

A large yellow triangle pointing to the left, occupying the right half of the page. The text is centered within this triangle.

Appendix A
***Advance
Notification
& Agency
Correspondence***

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January 5, 2005

Ms. Lauren Milligan
Environmental Consultant
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Ms. Milligan:

**SUBJECT: WPI Seg. No: 413622-1 / FAP No: 9045-054C
118th Avenue (CR 296) PD&E Study
Advance Notification / Pinellas County, Florida**

The Department is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for 118th Avenue (CR 296) Connector from US 19 to east of the Roosevelt Extension.

The attached Advance Notification package for the subject project is forwarded to your office for processing through appropriate State agencies in accordance with Executive Order 95-359. Distribution to local and federal agencies is being made as noted.

Although more specific comments will be solicited during the permit coordination process, we request that permitting and permit reviewing agencies review the attached information and furnish us with whatever general comments they consider pertinent at this time.

This is a Federal-aid action and the Florida Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration, will determine what degree of environmental documentation will be necessary. The determination will be based upon in-house environmental evaluations and comments received through coordination with other agencies. Please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

In addition, please review this improvement's consistency, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government jurisdictions pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

We are looking forward to receiving your comments on the project within 45 days. Should additional review time be required, a written request for an extension of time must be submitted to our office within the initial 45-day comment period. Your comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Robert Clifford, AICP
District Modal Planning and Development Manager
Florida Department of Transportation – District Seven
11201 North McKinley Drive / MS 7-500
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert Clifford, AICP
District Modal Planning and Development Manager

Attachment

cc:

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, Regional Director, Kenneth O. Burris, Jr.
Federal Railroad Administration, Regional Administrator, Fred Dennin
U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Director, Dr. Chip Grout
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office, Field Manager,
Bruce Dawson
U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jacksonville Ecological Services Field Office, Field
Supervisor, Peter Benjamin
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Regional Administrator, John Hankinson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Chief, John R. Hall, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Environmental Health, Director, Dr. Richard
Jackson
U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Acting Division Administrator, Robert Wright
Florida Department of Transportation, Environmental Management Office (MS-37), Carolyn Ismart
Florida Department of Transportation, Federal-Aid Coordinator (MS-35)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Environmental Services, Interim Director, Brian S.
Barnett
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest District, Director, Deborah Getzoff
Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources, Director, Fred
Gaske
Pinellas County MPO, Executive Director, Brian Smith
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Executive Director, Manny L. Pumariega
Pinellas County, County Administrator, Steve Spratt
Pinellas Planning Council, Director, David Healey
City of Pinellas Park, City Manager, Michael Gustafson

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Chairman, Mitchell Cypress
Seminole Tribe of Florida, AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum, Mr. W. S. Steele, THPO
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Chairman, Billy Cypress
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Land Resource Manager, Steve Terry
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Principal Chief, Mr. A. D. Ellis
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Historic Preservation Manager, Ms. Joyce Bear
Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Chairman, Mr. Eddie Tullis
Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Robert Thrower
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief, Mr. Kenneth Chambers
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Historic Preservation Office, Emman Spain

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

1. **NEED FOR PROJECT:** Traffic projections indicate the volume of traffic on 118th Avenue (CR 296) just east of US 19 will approach 65,000 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for the year 2025. Based on the FDOT's Level of Service (LOS) tables for a non-state roadway, the level of service on CR 296 in the project study area is expected to be operating at Level of Service F. Without any improvements, the facility may be operating at LOS F by the year 2016. With more congestion from the decline in LOS, the number of accidents may increase. In addition, the proposed improvements will improve regional connectivity and the emergency evacuation potential of the corridor.

2. **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting this Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate alternative improvements along 118th Avenue (CR 296), from US 19 to east of the Roosevelt Connector in Pinellas County. The limits of this Study were within the City of Pinellas Park, and unincorporated areas of Pinellas County, Florida. The length of the Study along 118th Avenue is approximately 2 miles.

118th Avenue (CR 296) is an east-west facility that is owned by Pinellas County, Florida. The section of CR 296 to the west of US 19, known as Bryan Dairy Road, is a controlled access facility. The section of CR 296 from US 19 eastwardly, known as 118th Avenue, toward the vicinity of 40th Street, is a six-lane, divided, urban roadway. 118th Avenue is a key link in the regional transportation network. It provides an east-west connection to US Highway 19 at the western limits of the project and to the future extension of the Roosevelt Connector and I-275 to the east of the study limits.

This project's Build Alternatives include constructing a controlled access facility with frontage roads for local access along 118th Avenue from just west of US 19 to East of the Roosevelt Connector. Several alternatives include various ramp connection configurations with US 19 and with the Roosevelt Connector as well as grade separation of 49th Street (CR 611). The PD&E Study will also include the consideration of a No Build Alternative.

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

- a) **Land Uses:** The predominant existing land uses along the 118th Avenue corridor are commercial, institutional (cemetery), and industrial. There is no residential land use immediately adjacent to the right-of-way on 118th Avenue. However, a small residential neighborhood does exist south of Bryan Dairy Road west of the intersection with US 19.

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

- b) Wetlands:** There are 15 wetland and other surface waters along the 118th Avenue corridor, including two willow wetlands, one pond, and several stormwater facilities and ditches. These water features may be jurisdictional to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Potential impacts from construction within wetland sites include sedimentation, erosion, leaching and increased turbidity. Long term impacts to wetlands are the result of the direct impacts of fill and include the potential loss of some functions and values associated with these wetlands, such as nutrient removal/transformation, sediment stabilization, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, and ground water recharge. Any wetlands that are impacted will be mitigated by providing at least a one to one mitigation ratio. There are currently no mitigation banks available in Pinellas County; therefore, mitigation will be in the form of enhancement of an existing wetland or creation of a new wetland. Where practicable, these mitigation areas will be associated with the design and construction of other environmental enhancement and restoration activities in the vicinity of the proposed project. Water quality should be enhanced as a result of the proposed project because the stormwater facilities will meet current stormwater criteria. A wetland evaluation report will be prepared as part of this study.
- c) Floodplains:** The existing 118th Avenue in Pinellas County averages approximately 5 to 15 feet above National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7 ½ minute Quadrangle maps of Safety Harbor, Florida, and St. Petersburg, Florida, as well as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for unincorporated Pinellas County, Florida (Community Panel Numbers 120251 0002E, 120251 0003E, 120251 0005E, and 12025 0006E), February 17, 1989. Any elevations above 10 feet NGVD will be above the 100-year flood elevation. The proposed roadway is not anticipated to increase the depth, duration or location of flooding and should provide for safe evacuation during periods of severe weather. The project will not adversely impact natural floodplain functions and is consistent with the use of the development plan for the 100-year floodplain. Impacts to the floodplain have been minimized to the extent practicable by limiting the total distance and area of the project within the 100-year floodplain. The floodplain within the project limits is not considered a tidal floodplain. Additional retention/detention facilities will be provided for the loss of any storage capacity within the 100-year floodplain.

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

- d) **Wildlife and Habitat:** Habitat for listed species within and adjacent to this segment of 118th Avenue is greatly minimized by the heavily urban character of the project area. However, the project corridor contains several areas that may provide suitable foraging habitat for listed wading birds, such as the snowy egret, white ibis, and little blue heron, Florida state species of special concern. Information provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and as reported in the *Florida Atlas of Breeding Sites for Herons and their Allies* (published 1991) indicates no breeding colonies for wading birds or other significant habitats exist in the immediate project area. Field surveys did not reveal the presence of any gopher tortoise burrows or other gopher tortoise sign, though much of the project corridor is considered upland habitat. Likewise, other species that are typically associated with gopher tortoises such as the state and federally threatened indigo snake are also not likely to be found on or around the proposed corridor. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat exist in the project area. Coordination with the USFWS and FFWCC will take place during this study. An endangered species and biological assessment will be prepared as part of this study.
- e) **Outstanding Florida Waters:** No Outstanding Florida Waters are located within the project area.
- f) **Aquatic Preserve:** No Aquatic Preserves are located within the project area.
- g) **Coastal Zone Consistency Determination Required:** X Yes No
- h) **Cultural Resources:** Information was obtained from the State of Florida Division of Historical Resources regarding potential archeological and historical sites, including National Register properties, in order to identify possible impacts to these sites. Their review of the records and Florida Master Site File revealed that 4 archeological sites (PI1174, PI3365, PI00124, PI1690) were identified. The sites were a refuse scatter and building, a lithic scatter quarry, an artifact scatter, and broken jugs, respectively. The Cultural Resource Assessment Survey will address the potential adverse impacts of roadway improvements to the archeological sites. Otherwise, the project corridor is considered to have a generally low potential for the identification of archaeological sites and historic resources. A systematic professional archaeological and historical/architectural survey will be conducted within the project area of potential effects. A cultural resource assessment survey will be prepared as part of this study.
- i) **Coastal Barrier Resources:** No involvement.

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

- j) Contamination:** According to the Florida Department of Transportation, Division of Waste Management, three contaminated facilities exist on 118th Avenue. Of those, two are currently closed. Both were classified as non-retail fuel users. Only Kelly Equipment Company of Florida, Inc. is still open and is also classified as a non-retail fuel user. Previously, three other sites were known contamination sites, but have since been cleaned up. Thirty-nine additional sites were identified as having potential for petroleum and/or chemical contamination. Most of the sites were businesses selling used automobiles and/or auto parts. In addition, there were printing shops, machinery businesses, metal and welding businesses, a gas station, a petroleum business and chemical company. Several of the sites were currently vacant but had evidence of possible contamination due to the nature of the business. A contamination screening evaluation will be conducted as part of this study.
- k) Sole Source Aquifer:** None of the shallow aquifers in this area are classified as Sole Source Aquifers.
- l) Noise:** A small residential neighborhood exists south of Bryan Dairy Road west of the intersection with US 19 and 118th Avenue. A detailed noise impact study will be performed and noise abatement measures will be evaluated.
- 4. NAVIGABLE WATERWAY CROSSING:** ____Yes X No
- 5. LIST PERMITS REQUIRED:** The following permits are anticipated to be required for the construction phase of the proposed project.
- Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) – Environmental Resource Permit
 - US Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Stormwater Construction Generic Permit

**APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

2. DATE SUBMITTED: January 5, 2005	Applicant Identifier: FPID No. 413622-1
3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Applicant Identifier
4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier FAP No. 9045-054C

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction
--	--

5. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name: Florida Department of Transportation	Organizational Unit: Office of Design State Transportation Planners Office
--	--

Address (give city, county, state, and zip code): 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee-Leon-FL 32399-0450	Name and telephone number of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) Robert Clifford, AICP (813) 975-6463
--	---

6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):

5 9 — 6 0 0 1 8 7 4

8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: New Continuation RevisionIf Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es):

- A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration
D. Decrease Duration Other (specify): _____

7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box)

A

- A. State H. Independent School Dist.
B. County I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning
C. Municipal J. Private University
D. Township K. Indian Tribe
E. Interstate L. Individual
F. Intermunicipal M. Profit Organization
G. Special District N. Other (Specify) _____

9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:**U.S. Department of Transportation****10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:**

2 0 — 2 0 5

TITLE: **Highway Planning & Construction****11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:****WPI No: 413622-1
FPID: 413622-1- 22-01****12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT** (cities, counties, states, etc.):**Pinellas County, Florida****13. PROPOSED PROJECT:**

Start Date Ending Date

14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:

a. Applicant

b. Project:

15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:

a. Federal	\$.00
b. Applicant	\$.00
c. State	\$.00
d. Local	\$.00
e. Other	\$.00
f. Program Income	\$.00
g. TOTAL	\$	220,000,000 to 260,000,000

16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?

a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON:

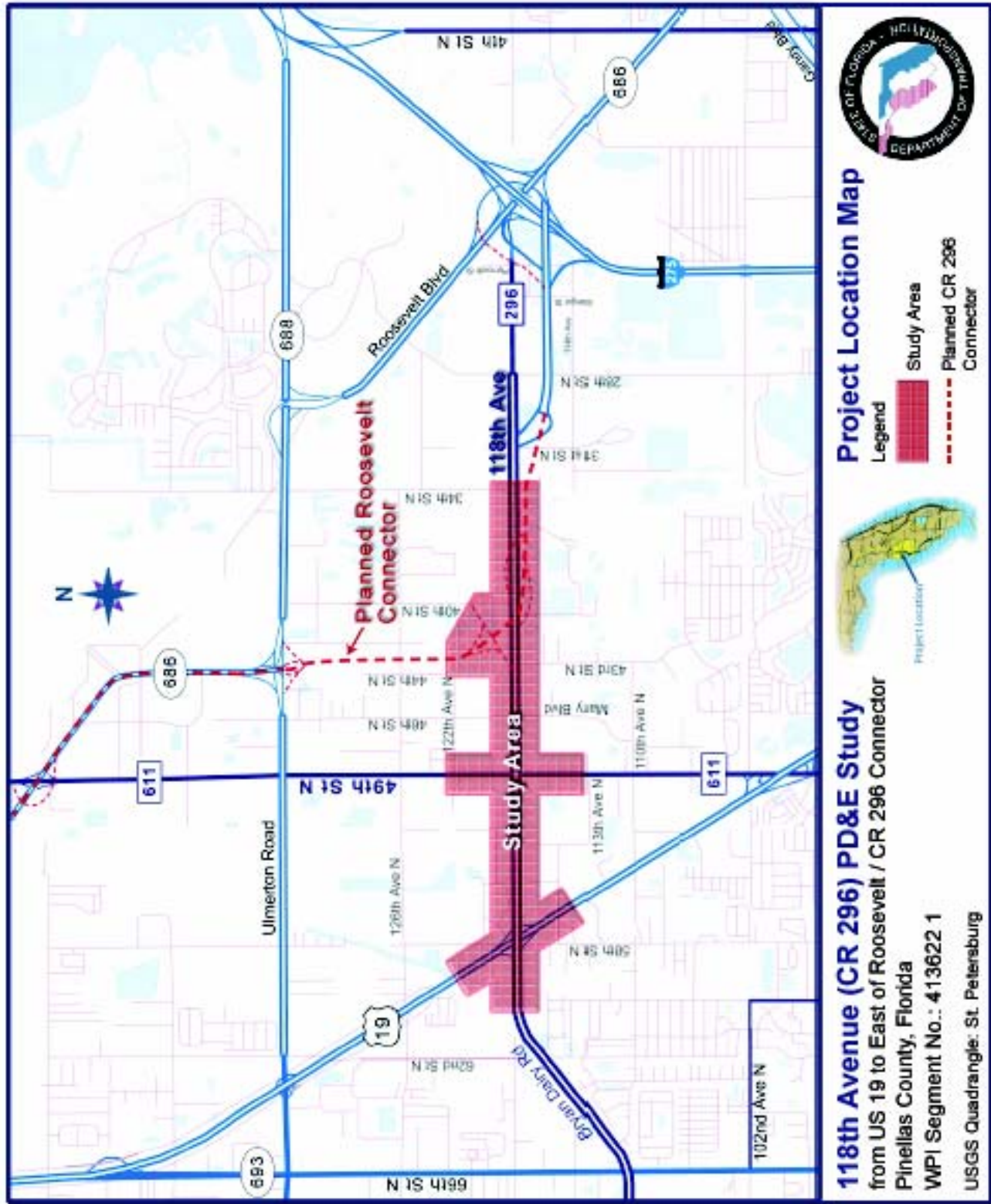
DATE **January 5, 2005**

b. NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372
 OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW

17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. No**18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.**

a. Typed Name of Authorized Representative Robert Clifford, AICP	b. Title District Modal Development Manager	c. Telephone number 813-975-6463
d. Signature of Authorized Representative	e. Date Signed	

Location map attached to Advance Notification package



Advance Notification Distribution List

Mr. John Hankinson, Jr., Regional Administrator
Region IV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Mr. Bruce Dawson, Field Manager
Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Interior
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, MS 39206

Mr. Peter Benjamin, Supervisor
Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of Interior
6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310
Jacksonville, FL 32216-0958

Mr. Robert Wright, Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administrator
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Mr. Kenneth O. Burris, Jr., Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4148

Mr. Fred Dennin, Regional Administrator
Office of Economic Analysis
Federal Railroad Administration
61 Forsyth Street S.W., Suite 16T20
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Dr. Chip Grout, Director
Environmental Affairs Program, M.S. 423
U.S. Geological Services
U.S. Department of Interior
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Room 2D318
Reston, VA 20192

Dr. Richard Jackson, MD, Director
National Center for Environmental Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
4700 Buford Highway NE, M/S F-29
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dr. John R. Hall, PhD., Chief
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Ms. Carolyn Ismart, Manager
Florida Department of Transportation
Environmental Management Office
605 Suwannee Street, (MS-37)
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Federal-Aid Program Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation
M.S. 35
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Mr. Brian S. Barnett, Interim Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Office of Environmental Service
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Mr. Fred Gaske, Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0225

Ms. Deborah Getzoff
Director
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest District
3804 Coconut Palm Drive
Tampa, FL 36619

Mr. Brian Smith, Executive Director
Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning
Organization (MPO)
600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750
Clearwater, FL 33755

Mr. Manny L. Pumariega, Executive Director
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

Mr. Steve Spratt, County Administrator
Pinellas County
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Mr. David P. Healey, Director
Pinellas Planning Council (PPC)
600 Cleveland Street, Suite 850
Clearwater, FL 33755-4160

Mr. Michael Gustafson
City Manager
City of Pinellas Park
5141 78th Avenue North
Pinellas Park, FL 33780

Mr. Mitchell Cypress
Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

Mr. W. S. Steele
THPO
AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum
Seminole Tribe of Florida
HC-61, Box 21-A
Clewiston, FL 33440

Mr. Billy Cypress
Chairman
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
Tamiami Station
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144

cc: Mr. Steve Terry
Land Resource Manager
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Tamiami Station
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144

Mr. A. D. Ellis
Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

cc: Ms. Joyce Bear
Historic Preservation Manager
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Mr. Eddie Tullis
Chairman
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

cc: Robert Thrower
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

Mr. Kenneth Chambers
Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

cc: Mr. Emman Spain
Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

March 10, 2005

RECEIVED BY
MAY 20 2005
AMERICAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS
OF FLORIDA, LLC

Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP
District Modal Planning and Development Manager
Florida Department of Transportation – District Seven
11201 North McKinley Drive / MS 7-500
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

RE: Department of Transportation – Advance Notification – 118th Avenue (CR 296) PD&E Study, FPID No.: 413622-1-22-01, FAP No.: 9045-054C – Pinellas County, Florida. SAI # FL200501100360C

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced project.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Southwest District staff notes that the project requires an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), pursuant to the Operating Agreement referenced in Chapter 62-113, *F.A.C.* The project description indicates that there will be both temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands, water bodies, stormwater facilities and ditch systems along the 118th Street corridor. Some form of mitigation compensation to replace wetland functions lost by the proposed impacts will be required. The applicant should make every effort to employ designs that will avoid and minimize wetland impacts and implement best management practices (BMPs). Minimization efforts should include aligning corridors to avoid or reduce wetland impacts; constructing bridges to prevent culvert fill crossings where practicable; and increasing the grade of side slopes adjacent to wetland systems to lessen impacts. Also, wetlands should not be displaced by fill for the purpose of conveying or treating stormwater, when compensatory treatment in adjacent uplands would suffice.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) staff notes that they welcome the opportunity to review detailed plans that will be made available to the TBRPC through the future permitting process. During future reviews, TBRPC staff will be concerned with the protection of

“More Protection, Less Process”

Printed on recycled paper.

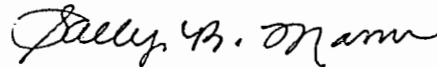
Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP
March 10, 2005
Page 2 of 2

Natural Resources of Regional Significance, as depicted in "Future of the Region, A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region." Please see the enclosed TBRPC letter for more detailed comments.

Based on the information contained in the above-referenced application and the comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that allocation of federal funds for the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. The applicant must, however, address the issues identified by DEP and TBRPC staff prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of any issues identified during subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Sarah E. Daugherty at (850) 245-2169.

Yours sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/sed

Enclosures

cc: Brenda Arnold, DEP Southwest District
John Meyer, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

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Project Information	
Project:	FL200501100360C
Comments Due:	02/09/2005
Letter Due:	03/11/2005
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - 118TH AVENUE (CR 296) PD&E STUDY, FPID NO.: 413622-1-22-01, FAP NO.: 9045-054C - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	DOT - 118TH AVENUE (CR 296) PD&E STUDY - PINELLAS CO.
CFDA #:	20.205
Agency Comments:	
TAMPA BAY RPC - TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
Staff welcomes the opportunity to review the more detailed plans that will be made available to the TBRPC through the future permitting process. The TBRPC will be concerned with protection of Natural Resources of Regional Significance, as depicted in "Future of the Region, A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region."	
PINELLAS - PINELLAS COUNTY	
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT - OFFICE OF POLICY AND BUDGET, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
No Comment	
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No comment/Consistent	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Southwest District staff notes that the project requires an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), pursuant to the Operating Agreement referenced in Chapter 62-113, F.A.C. The project description indicates that there will be both temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands, water bodies, stormwater facilities and ditch systems along the 118th Street corridor. Some form of mitigation compensation to replace wetland functions lost by the proposed impacts will be required. The applicant should take every effort to employ designs that will avoid and minimize wetland impacts as well as implement best management practices (BMPs). Minimization efforts should include corridor alignments that avoid or reduce wetland impacts, bridge construction to prevent culvert fill crossings where practicable, and increasing the grade of sideslopes adjacent to wetland systems. Also, wetlands should not be displaced by fill for the purpose of conveying and/or treating stormwater, when compensatory treatment in adjacent uplands would suffice.	
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the [Clearinghouse Home Page](#) to query other projects.

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COUNTY: PINELLAS

DATE: 1/10/2005

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/9/2005

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/11/2005

SAI#: FL200501100360C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
X STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION -
 ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - 118TH AVENUE
 (CR 296) PD&E STUDY, FPID NO.: 413622-1-22-01, FAP NO.: 9045-054C - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
 3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

- No Comment/Consistent
- No Comment
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Comment Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: Historical Resources/Bureau of Historic Preservation
 Reviewer: Sherry Anderson
 Date: 2/1/05

Barbara E. Mattick
 Deputy SHPO for Survey &
 Registration
 Acting Chief, BHP
 2-1-05

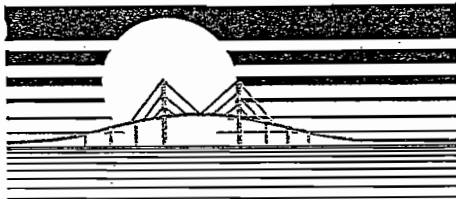
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2005 JAN 13 A 9:13

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Chair
Commissioner Jane von Hahmann

Vice-Chair
Robert Kersteen

Secretary/Treasurer
Jill Collins

Executive Director
Manny Pumariega

January 13, 2005

Mr. Robert Clifford
District Modal Planning and Development Manager
Florida Department of Transportation
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

RECEIVED
JAN 18 2005
OIP / OLGA

Subject: IC&R #015-05 - 118th Avenue North (CR 296) PD&E Study, FSC SAI#
FL2005110360C & FDOT FAP #9045-054C, Pinellas County

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has received the above-referenced application for processing under the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Program.

As identified in the document, more detailed information will be made available during the permit coordination process. We welcome the opportunity to review the more detail-oriented plans that will be made available to TBRPC through the permitting process.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will especially be concerned with protection of *Natural Resources of Regional Significance*. These resources are depicted on the map series of the Council's governing document - *Future of the Region, A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region*, and can be viewed on the Council's website: www.tbrpc.org.

If you should have any question(s), please do not hesitate to contact me (ext. 29). Thank you.

Sincerely,


John M. Meyer
IC&R Coordinator

cc:  Lauren Milligan, PSC

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

John Morroni - Chairman
Kenneth T. Welch - Vice Chairman
Ronnie E. Duncan
Calvin D. Harris
Susan Latvala
Karen Williams Seel
Robert B. Stewart



February 8, 2005

Mr. Bob Clifford
FDOT District VII
11201 N. McKinley Drive
MS.#7-500
Tampa, FL 33612

RECEIVED
PLANNING
FEBRUARY 10 PM 1:37

Dear Bob,

**RE: 118th Avenue (CR 296) PD&E Study
Advance Notification / Pinellas County, Florida
WPI Seg. No: 413622-1 /FAP No. 9045-05C**

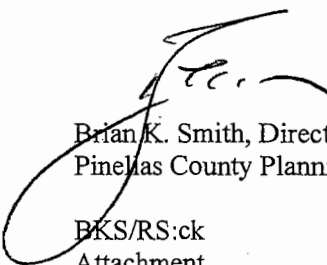
As you requested in your letter of January 5, 2005, we have reviewed the advanced notification package for the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study for 118th Avenue (C.R. 296) connector from U.S. Highway 19 to east of the Roosevelt Boulevard extension. The review is intended to help FDOT and FHWA make a determination as to the degree of environmental documentation that will be required for this project.

We are attaching a copy of an e-mail submitted by the City of Pinellas Park staff that contains environmental comments raised during the Preliminary Feasibility Analysis phase of the project in March of last year. Those comments were submitted to FDOT staff for consideration during the Advance Notification process and PD&E phase of the project.

To answer the specific request in your letter regarding the consistency of this improvement with the approved Comprehensive Plan of Pinellas County, we are planning the following action: the Comprehensive Plan will be amended if necessary, depending on the results of the PD&E. The amendment could be initiated during the second package of plan amendments for the Local Planning Agency in the fall of 2005, with action taken in October of the same year and the adoption by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in the spring of 2006.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this review.

Sincerely,


Brian K. Smith, Director
Pinellas County Planning Department

BKS/RS:ck
Attachment
f:\users\cendocs\mpo\ corresp2.ck.pg 35.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
600 Cleveland Street
Suite 750
Clearwater, Florida 33756
Phone: (727) 464-8200
Fax: (727) 464-8201
Website: www.pinellascounty.org



From: <BBray@pinellas-park.com>
To: <rsolis@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Date: 3/25/2004 2:53:57 PM
Subject: Comments on the Draft Preliminary Feasibility Analysis for CR296Connections

Ramon,

As per your request I am forwarding those points in the Alternatives and Preliminary Feasibility Analysis March 2004, that need to be revisited by the consultant. Please remember that I only scanned the document and my technical expertise is not as a transportation number cruncher. The following items however does raise concerns.

Section:

4.1.3 - Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities - Page 4-1

The document indicates that only a portion of the corridor has sidewalks. Though a designated bicycle facility does not exist pedestrian facilities are abundant. Sidewalks begin at Starkey Road and proceeds to the east on both sides of the Bryan Dairy Road. The sidewalk ends on the south side of Bryan Dairy at the landfill's pond. On the north side of Bryan Dairy Road the sidewalk continues to 34th Street. Forty-ninth Street northward from 102nd Avenue has sidewalks on both sides of the facility to and beyond Ulmerton Road.

4.1.8 - Utilities - Page 4-2

Should the County landfill be included here? Though not a utility in the traditional sense of the word. It is the only place in the County that is to receive solid waste for final disposition.

Florida Power Corporation and Progress Energy - Page 4-3
The document identifies the Florida Power Corporation and Progress Energy on this page in two different sections. Didn't Florida Power become Florida Progress then it became Progress Energy? Additionally, there is no mention of the oil transmission line or the very large water line that runs the length of the power-line ROW. These are not insignificant items.

4.3.2.2. - Evacuation Routes and Emergency Services

The document noted that there were no fire stations along the corridor. It depends upon how wide of an area the corridor covers, because on 43rd Street about 4 blocks south of 118th Ave there is fire station 35. Fact is Traffic Operations is in the process of placing an emergency signal at 43rd St and 118th Ave.

4.3.3.1. - Geology and Groundwater

This section discusses in the last paragraph potable water supplies and indicates that "Nearly all of the potable water demands in the area are met by the City of Tampa and Pinellas County Water Systems." Please indicate where in this area the City of Tampa provides potable water. I thought that all water in this area was provided by Tampa Bay Water through the St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and City of Pinellas Park distribution systems.

4.3.3.4. - Floodplain

This section identifies the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) of February 17, 1989 as the appropriate FIRM of record. On September 3, 2003 a new set of maps became effective for Pinellas County, thus making all previous sets obsolete. The new FIRM's have one major change other than flood zones. That change is the switch from the NGVD 29 datum set to the NAVD 88 datum set. This really does need to be included in the document.

R.G. Bray, Jr., AICP
Planning Director
City of Pinellas Park, Florida
Phone 727-541-0704
FAX 727-541-0780

CC: <Paul.Bertels@MyClearwater.com>, <karen.demeria@dot.state.fl.us>



Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Business Council Members

Billy Cypress, Chairman

Jasper Nelson, Ass't. Chairman
Max Billie, Treasurer

Andrew Bert Sr., Secretary
Jerry Cypress, Lawmaker

February 6, 2005

Mr. Robert Clifford, AICP
District Modal Planning & Development Manager
FDOT, District 7
11201 North McKinley Drive/MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

RE: WPI Segment No. 413622-1/FAP No. 9045-054C, 118th Ave (CR296)

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The Miccosukee Tribe received your letter concerning the above referenced proposed project. The Tribal Chairman referred your letter to me as I am the Tribal Representative for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation and Section 106 Consultation. Mr. Fred Dayhoff is a Tribal Consultant on these matters. Please direct all future correspondence to me.

We have no direct knowledge of any cultural, religious, or traditional sites at the proposed project location. We suggest that a cultural resources survey be conducted of the project area. We further request that we be kept informed of this project and receive a copy of the cultural resources survey.

Thank you for consulting with us. Please call me at (305) 223-8380, Ext. 2244, if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Steve Terry
NAGPRA & Section 106 Representative

RECEIVED
FEB 10 PM 1:30

Jan-10-05 03:38P

P.01

MPO AGENDA ITEM VIII.**STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM PLAN (Follow-up on Request from City of St. Petersburg)**

At the December meeting, the MPO received a copy of a letter from the City of St. Petersburg to FDOT concerning the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). The City proposed that FDOT consider adding to the SIS, as an emerging facility, the C.R. 296/118th Avenue corridor. The City notes that the corridor provides a direct connection between I-275 and U.S. 19, both of which are north-south SIS highway corridors in Pinellas County. A copy of the City's letter is attached.

The MPO directed that this item be included on the January agenda for further discussion. To aid in that discussion, also included for MPO member information, is the criteria used to designate SIS facilities.

This item will include a discussion of the request to designate C.R. 296/118th Avenue as an Emerging SIS facility.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter Dated November 30, 2004 From Joe Kubicki to Terry Kraft
SIS Designation Criteria

ACTION: As deemed appropriate based on discussion

Post-it [®] Fax Note	7671	Date	1/16/05	# of pages	45
To	Jeff Novotny	From	Garbi Farkas (lv)		
Co./Dept.	American	Co.	FDOT		
Phone #		Phone #	975-6455		
Fax #	996-1908	Fax #			



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

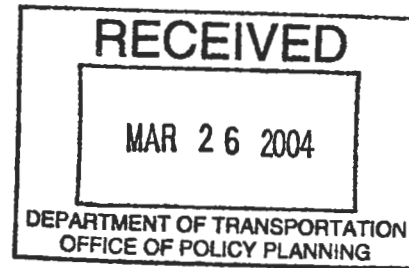
POST OFFICE BOX 2842, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33731-2842

WEB SITE: www.stpete.org Channel 35 WSPF • TV

TELEPHONE: 727 893-7171

March 23, 2004

Mr. Terry Kraft, Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street MS 28
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450



Dear Mr. Kraft:

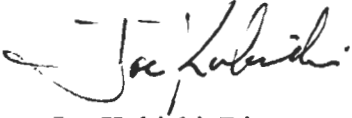
The City of St. Petersburg has reviewed the FDOT's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) for the State of Florida. We would like to commend you on the development of the SIS. We believe the SIS will effectively link Florida's existing and planned highways, seaports, airports and rail systems, promote the efficient movement of people and goods, and encourage economic growth.

We would like to propose for your consideration that the C.R. 296/118th Avenue N corridor be designated as an emerging highway corridor since it provides a short, direct connection between I-275 and U.S. 19, which are north-south SIS highway corridors in Pinellas County. The C.R. 296/118th Avenue N corridor traverses the City of St. Petersburg, City of Pinellas Park and unincorporated properties in central Pinellas County. This area, known as the Gateway area of Pinellas County, is a regional activity center (please see the attached map). We also request that Gandy Boulevard (S.R. 92) continue to be designated as a SIS highway corridor between I-275 and U.S. 19 because of the connection it provides between U.S. 19 and Hillsborough County, and that U.S. 19 remain a SIS highway corridor north of Gandy Boulevard.

With the opening of the C.R. 296 expressway facility west of I-275 in October 2002, motorists can now travel efficiently between I-275 and U.S. 19, which are the most heavily traveled north-south arterials in Pinellas County. A 24-hour traffic count in 2003 was 30,582. Not only does this corridor promote regional travel, it provides immediate access to the rapidly growing Gateway area. According to Pinellas County MPO projections, the population in the area located one mile north and south of C.R. 296, from I-275 to U.S. 19, is expected to increase from 2,056 in 1999 to 3,726 in 2025, and employment is expected to grow from 9,062 to 12,036. There are also plans to connect C.R. 296 to western Roosevelt Boulevard (see "Roosevelt Connector" on the map). This \$10 million project is programmed for right-of-way acquisition in FY 2003/04 for the segment from C.R. 296/118th Avenue N to Ulmerton Road. The Roosevelt Connector project will provide improved highway access to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, which serves more than 750,000 passenger annually.

I hope that we have demonstrated the importance of the C.R. 296/118th Avenue N corridor to the Tampa Bay region and the State of Florida. If you have any questions about our request, please call me at (727) 892-5274.

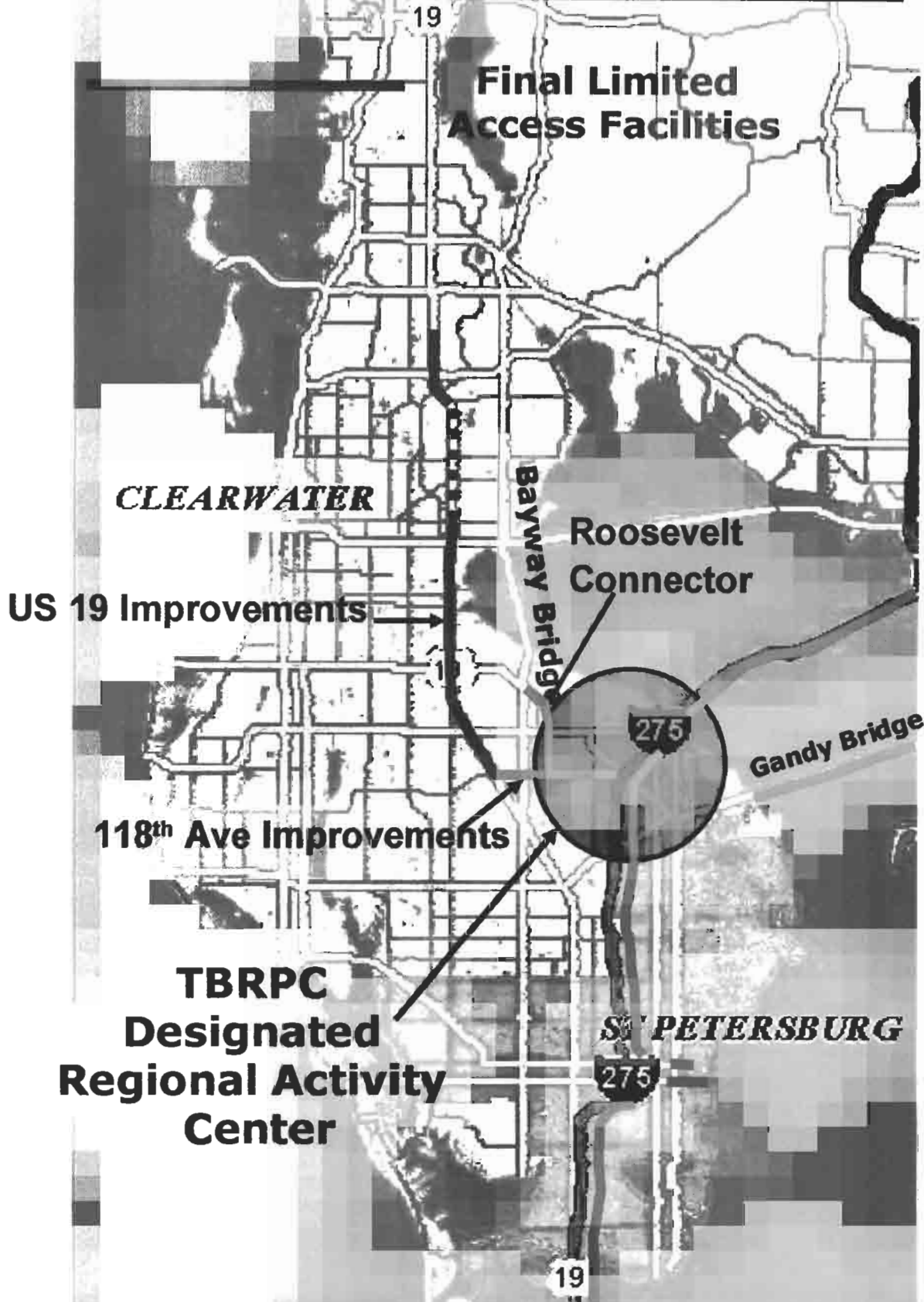
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Kubicki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joe Kubicki, Director
Transportation and Parking Management Department

cc: Tish Elston, First Deputy Mayor
Rick Mussett, Administrator, City Development
Brian Smith, Director, Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Final Limited Access Facilities



Nov-08-04

MPO AGENDA ITEM VI B.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. Adoption of 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan and Endorsement of Conformity Determination Report

Attached for adoption by the MPO are the updated 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report. The Plan includes highways, transit, trails, sidewalks, and operational improvements totaling approximately \$5.2 billion.

At last month's meeting, staff reviewed for the MPO the proposed Cost Affordable Plan. Subsequent to that time, several modifications to the Plan have been made resulting from review by other agencies and input from the public. As an example, to eliminate the funding shortfall in the Cost Affordable Plan for the 118th Avenue Expressway, only the right-of-way phase is included in the final draft. The balance of project funding is pending completion of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study and selection of a preferred alternative. Also, in response to comments received at the last meeting, the Tyrone Boulevard overpass is added to the MPO's needs list of unfunded projects. The MPO also received a request from FDOT to add to the needs list the planned intermodal center(s) for Pinellas County. Finally, in response to a request from the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Pinellas County Public Works Department, the planned improvement to 126th Avenue between U.S. 19 and 34th Street was modified to include a four-lane divided segment.

This item will include a review by staff of the proposed Plan and Conformity Determination Report, to be followed by a public hearing.

ATTACHMENTS: 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (MPO Members Only)
 Memo Dated October 12, 2004 From Robert Meador, With Attachment
 Memo Dated November 3, 2004 From Paul Bertels, TCC Chairman
 CAC Motion #04-14

ACTION: MPO to receive public comment and take action on Long Range Plan and Conformity Report

MPO: 10/13/04 – pg 9.

Post-It™ Fax Note	7671	Date	11/5/04	# of pages	1
To	Jeff Novotny	From	Gabor Farkasfalvy		
Co./Dept.	American	Co.	FDOT		
Phone #		Phone #	975-6455		
Fax #	996-1908	Fax #			





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

6620 Southpoint Drive, South
Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R4/ES-JAFL/05-0590

January 20, 2005

Robert Clifford, AICP
Florida Department of Transportation - District 7
11201 North McKinley Drive / MS 7-500
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

FWS Log. No: 05-0590
Applicant: Florida Dept. of Transportation
Project Name: 118th Avenue PD&E Study
County: Pinellas

Dear Mr. Clifford:

Thank you for the Advance Notification package we received in our office on January 10, 2005. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment Study and requests information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) regarding federally listed species near the proposed project in St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida. The Service provides the following comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

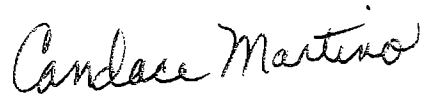
The FDOT is evaluating alternative improvements along 118th Avenue (CR 296), from US 19 to east of the Roosevelt Connector. The project's build alternatives include constructing a controlled access facility with frontage roads for local access along 118th Avenue. All project alternatives, including a No-Build alternative, will be outlined in the study and an endangered species and biological assessment will be prepared and provided to the Service as part of the study. A number of federally listed threatened and endangered species are known to occur in Pinellas County and a list of those species can be found on the Service's North Florida Field Office internet website at <http://northflorida.fws.gov/CountyList/Pinellas.htm>.

The Service assumes that listed species occur in suitable ecological communities and recommend site surveys to determine the presence or absence of listed species. Additionally, any wetlands

along the alignment that may be affected by the proposed project should be assessed for wildlife function and value.

We look forward to coordinating with you on your project. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact CalLee Davenport at (904) 232-2580, ext. 106. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candace Martino".

for David L. Hankla
Field Supervisor



RECEIVED
JAN 28 2005

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Robert Wright, Acting Division Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration, Florida Division
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

January 28, 2005

Attn: Marvin Williams

RE: DHR Project File Number: 2005-00155
Received by DHR: January 7, 2005
Financial Management #: 413622-1
Federal-aid Project I.D. #: 9045 (054)
Project: Cultural Resources Assessment Survey for 118th Avenue (CR 296) Connector from
U.S. 19 to East of Roosevelt Connector PD&E Study, Pinellas County, Florida.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*. It is the responsibility of the State Historic Preservation Officer to advise and assist, as appropriate, Federal and State agencies in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities; to cooperate with Federal and State agencies to ensure that historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development; and to consult with the appropriate Federal agencies in accordance with the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, on Federal undertakings that may affect historic properties and the content and sufficiency of any plans developed to protect, manage, or to reduce or mitigate harm to such properties.

A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey (CRAS) was completed for the proposed project in September 2004 and revised in November 2004. Background research identified one previously recorded archaeological site (8PI3365) within the Area of Potential Effect. No evidence of this site was found during the survey nor were any previously unrecorded archaeological sites or historic structures identified as a result of the survey. Furthermore, the 14 stormwater retention/ detention areas identified for the proposed project are delineated as existing wetlands and were not surveyed for the presence of cultural resources.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Southeast Regional Office
(954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991

Northeast Regional Office
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Central Florida Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Mr. Robert Wright
January 28, 2005
Page 2

As a result of the information presented in the CRAS, the Federal Highway Administration has determined that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any resources listed, or considered eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with the determination 'No Historic Properties Affected' and finds the submitted report complete and sufficient.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Brian Yates, Compliance Review Archaeologist, by electronic mail byates@dos.state.fl.us, or at 850-245-6372.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Matlock
Deputy SHPO for Survey & Registration

for Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

XC: Mr. Rick Adair, FDOT District Seven, EMO
Mr. Gabor Farkasfalvy, FDOT District Seven, EMO



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

6620 Southpoint Drive, South
Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R4/ES-JAFL/05-1849

July 11, 2005

Florida Department of Transportation
Environmental Management Office
11201 North McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

Attn: Todd Mecklenborg, Biologist

FWS Log. No: 05-1849

Applicant: Florida Dept. of Transportation

Project Name: 118th Avenue (CR 296), US 19 to the Roosevelt Connector

County: Pinellas

Dear Mr. Mecklenborg:

Thank you for the opportunity to review documentation regarding the project mentioned above. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) received a copy of the Draft Wetland Evaluation Report and Biological Assessment for the proposed project on June 6, 2005. We submit the following comments in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*); Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to address proposed transportation corridor improvements within existing project limits along 118th Avenue (CR 296), from US 19 to east of the Roosevelt Connector in Pinellas County, Florida. County Road 296 (118th Avenue) currently exists as a 6-lane divided urban arterial. The proposed project will consist of a 4-lane controlled access facility with 2-lane frontage roads that will provide business access along 118th Avenue.

The project's study corridor is primarily urban disturbed with light industrial and commercial uses. Most of the existing landscape aside from a minimal amount of jurisdictional wetlands has been converted from native landscape.

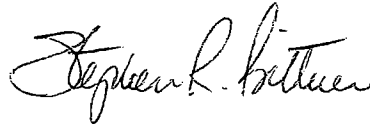
Suitable habitat for federally listed species was investigated by FDOT staff and field reviews were conducted in the fall of 2004 and in the winter/spring of 2005. No federally listed species were observed during the field reviews. A site visit was conducted by Service and FDOT biologists on June 9, 2005. Based on the results of a literature review and surveys completed during the site visits, FDOT has determined that the proposed project will have "no effect" on any federally listed species. The Service concurs with FDOT's determination.

2005 JUL 14 PM 2:53

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Although this does not represent a biological opinion as described in Section 7 of the Act, it does fulfill the requirements of the Act and no further action is required. If modifications are made in the project or additional information becomes available on listed species, re-initiation of consultation may be required. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Mr. CalLee Davenport of my staff at (904) 232-2580, ext. 106, or via email at callee_davenport@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen R. Bettner".

for David L. Hankla
Field Supervisor



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. David C. Gibbs
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

November 18, 2005

RE: DHR Project File Number: 2005-11532
Received by DHR: November 1, 2005
Project: *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for 118th Avenue (CR 296) Connector from U.S. 19 to East of Roosevelt Connector Pond Site Alternatives*
Federal-aid Project No.: 9045 (054)
Financial Management #: 413622-1
County: Pinellas

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, and applicable local ordinances. It is the responsibility of the State Historic Preservation Officer to advise and assist, as appropriate, Federal and State agencies and local governments in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities; to cooperate with Federal and State agencies to ensure that historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development; and to consult with the appropriate Federal agencies in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, on Federal undertakings that may affect historic properties and the content and sufficiency of any plans developed to protect, manage, or to reduce or mitigate harm to such properties.

A cultural resources assessment survey was conducted and two previously recorded archaeological sites (8PI3365 and 8PI1174) were identified within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). No evidence of the sites was found and neither is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concluded that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking. Based on the information provided, our office finds the submitted report complete and sufficient and concurs with the findings.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Palm Beach Regional Office
(561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476

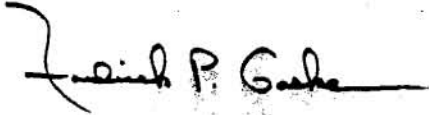
St. Augustine Regional Office
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Tampa Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Mr. David C. Gibbs
November 18, 2005
Page 2

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Sherry Anderson, Architectural Historian, Transportation Compliance Review Program, by email sanderson@dos.state.fl.us, or at 850-245-6432.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

XC: Mr. Rick Adair, FDOT, District Seven
Mr. Gabor Farkasfalvy, FDOT, District Seven

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