

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.

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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.

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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.

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- 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
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- 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**

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED: January 5, 2005	Applicant Identifier: FPID No. 413622-1										
<input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Applicant Identifier										
		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier FAP No. 9045-054C										
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): <table border="1"> <tr> <td>5</td><td>9</td><td>—</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>4</td> </tr> </table>		5	9	—	6	0	0	1	8	7	4	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) A	
5	9	—	6	0	0	1	8	7	4				
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other (specify): _____		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: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2</td><td>0</td><td>—</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>5</td> </tr> </table>		2	0	—	2	0	5	11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: WPI No: 413622-1 FPID: 413622-1- 22-01					
2	0	—	2	0	5								
TITLE: Highway Planning & Construction													
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (cities, counties, states, etc.): Pinellas County, Florida													
13. PROPOSED PROJECT:		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:											
Start Date	Ending Date	a. Applicant	b. Project:										
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?											
a. Federal	\$.00	a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE January 5, 2005											
b. Applicant	\$.00	b. NO. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW											
c. State	\$.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?											
d. Local	\$.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No											
e. Other	\$.00												
f. Program Income	\$.00												
g. TOTAL	\$ 220,000,000 to 260,000,000												
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											

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

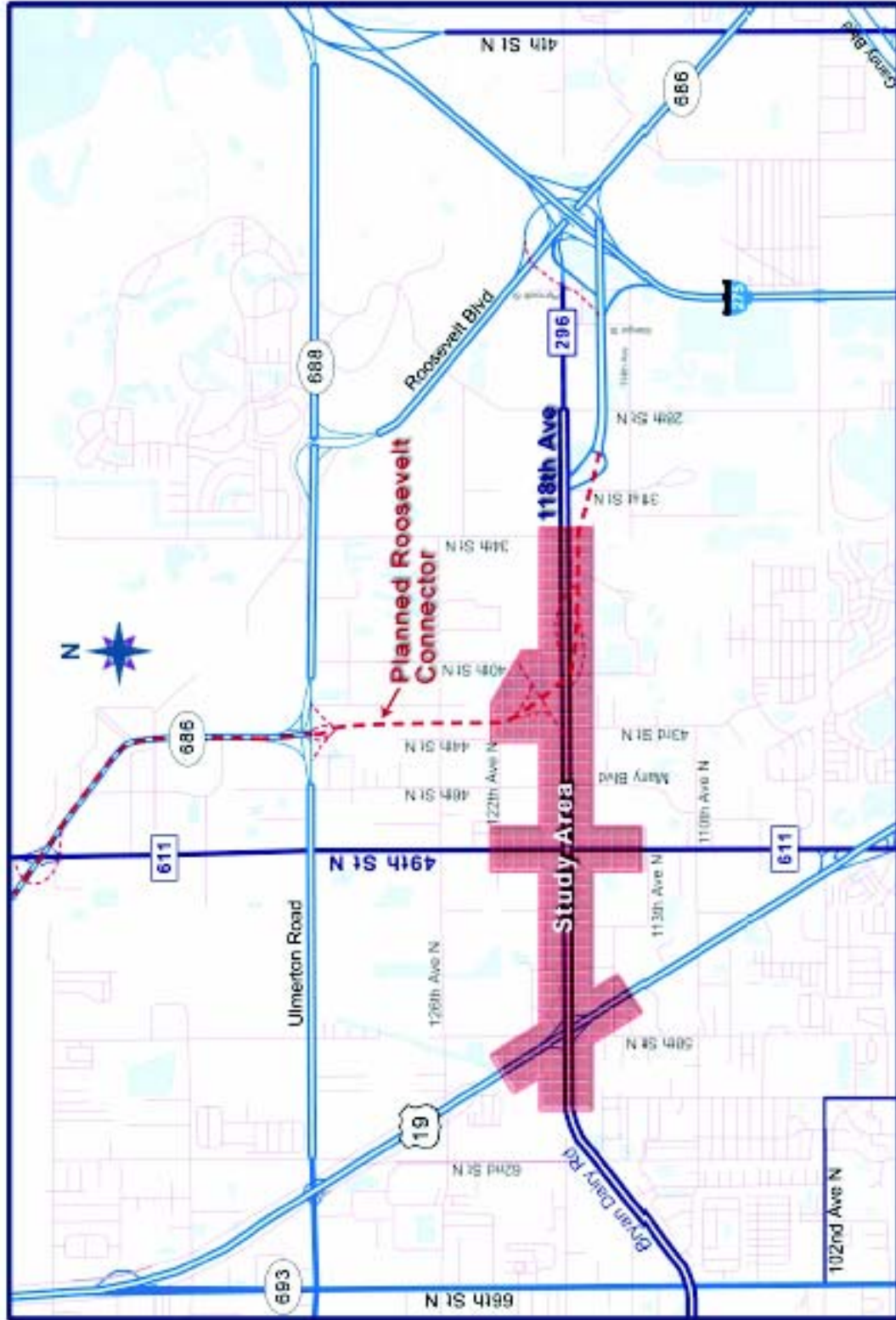
cc: Ms. Joyce Bear
Historic Preservation Manager
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

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



Project Location Map



118th Avenue (CR 296) PD&E Study
 from US 19 to East of Roosevelt / CR 296 Connector
 Pinellas County, Florida
 WPI Segment No.: 413622 1

- Legend**
- Study Area
 - Planned CR 296 Connector

USGS Quadrangle: St. Petersburg