revisions

- The ROW process is typically regulated by statutory requirements, with associated timelines
- Revisions to ROW requirements late in the process cause delays
- Can additional engineering be performed prior to the “necessity hearing” defining the ultimate ROW impacts?
- What would be involved in this effort? Are any states doing this now?



Utilities on the Critical Path

- The Subcommittee on ROW and Utilities is looking into alternatives to help ensure that utility work is completed on time:
 - Include utility work in DOT contracts
 - Use separate contracts for utility relocation work
 - Purchase utility corridors in advance of construction
- Do any states have general specifications that have been approved by multiple utility companies?
- Do any states use separate contracts or purchase utility corridors in advance of projects?



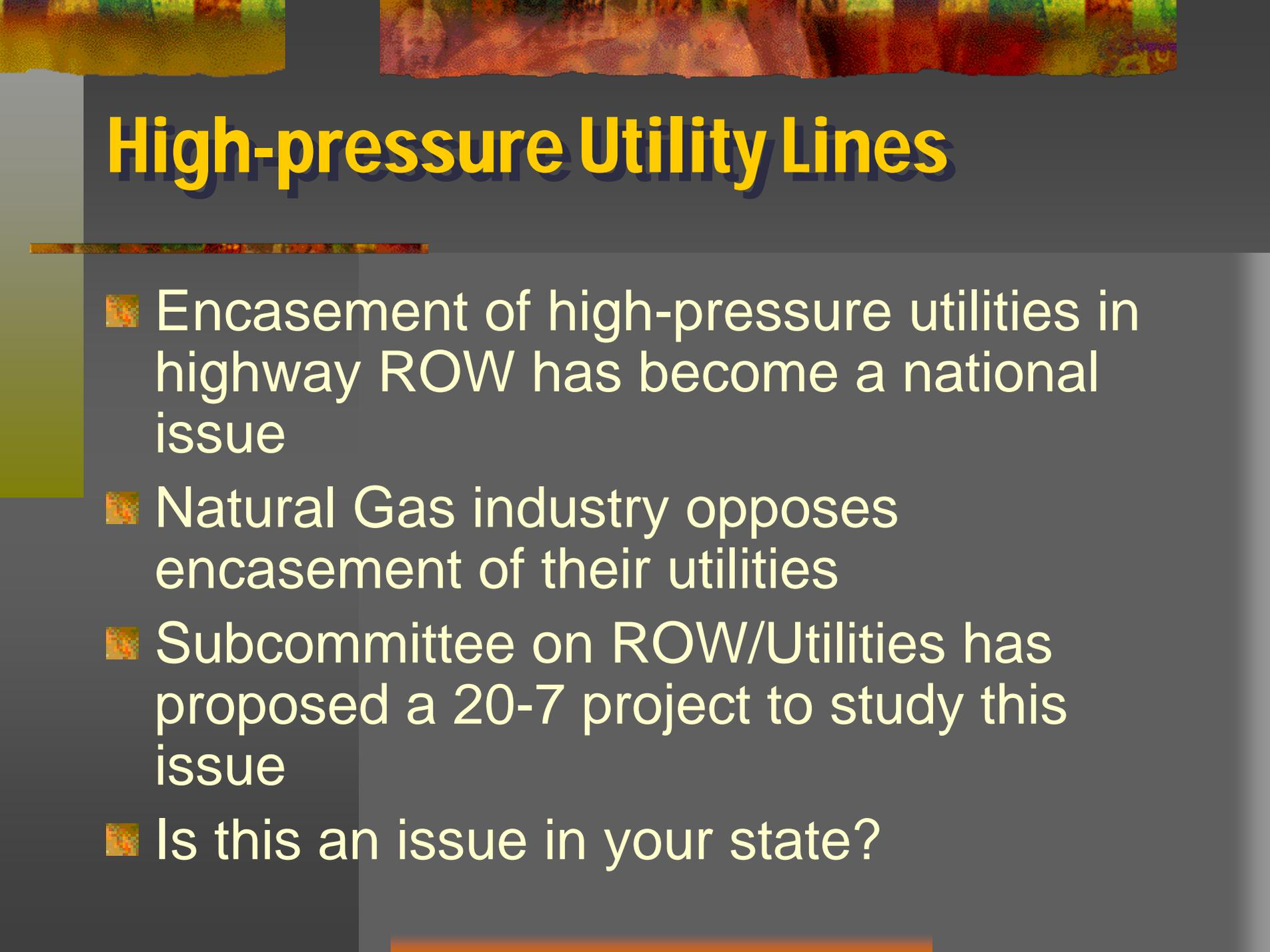
Utility Delays

- Utilities are in the business of building infrastructure, just like the highway agencies – Both take time to plan and move
- Identifying potential utility conflicts early in the process, or locating and avoiding utilities, can help reduce delays in project delivery
- Also, informing utility companies of potential projects can help companies plan in advance
- How are states handling this issue? What can be done to get earlier involvement of utilities in the planning and design process?



Early Acquisition of ROW

- Preserving corridors or purchasing development rights for future transportation projects could help project delivery move more quickly
 - Must make sure the NEPA process is not biased
 - How are states handling this situation?
- 



High-pressure Utility Lines

- Encasement of high-pressure utilities in highway ROW has become a national issue
- Natural Gas industry opposes encasement of their utilities
- Subcommittee on ROW/Utilities has proposed a 20-7 project to study this issue
- Is this an issue in your state?