Sustainable Infrastructure Planning and Delivery:
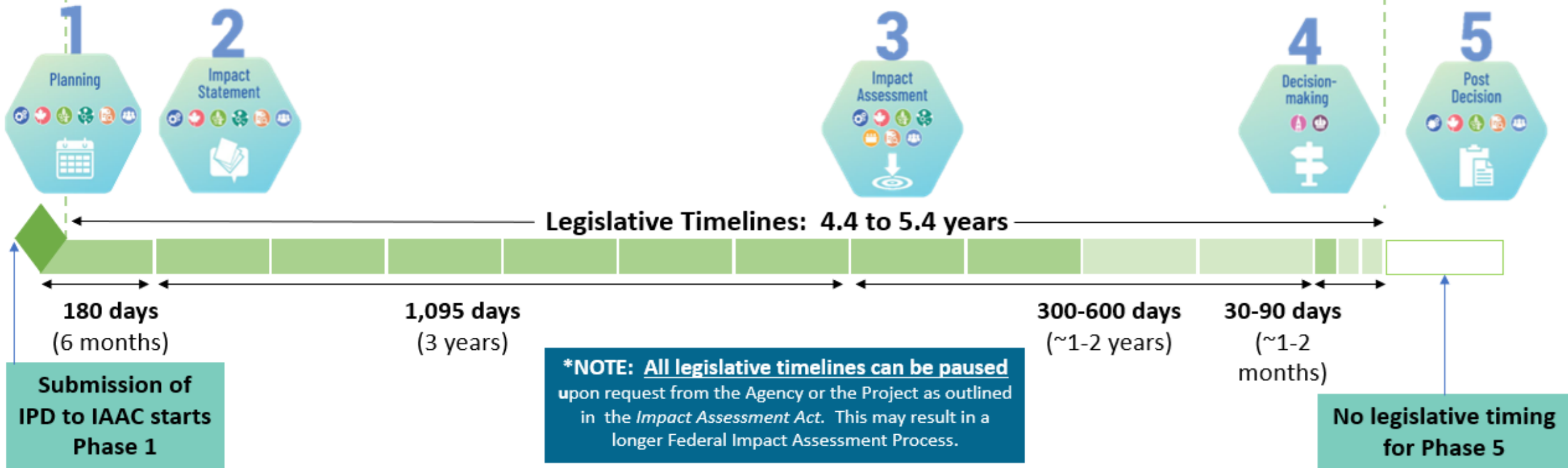
A Digital Transformation

Rayna Carmichael

The five phases have legislative timelines*.
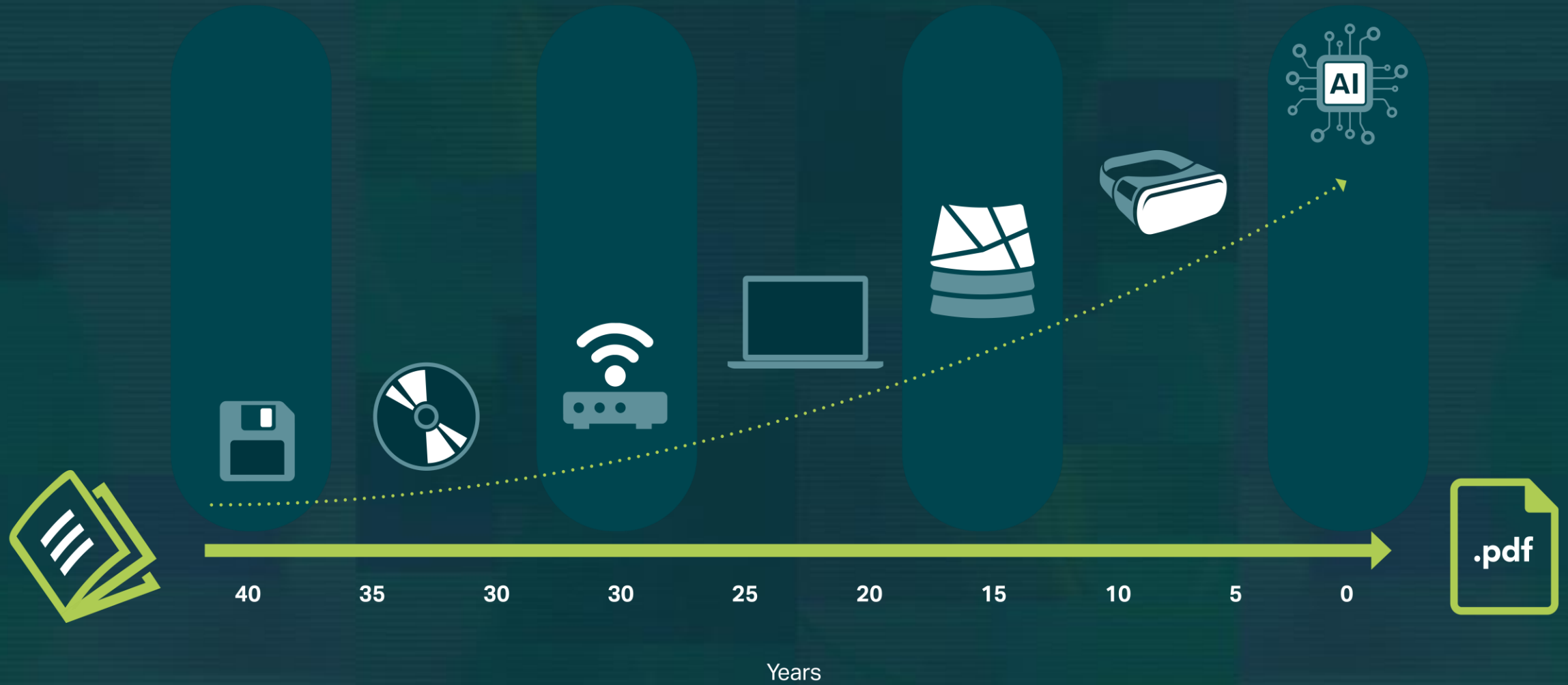

Legislative Timelines: 4.4 to 5.4 years

180 days
(6 months)

1,095 days
(3 years)

300-600 days
(~1-2 years)

30-90 days
(~1-2 months)

Submission of
IPD to IAAC starts
Phase 1

***NOTE: All legislative timelines can be paused**
upon request from the Agency or the Project as outlined
in the *Impact Assessment Act*. This may result in a
longer Federal Impact Assessment Process.

No legislative timing
for Phase 5

1 Planning

2 Impact Statement

3 Impact Assessment

4 Decision-making

5 Post Decision

My Grandfather Surveying in the 1950s

Digital Adoption

Years

Solving the data problem opens the door to solving some of the big process problems

Process Challenge

1
Lengthy and Complex Documents

- Regulatory agencies must find information specific to their jurisdiction amid a myriad of documents
- The public is faced with documents that aren't mobile-friendly
- Leads to frustration due to inability to find information pertinent to the review at hand

2
Increased Demand for Public Input

- Recognized need for more equitable ways to participate
- Need for earlier engagement with indigenous communities
- Project information often does not meet accessibility standards
- Language barriers

3
Understaffed Regulatory Agencies

- Projects often need to 'get in line' for a general agency review, or for a specific resource specialist
- Agency reviews are not a singular event – agencies are engaged from the onset of a project – and therefore review times compound over time

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Process Challenge

4

Complexity of Multi-Agency Decisions

- Projects that requires multiple cities or counties to coordinate often lack a clearly defined decision-making entity
- The intent of IAAC is to allow for collaboration across agencies; however, this is typically only possible if in-person
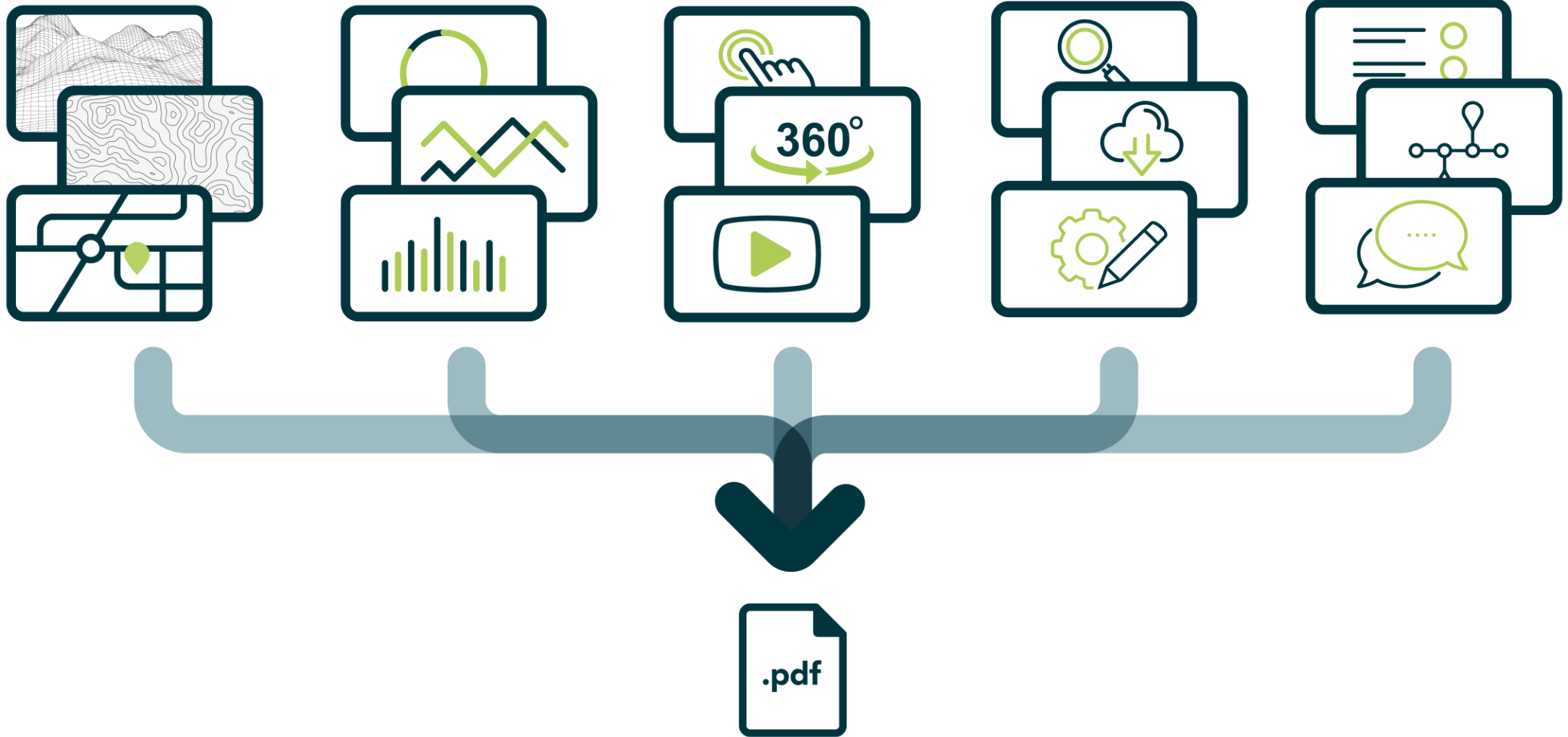
5

Lack of Transparency

- If stakeholders cannot find information easily, it leads to distrust
- Some project websites include public-friendly summaries; however, IAAC regulations require commenting on the actual environmental document, not summaries of it

6

Threat of Lawsuits

- Long documents full of jargon do not build credibility with stakeholders, and they may help defendants persevere in the courtroom
- Egregious examples of significant project delays by lawsuits due to a minority few

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Data Challenge

.pdf

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Data Solution

plan·engage