

EIA as a Consensus Building Tool

‘The Hidden Contribution of EIA to Industry’

IAIA Vancouver 2004

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EIA & Public Participation

Key role in including:

- Cultural
- Social
- Economic
- Political

.....**dimensions**

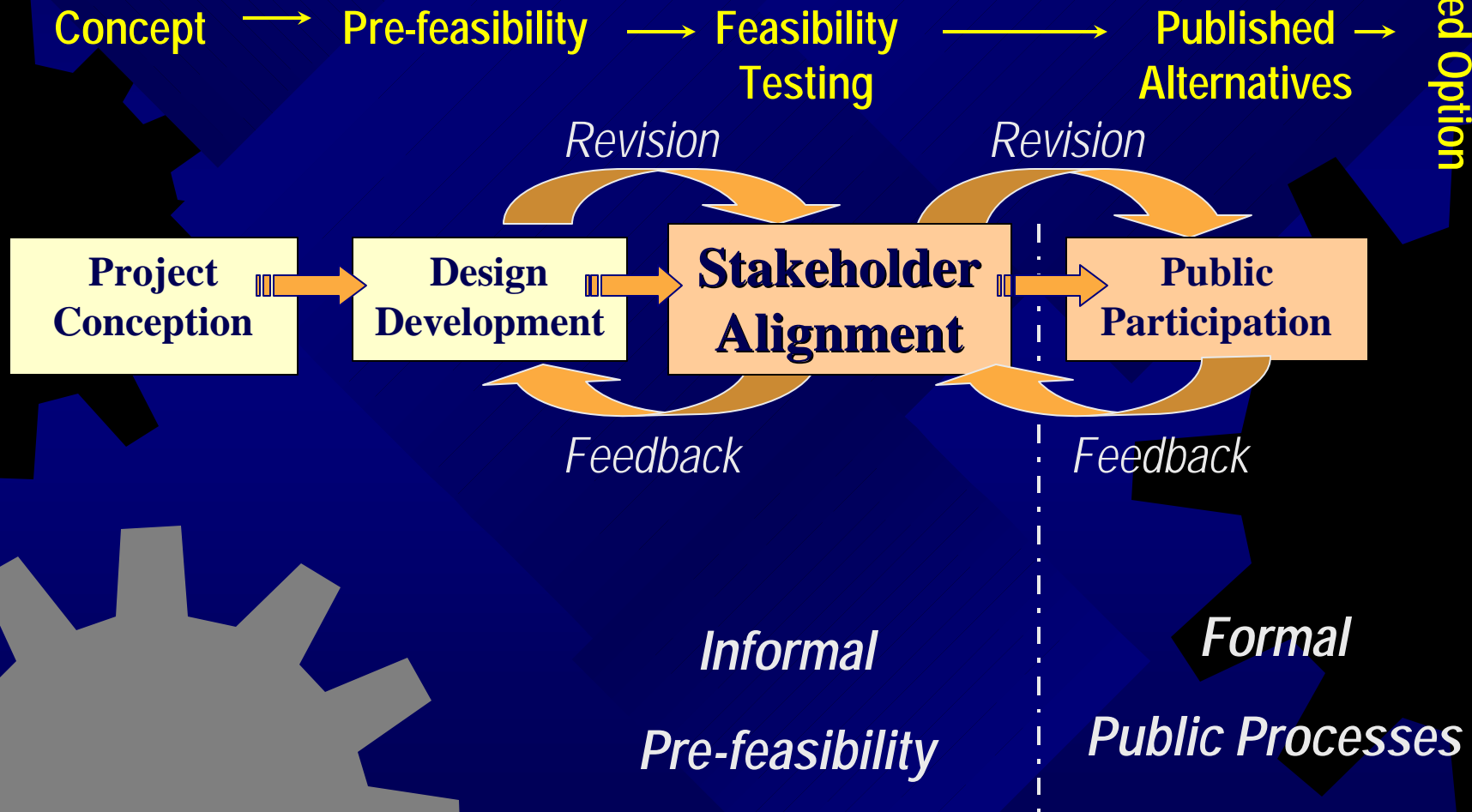
And achieve more:

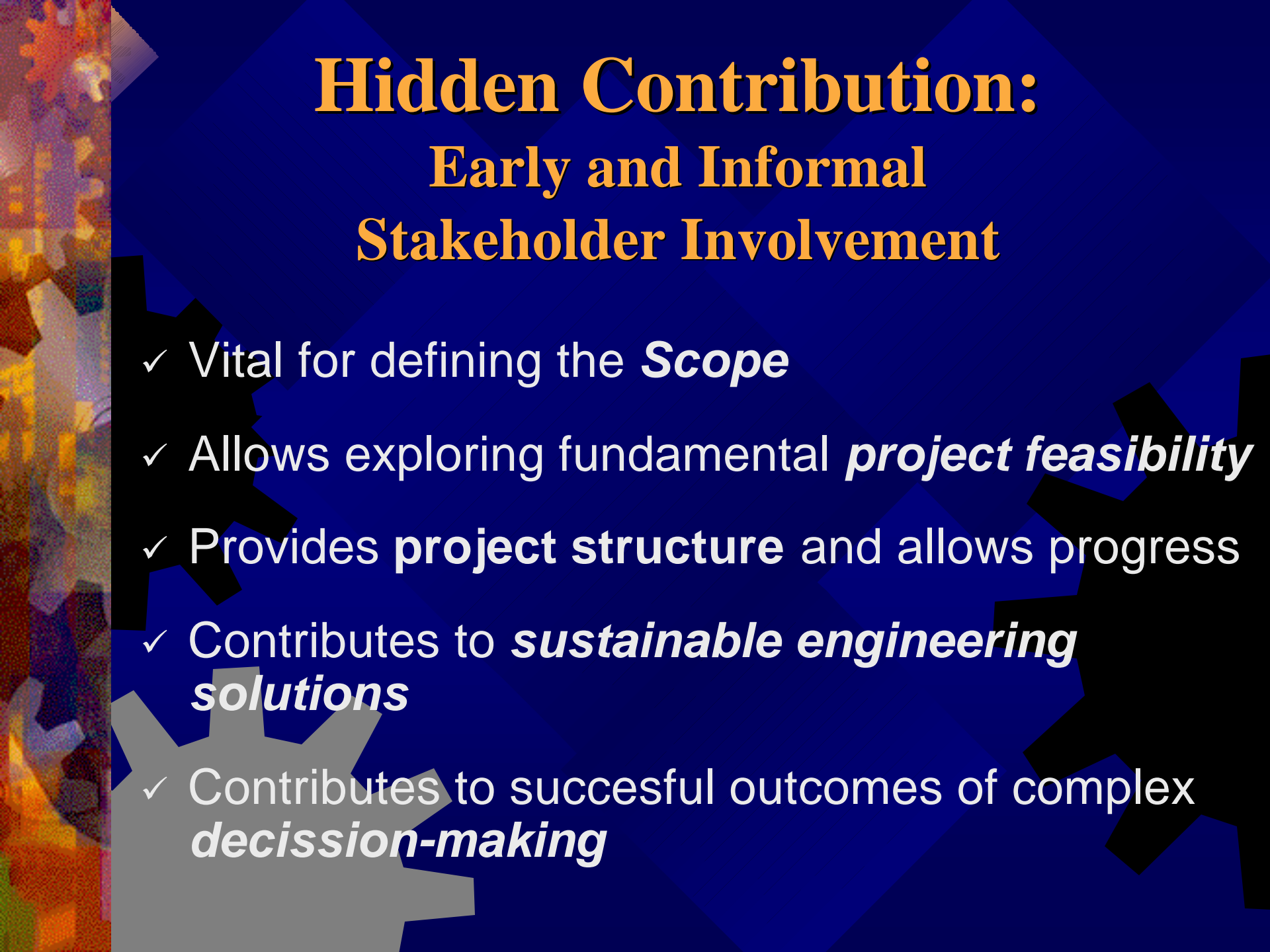
- ✓ Comprehensive
- ✓ Transparent
- ✓ Acceptable

.....**resolutions.**

Fundamental Feasibility Analysis

Selected Option





Hidden Contribution: Early and Informal Stakeholder Involvement

- ✓ Vital for defining the **Scope**
- ✓ Allows exploring fundamental ***project feasibility***
- ✓ Provides **project structure** and allows progress
- ✓ Contributes to ***sustainable engineering solutions***
- ✓ Contributes to successful outcomes of complex ***decision-making***

Impact Statement Material

Early availability of rudimentary
Environmental constraints and opportunities:

- Allows *weighting* of project *alternatives*
- Provides *language* and *structure* for debate
- Initial hypothesis for evaluating concerns & preferences

Dublin Interconnector Project

Environmental and Planning:

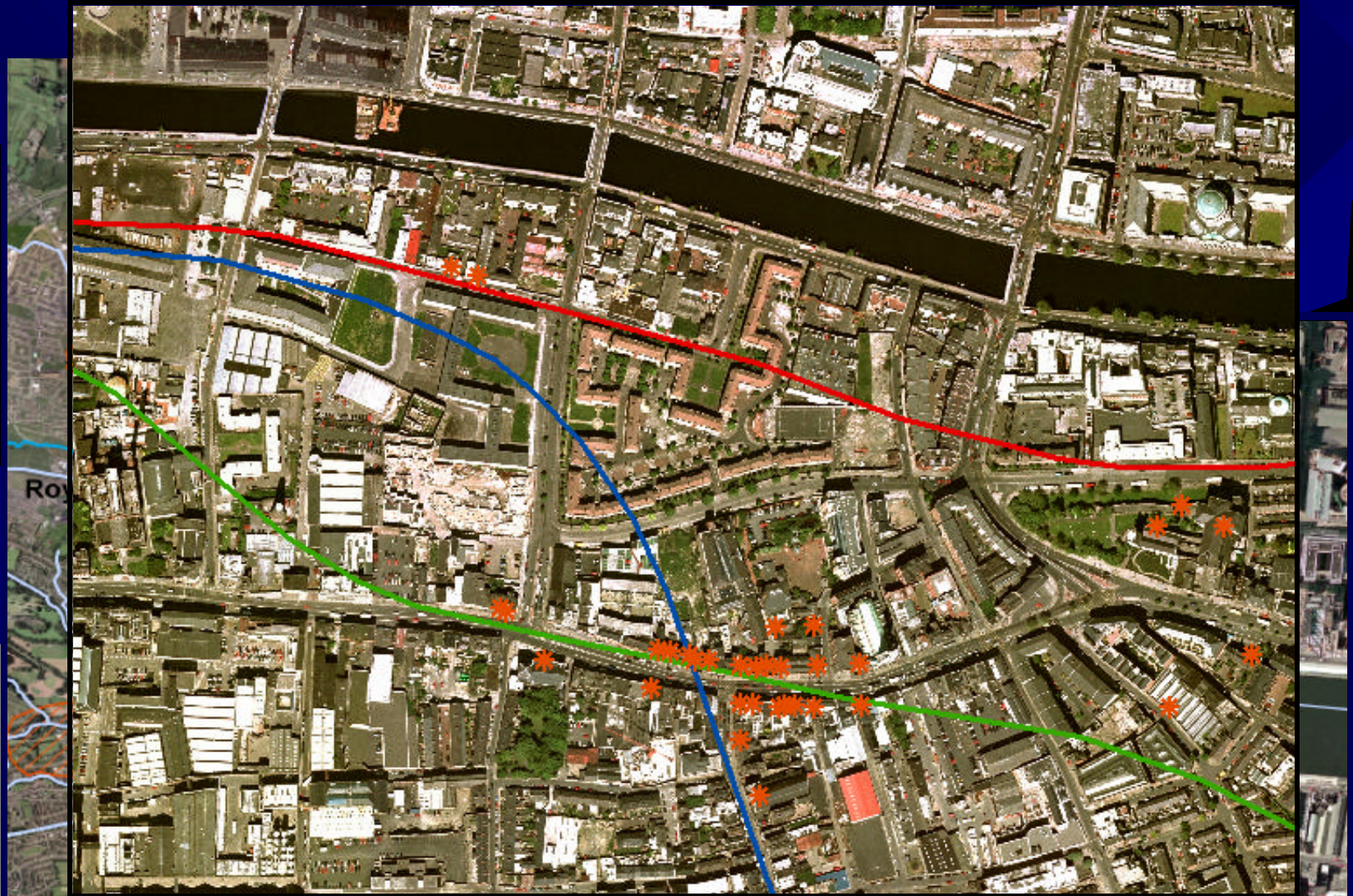
- **Constraints**

(e.g. listed buildings, archaeology sites, ecological designations, etc.)

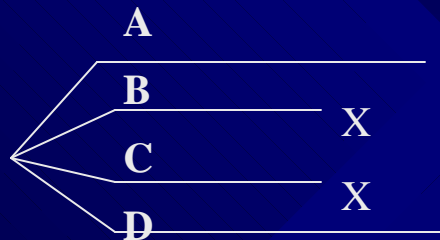
- **Opportunities**

(e.g. new development sites, population catchments, etc)

Graphic Representation of Environmental & Planning Constrains/Opportunities using GIS

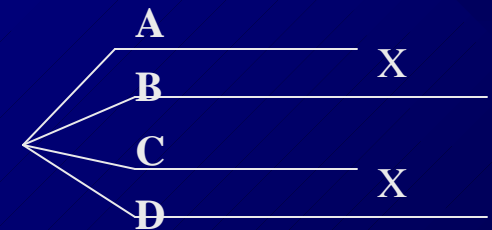


Environmental Ranking

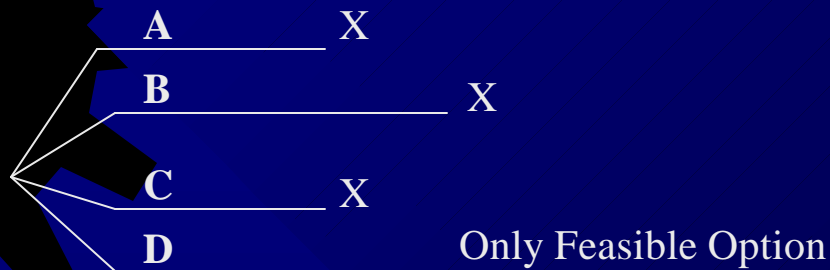


versus

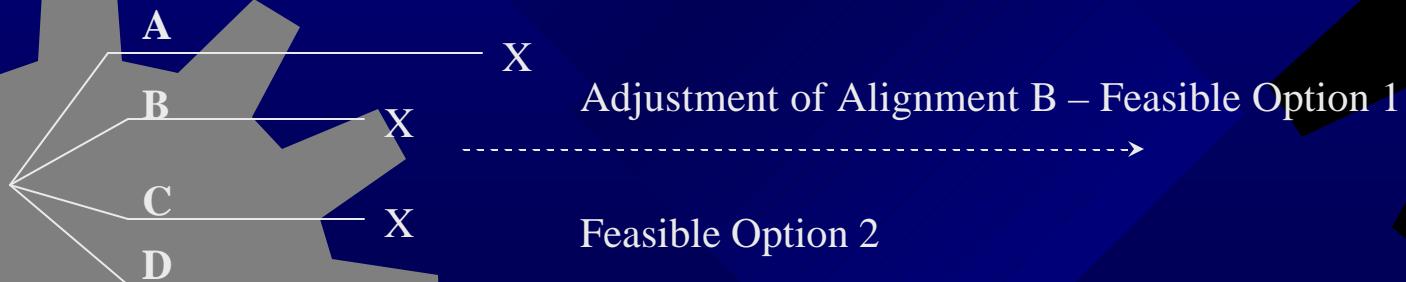
Stakeholder Ranking



Option A: Stakeholder plus Environmental



Option B: Environmental plus Stakeholder



Stakeholder Consultation

- ✓ Provides *functional and economic ranking of alternatives* - compared to engineering and environmental rankings.
- ✓ Facilitates *rapid narrowing of options* for further consideration within a more formal EIA process.
- ✓ Provides a *rational* that will ensure subsequent **focused and efficient public participation** in the formal process.

Conclusion

Early use of IA material significantly contributes to environmental and planning conflict avoidance and resolution, to economic viability and overall cost reduction and, most importantly, to sustainable project design and development