# GEOTECHNICAL REPORT



# I-75 (SR 93) PD&E Study

From north of SR 52 to south of CR 476B
Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida
Financial Project No.: 411014-1-22-01
FAP No.: 0751-120I



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# I-75 (SR 93) Project Development & Environment Study

from north of SR 52 to south of CR 476B Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida

Financial Project No. 411014-1-22-01 Federal-Aid Project No. 0751-120I

The proposed action consists of improvements to I-75 from north of SR 52 in Pasco County to south of CR 476B in Sumter County, Florida; a distance of approximately 20.8 miles.

# Florida Department of Transportation District Seven

Tampa, Florida

Prepared By:

**Professional Service Industries, Inc.** 

Tampa, Florida



February 27, 2007

**H.W. Lochner, Inc.** 13577 Feather Sound Drive Suite 600 Clearwater, Florida 33762

Attention: Mr. John Kenty, P.E.

RE: Geotechnical Report

Project Development & Environment Study

I-75 (SR 93) from North of SR 52

to South of CR 476B

Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida

Financial Project No. 411014-1-22-01 Federal-Aid Project No. 0751-120I

**PSI Project No. 775-55159** 

Dear Mr. Kenty:

Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI) has completed geotechnical services for the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the proposed improvements to Interstate Highway I-75 (SR 93) from north of SR 52 in Pasco County to south of CR 476B in Sumter County, Florida. These services were authorized through a subcontract agreement between H.W. Lochner, Inc. (HWL) and PSI dated January 25, 2005.

This report presents the results of geotechnical evaluations for the proposed roadway alignment, stormwater management areas, and our opinions regarding feasible foundation alternatives for the proposed bridge structures. These evaluations are based on the review of the published information, review of available existing plans with geotechnical information, and site reconnaissance. Briefly, this geotechnical study indicates that roadway planning and design should take into consideration organic materials (muck), near-surface boulders, shallow clayey soils, and shallow groundwater conditions along portions of the existing roadway. The potential for sinkhole/development within of the project area was evaluated and is also presented in this report.

g L. Kuo Ph.D., P.E.

Florida License No. 36115

Chief Engineer

PSI appreciates the opportunity of providing our services for this project. If you have any questions concerning the contents of this report or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Professional Service Industries, Inc.

Lloyd T. Lasher, Jr., P.E.

Geotechnical Department Manager

Florida License No. 56794

Paul D. Passe, P.E. Chief Engineer

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to evaluate capacity improvements along the segment of Interstate 75 (I-75) -State Road (SR) 93- that extends from just north of SR 52 in Pasco County to just south of County Road (CR) 476B in Sumter County, Florida. The length of this segment is approximately 20.8 miles. The design year for the improvements is Year 2030. **Figure 1-1** illustrates the location and limits of this project.

#### 1.1 PURPOSE

The objective of this PD&E Study is to document the engineering and environmental analyses that were performed for this project so that the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) can reach a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design of the necessary improvements of I-75 to accommodate future traffic demand in a safe and efficient manner. This study documents the need for the improvements as well as the procedures utilized to develop and evaluate various improvement alternatives. Information related to the engineering and environmental characteristics, which are essential for the alternatives analysis, was collected. Design criteria were established and preliminary alternatives were developed. The comparison of alternatives was based on a variety of parameters utilizing a matrix format. This process identified the alternative that would have minimal impacts, while providing the necessary improvements.

The PD&E Study also satisfies all applicable requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in order for this project to qualify for federal-aid funding of subsequent development phases (design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction).

This geotechnical report is one in a series of reports prepared as part of this PD&E Study. This report documents a preliminary evaluation of the subsurface soil and groundwater conditions within the study area to generally assess the suitability of the site for the proposed improvements and to identify constraints or limitations that the subsurface conditions may impose on the planned construction, particularly related to proposed structures, high-fill embankments, and stormwater control pond sites. To accomplish this objective, an inventory of existing data was evaluated including aerial photographs, available County and Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) formally known as United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service (SCS) data, United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps, existing plans, design engineering information for the past construction projects within the study area, and records of sinkhole activity.

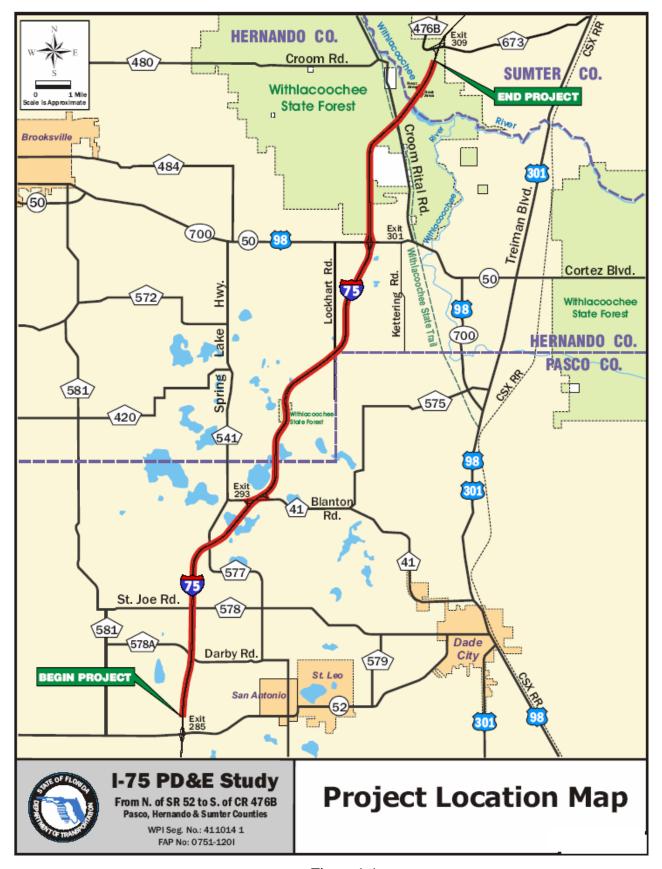


Figure 1-1

#### 1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 1.2.1 Project Background

I-75 is an interstate, limited access freeway. It is included in the State Highway System (SHS), designated as SR 93, the Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS), the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), and the Federal Aid Interstate System. I-75 also serves as a major evacuation route throughout the state.

Within the limits of this project, I-75 is in a "transitioning" area. Therefore, according to FIHS standards, all of its components (mainline, ramps, merge/diverge areas) should provide adequate capacity to operate at level of service (LOS) "C" or better.

#### 1.2.2 The Study Area

As noted before, the study area for this project extends from just north of SR 52 in Pasco County to just south of CR 476B in Sumter County, Florida; a distance of approximately 20.8 miles. The study area encompasses the following Sections, Townships, and Ranges:

#### Pasco County:

- Sections 5 and 8 of Township 25 S, Range 20 E
- Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33 of Township 24 S, Range 20 E

#### • Hernando County:

- Sections 13, 23, 24, 26, 35 of Township 23 S, Range 20 E
- Sections 5, 6, 7, 18 of Township 23 S, Range 21 E
- Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32 of Township 22 S, Range 21 E

#### • Sumter County:

- Sections 4, 9, 16 of Township 22 S, Range 21 E.

Presently, within the project limits, I-75 is a four-lane, divided, limited access, rural highway that generally occupies 300 feet of right-of-way (ROW). **Figure 1-2** depicts the existing typical section of I-75. No major improvements have been made to this segment of I-75 since its original construction in the 1960s.

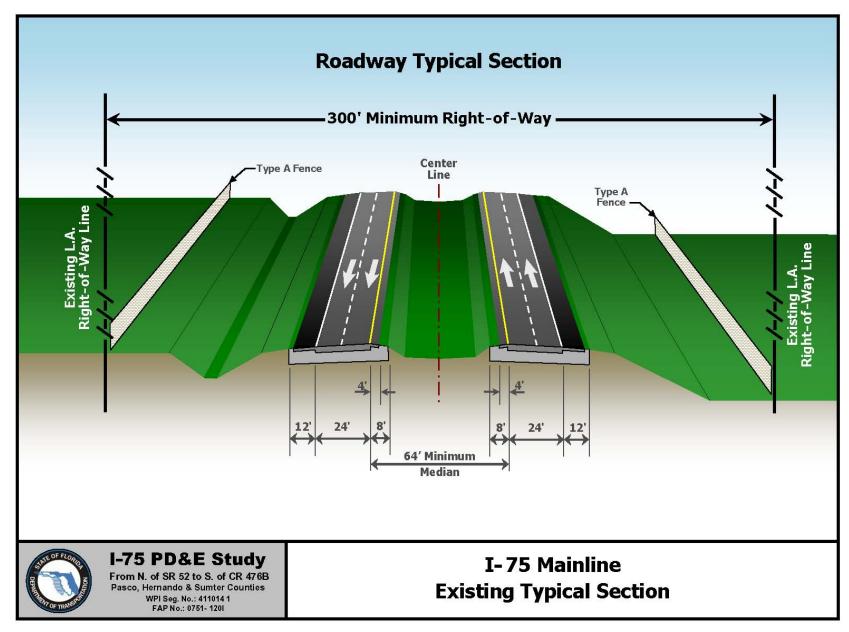


Figure 1-2

The study area includes two interchanges and two rest areas (one in each direction). More specifically, a partial cloverleaf interchange is currently provided at Blanton Road (CR 41) approximately 6.3 miles north of SR 52 in Pasco County and a diamond interchange is present at Cortez Road (US 98/SR 50), approximately 9.3 miles north of CR 41, in Hernando County. The rest areas are located in Sumter County, approximately 5.0 miles north of SR 50 and 1.0 mile south of the northern project terminus.

From north of SR 50 to the northern terminus of the project, the Withlacoochee State Forest abuts the entire western border of I-75 and most of its eastern border. I-75 crosses the Withlacoochee River at the Hernando/Sumter County Line, approximately 1.5 miles from the northern project terminus; this segment is under the jurisdiction of the FDOT District 5.

To facilitate development and evaluation of the improvement alternatives, the project was divided into three segments:

- Segment 1: from north of SR 52 to the Pasco/ Hernando County Line; 7.8 miles
- Segment 2: from the Pasco/Hernando County Line to SR 50; 7.0 miles
- Segment 3: from SR 50 to just south of CR 476B; 6.0 miles.

## 1.2.3 Need for the Project

The need for improving I-75 within the project limits was established after consideration of the following factors:

- Evaluation of the current and future contribution of I-75 in accommodating regional travel and its importance in providing system-wide linkage within the overall roadway network.
- Review of the federal and state policies regarding I-75 and, where applicable, study of the comprehensive plans and the long-range transportation plans of the local governments involved in this project.
- Assessment of current and future social and economic demands.
- Study of the interrelationships of I-75 with other modes of transportation.
- Evaluation of the quality of traffic operations in the study area for the design year assuming that no capacity improvements will be implemented along this corridor (No-Build Alternative).
- Analyses of the traffic safety statistics for the period between 1999 and 2003.
- Comparison of the geometric characteristics of I-75 with current design standards as well as research of records for structural deficiencies along the project.

#### 1.2.4 Other Related Studies and Projects

In addition to this Study, the FDOT is in the process of widening two additional segments of I-75 immediately to the south and north of this project. Specifically:

- A PD&E Study was completed in 2001 for the segment of I-75 that extends from south of SR 56 to just north of SR 52, in Pasco County (the southern terminus of this project). Similar to this project, I-75 currently provides four travel lanes along this segment within a minimum 300-foot-wide right of way. The PD&E Study recommended widening of I-75 to a six-lane facility. The PD&E Study has now advanced to the Final Design phase.
- A PD&E Study is now under way to evaluate improvement alternatives for the segment of I-75 that extends north of this project, from south of CR 476B to SR 44, in Sumter County. Similar to this project, I-75 currently provides four travel lanes along this segment within a minimum 300-foot-wide right of way. This project is being pursued by the FDOT District 5.

#### 1.3 STUDY ALTERNATIVES

According to the <u>Traffic Technical Memorandum</u> –prepared for this study under separate cover– the annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes along I-75 during the design year 2030 should be expected to range 90,000 to 107,400 vehicles per day (vpd). To accommodate this projected transportation demand at the SIS standard for this facility of LOS "C", I-75 will need to be widened to an eight-lane highway with four travel lanes in each direction. Also, improvements will be needed at the interchanges of I-75 with CR 41 and SR 50.

In addition to the No-Build alternative, which will remain a viable alternative under consideration until this PD&E study is concluded, two other alternatives were evaluated:

- Instead of improving I-75, widen another existing facility or develop a new corridor that parallels I-75,
- Widen I-75 to an eight-lane highway.

A presentation of these alternatives follows below.

#### **1.3.1** The No-Build Alternative

Under the No-Build Alternative no action will be taken with respect to widening I-75 within the limits of this study. The advantages of the No-Build alternative include:

- No right-of-way acquisition,
- No relocations.
- No construction costs,
- No inconveniences to the motoring public due to construction,
- No inconveniences to the adjacent property owners due to construction, and
- No degradation or disruption of natural and other environmental resources.

The disadvantages of the No-Build alternative include:

- The LOS "C" standard for I-75 will not be met and therefore, this facility will not be consistent with the SIS specifications. I-75 will become increasingly congested resulting in increased road user costs and air pollution.
- This alternative is inconsistent with the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) of Pasco and Hernando counties Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the comprehensive plans of Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties. All of these documents call for widening improvements of I-75 within the project limits.

#### 1.3.2 Development/Widening of Other Corridors

Potential alternative corridors to improving the I-75 corridor could be: a) the development of a new parallel corridor east or west of I-75 and b) the improvement of one or more existing parallel facilities.

The alternative to develop a new north/south limited access highway that parallels I-75 either east or west of I-75 was abandoned early on in this study due to the magnitude of the natural environment, economic, social, cultural, and physical effects such an alternative poses. Such a corridor is not identified in any MPOs' LRTP nor is discussed in any comprehensive plan of any county.

There are two other FIHS facilities several miles west of I-75 that partially accommodate regional north/south travel and, therefore, were considered as alternative routes for improvement: Suncoast Parkway (SR 589) and US 19. Suncoast Parkway (SR 589) –a four-lane, limited access, toll facility— runs in a generally north/south direction approximately 15 miles west of I-75 and connects the Veterans Expressway in Hillsborough County with US 98 in Hernando County. US 19, located approximately 20 miles west of I-75, is a controlled access, multi-lane facility with numerous signalized intersections and driveway connections along its path. US 19 provides access to high-intensity commercial and office space land uses and is highly congested in Pinellas and Pasco counties and moderately congested in Hernando and Citrus counties. Neither of these facilities connects with I-75 and, therefore, they do not provide system continuity.

In addition, two other north/south regional routes were considered: US 41/SR 45 approximately 10 miles west of I-75 and US 301/SR 35 approximately 5 miles east of I-75. Both of these facilities are in their most part two-lane routes with limited capacity. Improvement of these routes to assume portions of the future traffic demands of I-75 would involve extensive right of way acquisitions and environmental and socioeconomic effects. For this reasons, the alternative to widen another existing facility instead of I-75 was also eliminated from further consideration.

#### 1.3.3 Widen I-75 to an Eight-Lane Highway

Based on the current FDOT design criteria, the widening of I-75 to provide eight through lanes –four in each direction– can be accommodated within its existing 300-foot-wide ROW. Additional ROW, however, may be required for interchange improvements and for stormwater management facilities (SMFs).

## 1.3.3.1 Typical Section Alternatives

Three typical section alternatives were developed based on the location where the additional through lanes will be placed in relation to the existing lanes, as follows:

- <u>The "Inside" Widening Alternative</u> which proposes construction of the additional four lanes into the existing median.
- The "Inside & Outside" Widening Alternative which proposes, for each direction, the construction of one additional lane within the median and one additional lane to the outside where the existing outside shoulder is presently located.
- <u>The "Outside" Widening Alternative</u> which proposes, for each direction, the placement of two additional lanes along the outside of the two existing lanes.

The advantages and disadvantages of each of these alternatives are discussed in detail in the Preliminary Engineering Report, prepared for this study under separate cover. The "Inside & Outside" Widening Alternative was selected for the entire length of this project as the most suitable solution. **Figure 1-3** depicts the proposed typical section for I-75.

#### 1.3.3.2 Interchange Improvements

The traffic analyses have indicated that improvements will be necessary for the existing interchanges of I-75 at CR 41 and SR 50 in order to accommodate the design year traffic demands at acceptable levels of service. Several alternative design concepts were developed for improving the two interchanges, as follows:

• I-75 at CR 41 Interchange: Two alternative design concepts were considered for improving the interchange at CR 41. Under both alternatives, both intersections of the ramp termini at CR 41 will need to be signalized. The limited access right-of-way limits will also be required to be extended a further distance away from the interstate than the current limits. CR 41 will be widened to provide a four-lane rural typical section from east of the northbound ramps to west of the southbound ramps. The FDOT will coordinate with Pasco County to develop an implementation plan for the widening of CR 41. The local access roads located in the northwestern and southeastern quadrants will need to be extended beyond the new limited access right-of-way lines. These alternatives are discussed in detail in the Preliminary Engineering Report, which was prepared for this study. A brief description of the two concepts is provided below.

- o The "Expanded Partial Cloverleaf" Improvement Alternative proposes to provide additional storage capacity for the exit ramps and to allow higher ramp operating speeds by maintaining the existing interchange configuration while lengthening all ramps by moving the intersections of the ramp termini at CR 41 further apart as well as moving the gore areas along I-75 further downstream.
- O The "NB Diamond and SB Partial Cloverleaf" Improvement Alternative assumes that the existing loop ramps in the northeastern quadrant will be replaced with diamond-type "slip" ramps similar to those currently provided for the northbound on- and off-ramps at SR 50. Also, this alternative includes lengthening the existing southbound on- and off-ramps in a similar fashion as proposed in the previous concept.

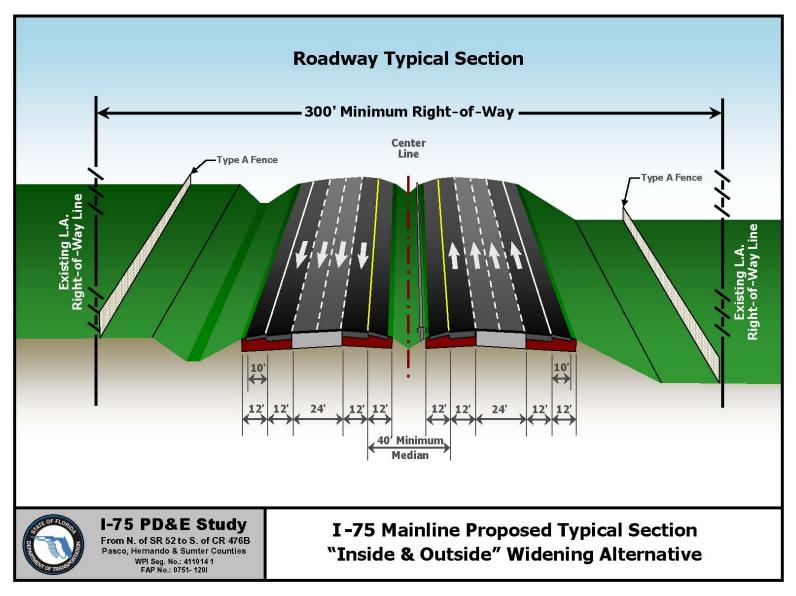


Figure 1-3

- Based on review of the operational characteristics of the two alternatives and their associated costs, the "NB Diamond and SB Partial Cloverleaf" improvement alternative was selected as the most suitable solution for this interchange.
- I-75 at SR 50 Interchange: Four alternative design concepts were considered for improving traffic operations at the I-75 interchange at SR 50. These alternatives are discussed in detail in the <u>Preliminary Engineering Report</u>, which was prepared for this study. A brief description of these concepts follows below:
  - O Alternative A Provide a Loop Ramp in the Northwestern Quadrant: this alternative proposes the construction of a new loop ramp in the northwestern quadrant of the interchange. This ramp will accommodate the motorists who are traveling westbound on SR 50 and are destined to southbound I-75. Construction of the new loop ramp will require realignment of the southbound off-ramp. Several businesses currently situated in this quadrant will have to be relocated. The local access roads located in the northwestern and southwestern quadrants will need to be extended beyond the new limited access right-of-way lines.
  - O Alternative B Provide a "Flyover" Ramp Originating from the SR 50 Right Side: this alternative provides a direct "flyover" ramp for the motorists traveling westbound on SR 50 and are destined to southbound I-75. However, this alternative allows for a conventional right-side ramp entrance from SR 50. This alternative directly impacts multiple businesses along the north side of SR 50 that will need to be relocated. In addition, Windmere Boulevard will have to be realigned to form a new intersection with SR 50 further to the east.
  - O Alternative C Provide a "Flyover" Ramp Originating from the SR 50 Median: this alternative is similar with the previous alternative in that it will also accommodate the motorists who are traveling westbound on SR 50 and are destined to southbound I-75 by providing a direct "flyover" ramp, thus removing this traffic entirely from traveling through the signalized intersections at the ramp termini. Instead of providing a conventional right-side entrance for this ramp from SR 50, the ramp entrance is placed in the median to minimize access and relocation impacts on adjacent properties along SR 50.
  - O Alternative D Provide a "Flyover" Ramp Carrying the Northbound I-75 to Westbound SR 50 Exiting Traffic: this alternative will accommodate the motorists who are traveling northbound on I-75 and are destined to westbound SR 50 by providing a direct "flyover" ramp, thus removing this traffic entirely from traveling through the signalized intersections at the ramp termini. This movement is part of the SIS system. To avoid access impacts on several businesses located along the

north side of SR 50, the "touchdown" point of the ramp is proposed within the SR 50 median.

Based on review of several factors and comments received at the Public Hearing, Alternative D was selected as the best solution for this interchange.

#### 1.4 THE "PREFERRED" ALTERNATIVE

After consideration and evaluation of several engineering and environmental factors, the alternative that includes the widening of I-75 to an eight-lane facility for the entire project segment and the expansion of the existing interchanges at CR 41 and SR 50 was selected as the most appropriate to accommodate the design year 2030 traffic demands.

The "preferred" alternative selected for this project was based on the traffic analyses, the evaluation of several alternatives, and input collected from the various project stakeholders through the Public Involvement Program efforts. To make best use of the FDOT and the FHWA funds in implementing these improvements while ensuring that efficient and safe traffic operations are provided along the project at all times, it was recommended that the "preferred" alternative is constructed in two phases. A brief description of the improvements included in the "preferred" alternative and their construction phasing follows below. Additional detailed information regarding the proposed improvements is provided in subsequent sections.

### **1.4.1** Phase 1 Improvements

In Phase 1, the mainline of I-75 will be widened to provide six lanes by constructing a 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction of I-75 within the median, along the existing inside lane. The widening of I-75 will be accommodated within the existing right-of-way. This phase will also include the replacement of the existing I-75 bridges over SR 50 to accommodate the need for additional lanes along SR 50. The proposed replacement bridges over SR 50 and the I-75 profile approaching the bridges will be at a higher elevation to meet current design standards. These elevation changes will require the ramps to be re-constructed and lengthened in order to "tie in" to the new roadway in a safe and efficient manner. With the exception of widening the existing structures at Croom Rital Road and the Withlacoochee River, it is not anticipated that other bridges in the study section will be affected during this phase of construction.

Phase 1 will also include right-of-way acquisition for the sites and construction of the stormwater management facilities, as required, to accommodate the "ultimate" improvements of I-75.

It is estimated, based on the current traffic growth trends, that these improvements will be sufficient to accommodate the traffic demands along I-75 until the year 2021.

## 1.4.2 Phase 2 Improvements

In Phase 2, the mainline of I-75 will be widened to provide eight lanes by constructing an additional travel lane in each direction of I-75 along the existing outside lane. To accommodate this widening and provide adequate horizontal clearances, all minor roadway overpass bridges with the exception of Church Road will need to be replaced. The widening of I-75 will occur within the existing right-of-way.

Phase 2 also includes the construction of the improvements at the interchanges of I-75 at CR 41 (the "NB Diamond and SB Partial Cloverleaf" Improvement Alternative) and SR 50 (Improvement Alternative D) as previously described.

#### 2. PROJECT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The services for this project consisted of providing geotechnical engineering services in general accordance with the PD&E Study Scope of Services as defined in Exhibit "A" issued by the FDOT. The services included performing a field reconnaissance and a review of existing data including aerial photographs, USDA SCS Soil Survey maps, USGS topographic maps, existing plans, design engineering information for past construction projects within the study area, and records of sinkhole activity.

The purpose of this geotechnical study was to obtain preliminary information concerning the general subsurface soil and groundwater conditions along the project alignment in order to characterize the general subsurface stratigraphy, assess the suitability of the project site for the proposed improvements, identify constraints or limitations that the subsurface conditions may impose on the planned construction, and provide geotechnical recommendations to guide the design and construction of the project. The following services were provided in order to achieve the preceding objectives:

- 1. Conducted a general visual reconnaissance of the project alignment.
- 2. Reviewed readily available published topographic and soils information. This published information was obtained from the "San Antonio, Florida", "Spring Lake, Florida", "Lacoochee, Florida" and "Saint Catherine, Florida" Quadrangle Maps published by the USGS, and the "Soil Survey of Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida" published by the USDA SCS.
- 3. Reviewed available existing plans from the past projects in the study area.
- 4. Provided the anticipated seasonal high groundwater level (SHGWL) and shallow soil conditions along the project alignment as published by the USDA SCS.
- 5. Identified areas with problematic soil and groundwater conditions based on the USDA SCS information. These conditions include near-surface boulders, shallow organic materials (muck), shallow clayey soils, and shallow seasonal high groundwater levels.
- 6. Evaluated the feasibility of typical foundation alternatives for the future widening of the project bridge structures.
- 7. Completed a preliminary sinkhole/ground subsidence evaluation for the project areas.
- 8. Prepared this geotechnical engineering report to support the PD&E study for the design of the proposed project.

#### 3. SUBSURFACE SOIL CONDITIONS

#### 3.1 USGS TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

The published USGS topographic survey maps titled "San Antonio, Florida", "Spring Lake, Florida", "Lacoochee, Florida" and "Saint Catherine, Florida", were reviewed for ground surface features along the project alignment. Based on this review, the natural ground surface elevations are generally within the range of 55 to 200 feet based on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929. A reproduction of the quadrangle maps for the project vicinity can be seen on **Figures 2-1 through 2-3** in **Appendix A**.

#### 3.2 REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The uppermost layers consist of young undifferentiated sediments underlain by the Hawthorn Group of formations. The Hawthorn consists of fine to medium grained quartz sands, silt, clay and limestone in varying proportions and thicknesses. Beneath the Hawthorn lies the Ocala Limestone. The surface of the Ocala formation is locally very irregular. The upper part of the Ocala Limestone is a white, generally soft, somewhat friable, porous coquina composed of large foraminifera, bryozoan fragments and whole to broken echinoid remains, all loosely bound by a matrix of micritic limestone. The lower part of the Ocala Limestone consists of cream to white, generally fine-grained, soft to semi-indurated, micritic limestone containing abundant miliolid remains and scattered large foraminiferas.

#### 3.3 USDA SCS SOIL SURVEY

USDA SCS soil surveys provide general information regarding near-surface (typically to depths of approximately 60 to 99 inches) soil and groundwater conditions. To generally assess the near-surface conditions within the limits of the project, the soil maps provided in the "Soil Survey of Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida" were reviewed and are presented on **Figures 3-1 through 3-3** in **Appendix A**. In addition, the SCS data are summarized in **Table 3-1**, which provides the soil map unit names, typical American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) soil classification, and the reported depths to seasonal high groundwater levels for the soil map units encountered within the project limits.

In general, the surficial soils consist of poorly graded fine sands, silty sands and silty to clayey fine sands underlain by clayey fine sands and clays. As can be seen in **Table 3-1**, some clayey fine sands and clays were encountered at shallow depths of less than 30 inches below the ground surface. Organic soils (muck) may also be encountered in some areas. Seasonal high water levels along the alignment may range from 2.0 feet above the natural ground surface to greater than 6.0 feet below the natural ground surface. Surface and/or subsurface boulders may also be encountered in a few areas near the northern end of the project alignment.

Table 3-1 USDA SCS Soil Survey Information

TIGD L G	SEASONAL HIGH GROUNDWATER TABLE			SOIL CLASSIFICATION			
USDA SOIL SERIES	DEPTH (feet)	DURATION (months)	DEPTH (inches)	Unified	AASHTO		
PASCO COUNTY							
Wauchula Fine Sand, 0 to 5% Slopes (1)	0.0-1.0	Jun-Feb	0–8 8–19 19–26 26–34 34–80	SP-SM SP-SM, SM SP-SM, SM SP-SM, SM SM, SM-SC, SC	A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4 A-2-4, A-2-6, A-4, A-6		
Pomona Fine Sand (2)	0.0–1.0	Jul-Sep	0–6 6–22 22–36 36–52 52–60	SP-SM SP, SP-SM, SM SP-SM, SM SP, SP-SM SC, SM-SC, SM	A-4, A-0 A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4 A-2-4, A-4, A-6		
Tavares Sand, 0 to 5% Slopes (6)	3.5–6.0	Jun-Dec	0–86	SP, SP-SM	A-3		
Sparr Fine Sand, 0 to 5% Slopes (7)	1.5–3.5	Jul-Oct	0-6 6-43 43-48 48-59 59-80	SP-SM SP-SM SM-SC, SC, SM SC, SM-SC SC, SM-SC, SM	A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4 A-2 A-2, A-4, A-6 A-2, A-4, A-6		
Zephyr Muck (16)	+2.0-1.0	Jun-Feb	13-0 0-18 18-48 48-67	PT SP-SM, SM SM, SM-SC, SC SM, SM-SC, SC	A-8 A-3, A-2-4 A-2-4, A-2-6 A-2-4, A-4		
Basinger Fine Sand, Depressional (23)	+2.0-1.0	Jun-Feb	0–10 10–30 30–80	SP SP, SP-SM SP, SP-SM	A-3 A-3, A-2-4 A-3, A-2-4		
Pompano Fine Sand (34)	0.0-1.0	Jun-Nov	0–80	SP, SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4		
Arredondo Fine Sand, 5 to 8% Slopes (44)	>6.0		0–52 52–55 55–80	SP-SM, SM SM, SM-SC SC, SM-SC	A-2-4, A-3 A-2-4 A-2-4, A-2-6 A-4, A-6		
Lochloosa Fine Sand, 0 to 5% Slopes (48)	2.5–5.0	Jul-Oct	0–36 36–42 42–63 63–72 72–80	SP-SM, SM SM, SM-SC SC, SM-SC SC SC, SM-SC	A-2-4, A-3 A-2-4 A-2, A-4, A-6 A-6, A-7 A-2, A-4, A-6		
Blichton Fine Sand, 0 to 2% Slopes (49)	0.0–1.0	Jun-Sep	0–22 22–28 28–63 63–80	SP-SM, SM SM, SM-SC SC SM-SC, SM	A-2-4, A-3 A-2-4 A-6 A-2-4		
Blichton Fine Sand, 2 to 5% Slopes (50)	0.0-1.0	Jun-Sep	0–38 38–44 44–50 50–62 62–80	SP-SM, SM SM, SM-SC SC SC SM-SC, SM	A-2-4, A-3 A-2-4 A-6 A-2, A-6, A-7 A-2-4		

Table 3-1
USDA SCS Soil Survey Information (Continued)

LICDA Con Capana	SEASONAL HIGH GROUNDWATER TABLE		SOIL CLASSIFICATION		
USDA SOIL SERIES	DEPTH (feet)	DURATION (months)	DEPTH (inches)	Unified	AASHTO
			0–6	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
Sparr Fine Sand,			6–57	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
5 to 8% Slopes	1.5–3.5	Jul-Oct	57–61	SM-SC, SC, SM	A-2
(53)			61–69	SC, SM-SC	A-2, A-4, A-6
			69–80	SC, SM-SC, SM	A-2, A-4, A-6
Flemington Variant					
Fine Sand,	0.0-2.5	Jun-Sep	0–5	SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
2 to 5% Slopes (54)	0.0 2.0	our sep	5–80	SC, CL, CH	A-7
` ,			0–22	SP, SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
Newnan Fine Sand,	1.5.2.5		22–33	SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
0 to 5% Slopes	1.5–2.5	Aug-Feb	33–44	SP, SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
(59)			44–80	SM, SM-SC, SC	A-2-4, A-4, A-6
HERNANDO COUNT	ΓV			, ,	7 7 -
Arredondo Fine Sand,	- <u>-</u>		0–62	SP-SM, SM	A-2-4, A-3
0 to 5% Slopes	>6.0		62–69	SM, SM-SC	A-2-4, A-3 A-2-4
(6)	>0.0		69–99	SIVI, SIVI-SC SC	A-2-4 A-2-6, A-6
Arredondo Fine Sand,			0–62	SP-SM, SM	A-2-4, A-3
5 to 8% Slopes	>6.0		62–69	SM, SM-SC	A-2-4, A-3 A-2-4
(7)	>0.0		69–99	SC SC	A-2-4 A-2-6, A-6
Blichton Loamy			0–28	SP-SM, SM	A-2-4, A-3
Fine Sand,			28–34	SC SW, SW	A-2-4, A-6
2 to 5% Slopes	0.0–1.0	Jun-Sep	34–63	SC	A-6
(12)			63–75	SC, CL, CH	A-6, A-7
Candler Fine Sand,					
0 to 5% Slopes	>6.0		0–48	SP, SP-SM	A-3
(14)			48–80	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
Candler Fine Sand,			0–48	SP, SP-SM	A-3
5 to 8% Slopes	>6.0		48–80	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
(15)					
Flemington Fine			0–5	SM	A-2-4
Sandy Loam,	0.0-2.5	Jun-Sep	5–36	SC, CH, CL	A-7
0 to 2% Slopes		1	36–66	CH, MH, CL	A-7
(20)		Elouidono	66-81	CH, MH	A-7
Floridana-Basinger		Floridana	Floridana 0–16	Floridana SP-SM, SM	Floridana A-3, A-2-4
Association,		Jun-Feb	16–27	SP, SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4 A-3
Occasionally Flooded	0.0-1.0	Jun-1.co	27–80	SM-SC, SC	A-3 A-2-4, A-2-6
(24)		Basinger	Basinger	Basinger	Basinger
(24)		Jun-Nov	0–80	SP, SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
TZ 1:15: 6 :		1101	0–28	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
Kendrick Fine Sand,			28–34	SC, SM-SC	A-2-6, A-2-4
0 to 5% Slopes	>6.0		34–63	SC SC	A-2-6, A-6
(29)			63–80	SC, SM-SC	A-2-6, A-2-4
Lake Fine Sand, 0 to 5% Slopes (31)	>6.0		0–82	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4

Table 3-1
USDA SCS Soil Survey Information (Continued)

USDA SOIL SERIES	SEASONAL HIGH GROUNDWATER TABLE		SOIL CLASSIFICATION		
USDA SOIL SERIES	DEPTH (feet)	DURATION (months)	DEPTH (inches)	Unified	AASHTO
			0–33	SP-SM, SM	A-2-4
Nobleton Fine Sand,			33–37	SC	A-2-6, A-6
0 to 5% Slopes	1.5–3.5	Jul-Oct	37–60	SC, CL, CH	A-6, A-7
(36)	1.5–5.5	Jui-Oct	60–80	SC	A-2-6, A-6
(30)			80–85	SM, SM-SC, SC	A-2-4, A-2-6,
					A-6
Sparr Fine Sand,			0-61	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
0 to 5% Slopes	1.5–3.5	Jul-Oct	61–64	SM-SC, SM	A-2-4
	1.5–5.5	Jui-Oct	64–80	SC, SM-SC	A-2-4, A-2-6,
(47)					A-4, A-6
Consum Eine Consid			0-61	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
Sparr Fine Sand,	1525	In 1 Oat	61–64	SM-SC, SM	A-2-4
5 to 8% Slopes	1.5–3.5	Jul-Oct	64–80	SC, SM-SC	A-2-4, A-2-6,
(48)				·	A-4, A-6
SUMTER COUNTY					
Candler Fine Sand,			0–8	SP, SP-SM	A-3
0 to 5% Slopes	>6.0		8-50	SP, SP-SM	A-3
(4)			50-80	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
Candler Fine Sand,			0–6	SP, SP-SM	A-3
5 to 8% Slopes	>6.0		6–56	SP, SP-SM	A-3
(5)			56-80	SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
			0–8	SP	A-3
EauGallie Fine Sand,			8–25	SP	A-3
Bouldery Subsurface	0.0-1.0	Jun-Oct	25–36	SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
(21)			36–57	SP, SP-SM	A-3, A-2-4
, ,			57–80	SM, SM-SC, SC	A-2-4, A-2-6
Sumterville Fine				, ,	, -
Sand, Bouldery			0–9	SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
Subsurface,	1.5-3.0	Jul-Oct	9–29	SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
0 to 5% Slopes			29–80	CL, CH	A-7
(27)			_, 00	02, 011	'
(/			0–5	PT	A-8
Nitaw Muck,			5–12	SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
Frequently Flooded	0.0-1.0	Jun-Nov	12–65	CH, CL	A-7
(29)	0.0 1.0	1,0,	65–80	SP, SP-SM, SM	A-3, A-2-4
(2))			05 00	SM-SC	11 5, 11 2 1
l				SM-SC	

# 3.4 AREAS WITH PROBLEMATIC SOIL AND GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED BY USDA SCS SOIL SURVEYS

## 3.4.1 Shallow Seasonal High Groundwater Levels

The seasonal high groundwater level is defined by USDA SCS as the highest level of a saturated zone in the soil in most years. According to the SCS, it is typically estimated within an accuracy of approximately 6 inches and can temporarily be exceeded during

periods of extended heavy rainfall, storms and floods. Based on the "Soil Survey of Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida", several soil map units with relatively shallow seasonal high groundwater levels ranging from 2 feet above the ground surface to a depth of 1 foot have been identified within the project limits. These soil map units are summarized as follows:

#### **Pasco County:**

- Wauchula Fine Sand, 0 to 5 Percent Slopes (1)
- Pomona Fine Sand (2)
- Zephyr Muck (16)
- Basinger Fine Sand, Depressional (23)
- Pompano Fine Sand (34)
- Blichton Fine Sand, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (49)
- Blichton Fine Sand, 2 to 5 Percent Slopes (50)

#### **Hernando County:**

- Blichton Loamy Fine Sand, 2 to 5 Percent Slopes (12)
- Floridana-Basinger Association, Occasionally Flooded (24)

#### **Sumter County:**

- EauGallie Fine Sand, Bouldery Subsurface (21)
- Nitaw Muck, Frequently Flooded (29)

Areas with shallow seasonal high groundwater levels identified by the above-mentioned soil map units are illustrated on **Figures 4-1 through 4-3** in **Appendix A.** 

#### 3.4.2 Organic Materials (Muck)

USDA SCS soil surveys indicate that some organic soils (muck, A-8 classification) were noted in areas in the vicinity of Stanley Branch (approximately 1.5 miles north of SR 52) near the southern end of the project, and in the vicinity of the Withlacoochee River near the northern end of the project. All or some of these organic soils may require removal and replacement depending on final roadway alignments and profiles. The soil map units encountered indicating organic soils within the project limits are summarized as follows:

#### **Pasco County:**

• Zephyr Muck (16)

#### **Sumter County:**

• Nitaw Muck, Frequently Flooded (29)

Areas with organic soils identified by the above-mentioned soil map units are illustrated on **Figures 5-1 and 5-2** in **Appendix A.** 

#### 3.4.3 Shallow Clayey Soils

Based on the "Soil Survey of Pasco, Hernando and Sumter Counties, Florida", relatively shallow clayey soils (A-2-6, A-6 and A-7) were indicated in several areas along the project alignment at depths of less than 30 inches below the ground surface. The soil map units encountered indicating shallow clayey soils within the project limits are summarized as follows:

#### **Pasco County:**

- Zephyr Muck (16)
- Blichton Fine Sand, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (49)
- Flemington Variant Fine Sand, 2 to 5 Percent Slopes (54)

#### **Hernando County:**

- Blichton Loamy Fine Sand, 2 to 5 Percent Slopes (12)
- Flemington Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (20)
- Floridana-Basinger Association, Occasionally Flooded (24)
- Kendrick Fine Sand, 0 to 5 Percent Slopes (29)

#### **Sumter County:**

- Sumterville Fine Sand, Bouldery Subsurface, 0 to 5 Percent Slopes (27)
- Nitaw Muck, Frequently Flooded (29)

Areas with shallow clayey soils identified by the above-mentioned soil map units are illustrated on **Figures 6-1 through 6-3** in **Appendix A.** 

#### 3.4.4 Near-Surface Boulders

The "Soil Survey of Sumter County, Florida" indicates several areas near the northern end of the project where near-surface boulders were encountered. These boulders may affect costs for clearing and grubbing or any excavations that may be required. The soil map units encountered indicating near-surface boulders within the project limits are summarized as follows:

#### **Sumter County:**

- EauGallie Fine Sand, Bouldery Subsurface (21)
- Sumterville Fine Sand, Bouldery Subsurface, 0 to 5 Percent Slopes (27)

Areas with near-surface boulders identified by the above-mentioned soil map units are illustrated on **Figure 7-1** in **Appendix A.** 

#### 3.5 REVIEW OF EXISTING ROADWAY PLANS

To supplement the USDA SCS data, the existing I-75 roadway plans for the projects completed within the project vicinity were reviewed to evaluate the more site-specific geotechnical data included in the roadway soil surveys. Soil survey sheets included in the plans provided soil description, AASHTO classification and associated laboratory test results for each stratum number. Results of the roadway soil surveys revealed subsurface soils predominantly consisting of sandy soils of A-3 and A-2-4 materials underlain by plastic clayey soils of A-2-6, A-4, A-6 and A-7 materials, which correlated reasonably well with the USDA SCS soil surveys. In addition, the roadway soil surveys indicated several areas where organic soils (muck) were encountered. Locations of these areas and approximate depths of the organic soils are summarized as follows:

- Station 1289+40 to Station 1296+20 (approximate depths = 0 to 1.5 feet)
- Station 1550+50 to Station 1554+50 (approximate depths = 0 to 1.5 feet)
- Station 1562+50 to Station 1575+80 (approximate depths = 0 to 2.5 feet)
- Station 1665+50 to Station 1675+00 (approximate depths = 0 to 0.5 feet)
- Station 1675+00 to Station 1681+80 (approximate depths = 0 to 4.5 feet)
- Station 1834+50 to Station 1835+50 (approximate depths = 0 to 1.8 feet)

#### 4. PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF ROADWAY AREAS

#### 4.1 SOIL USAGE SUMMARY

Based on the review of published information and available geotechnical information from the past projects within the study area, the existing subsurface soils along the project alignment should generally be acceptable for construction to support a typical embankment pavement section after proper subgrade preparation. Unsuitable soils including shallow plastic clayey soils, muck, or debris, if encountered within the right-of-way during construction, should be removed and replaced with compacted select sands in accordance with FDOT requirements.

Material use and/or removal should be completed in accordance with FDOT Indices 500 and 505. Materials directly beneath the base should be "SELECT" materials. The removal of topsoil and other surficial organic soil deposits should be accomplished in accordance with FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, Section 110 and the Standard Indices. Organic soils are highly compressible and may cause excessive settlements if left in-place. This material is also susceptible to significant secondary compression settlements.

Backfill should consist of materials conforming to Standard Index 505 and compacted in accordance with the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

Shallow groundwater is a concern for the proposed roadway alignment and roadway grades should be evaluated to make certain that minimum requirements are maintained for separation of roadway base materials and the estimated seasonal high groundwater levels

#### **4.1.1** Earth Embankments

In general, the majority of the fine sands to slightly silty fine sands can be moved and used for grading purposes, site leveling, general engineering fill, structural fill and backfill in other areas, provided the material is free of organic materials, clay, debris or any other material deemed unsuitable for construction. Clayey or silty soils if encountered, may be used as embankment soils as described in FDOT Index 505.

#### **4.1.2** Pavement Design Considerations

The design Limerock Bearing Ratio (LBR) value for pavements constructed on fill should be based on the earthfill material. The "SELECT" materials generally have an LBR value of 20. Based on published information and past experience in the project area, groundwater levels along the corridor may vary from 2.0 feet above the natural ground surface to greater than 6.0 feet below the natural ground surface. The bottom of the base of the proposed improvements should be a minimum of 1.5 feet above sustained water levels in roadside ditches, making positive drainage of the ditches important. The

choice of base material would depend upon the relationship of final roadway improvement grades and the bottom of the base to the estimated seasonal high groundwater table levels. Shell base materials can be more resistant to wet conditions than limerock. Crushed concrete is also less sensitive to moisture than limerock. It is generally more favorable to raise grades when shallow water tables are encountered, if possible, than to use less sensitive base materials such as black base.

#### 4.2 ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION

Site preparation and roadway construction should be in accordance with the latest FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction and the Roadway and Traffic Design Standards. Along much of the roadway alignment, high groundwater conditions should be expected. Depending upon groundwater levels at the time of construction, some form of dewatering may be required in areas for excavation and compaction below the water table.

Along portions of the alignment, excavation of unsuitable near-surface soils may be required. Unsuitable near-surface soils that may be encountered consist of organic soils (A-8 materials) or plastic clayey soils (A-2-6, A-6 and A-7 materials). In addition, there is potential to encounter near-surface boulders in a few areas near the northern end of the project alignment. Organic soils, plastic clayey soils, and near-surface boulders, if encountered at depths that will affect the proposed construction, should be delineated during the design phase of the I-75 project. The project cross-sections should clearly indicate where organic soils, plastic clayey soils and/or near-surface boulders may be encountered or required to be over-excavated.

# 5. EVALUATION OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS

Seasonal high groundwater estimates presented in this report are based on data published by the USDA SCS and are presented on **Table 3-1** in **Section 3** of this report.

In general, the surficial soils consist of poorly graded fine sands, silty sands and silty to clayey fine sands underlain by clayey fine sands and clays. Based on the SCS data, the permeability for these soils ranges from less than 0.06 to greater than 20.00 inches per hour. Seasonal high water levels may range from 2.0 feet above the natural ground surface to greater than 6.0 feet below the natural ground surface. As revealed in the "Soil Survey of Sumter County, Florida", near-surface boulders may also be encountered in a few areas near the northern end of the project alignment. Excavations in these areas can be difficult and therefore the limits of near-surface boulders, if encountered in areas proposed for pond excavation, will need to be delineated during the design level study.

The majority of the fine sands to slightly silty fine sands (A-3 and A-2-4) can be moved and used for grading purposes, site leveling, general engineering fill, structural fill and backfill in other areas, provided the fill is free of organic materials, clay, debris or any other material deemed unsuitable for construction. Clayey or silty soils may be used as embankment soils as described in FDOT Index 505.

#### 6. EVALUATION OF BRIDGE FOUNDATIONS

#### 6.1 EXISTING BRIDGE STRUCTURES

There are sixteen (16) existing bridge structures located within the project limits. Ten (10) of these structures carry I-75 across other roadways, or other features such as rivers and creeks, and the remaining six (6) structures carry other roadways over I-75. The bridge structures are listed below.

• I-75 over Stanley Branch (Bridge No. 140058, 3 spans, 39.4 feet long):

The existing concrete culvert carries I-75 over Stanley Branch. The structure consists of a three-barrel concrete culvert.

• **Darby Road/CR-578A over I-75** (Bridge No. 140046, 4 spans, 298.5 feet long):

The existing bridge carries Darby Road/CR-578A over I-75. The substructure consists of end bents founded on 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 14 inch square concrete piles.

• **CR-578 over I-75** (Bridge No. 140940, 4 spans, 215 feet long):

The existing bridge carries CR-578A over I-75. The substructure consists of end bents founded on 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 14 inch square concrete piles.

• I-75 over Thomas Prairie Creek (Bridge No. 140038, 2 spans, 30.2 feet long):

The existing concrete culvert carries I-75 over Thomas Prairie Creek. The structure consists of a two-barrel concrete culvert.

• **CR-577 over I-75** (Bridge No. 140042, 4 spans, 305.1 feet long):

The existing bridge carries CR-577 over I-75. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

• **CR-41 over I-75** (Bridge No. 140006, 5 spans, 390.5 feet long):

The existing bridge carries CR-41 over I-75. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

• **School Bus Road over I-75** (Bridge No. 080012, 5 spans, 345 feet long):

The existing bridge carries School Bus Road over I-75. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

• **Hickory Hill Road over I-75** (Bridge No. 080920, 4 spans, 362 feet long):

The existing bridge carries Hickory Hill Road over I-75. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

• **SB I-75 over SR 50** (Bridge No. 080021, 4 spans, 174 feet long):

The existing bridge carries SB I-75 over SR 50. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles and 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles and 48 inch diameter drilled shafts.

• **NB I-75 over SR 50** (Bridge No. 080022, 4 spans, 174 feet long):

The existing bridge carries NB I-75 over SR 50. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles and 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles and 48 inch diameter drilled shafts.

• **SB I-75 over Croom Rital Road** (Bridge No. 080023, 5 spans, 279.5 feet long):

The existing bridge carries SB I-75 over Croom Road. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles and 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

• **NB I-75 over Croom Rital Road** (Bridge No. 080024, 5 spans, 279.5 feet long):

The existing bridge carries NB I-75 over Croom Road. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles and 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

- **SB I-75 over Withlacoochee River** (Bridge No. 080025, 7 spans, 350 feet long):
  - The existing bridge carries SB I-75 over Withlacoochee River. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles and 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.
- **NB I-75 over Withlacoochee River** (Bridge No. 080026, 7 spans, 350 feet long):

The existing bridge carries NB I-75 over Withlacoochee River. The substructure consists of end bents founded on HP 12x53 steel piles and 18 inch square concrete piles, and intermediate piers supported on 18 inch square concrete piles.

- SB I-75 over Forestry Road (Bridge No. 180027, 4 spans, 190 feet long)
- NB I-75 over Forestry Road (Bridge No. 180028, 4 spans, 190 feet long)

#### 6.2 REVIEW OF EXISTING STRUCTURES PLANS

As part of the project scope, PSI has reviewed available existing structures plans for the following locations:

- Darby Road/CR-578A over I-75
- CR-578 over I-75.
- CR-577 over I-75
- CR-41 over I-75
- School Bus Road over I-75
- Hickory Hill Road over I-75
- SB and NB I-75 over SR 50
- SB and NB I-75 over Croom Rital Road
- SB and NB I-75 over Withlacoochee River

These plans including Plan and Elevation sheets, Report of Core Borings sheets, and foundation layout sheets were reviewed to assess existing soil data and to determine the foundation systems used to support the existing structures. Specific boring locations and boring logs for each bridge site are provided in **Appendix B** on Plan and Elevation sheets and/or Report of Core Borings sheets. The subsurface soil conditions encountered at the boring locations are outlined below.

- **Darby Road/CR-578A over I-75** The subsurface conditions consisted of about 5 to 15 feet of loose to medium dense sands underlain by firm to hard clays extending to depths of about 35 to 45 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, hard limestone was encountered.
- **CR-578** over **I-75** The subsurface conditions consisted of about 5 to 15 feet of loose to dense sands underlain by firm to hard clays extending to depths of about 30 to 50 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, hard limestone was encountered.
- **CR-577 over I-75** The subsurface conditions consisted of about 5 to 10 feet of loose to medium dense sands underlain by stiff to hard clays extending to depths of about 30 to 40 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, hard limestone was encountered.
- **CR-41 over I-75** The subsurface conditions consisted of about 4 to 7 feet of medium dense fills/sands underlain by firm to hard clays extending to depths of about 47 to 60 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, approximately 11 to 16 feet of soft to hard transitional materials described as limestone and clays extended to hard limestone encountered at depths of about 70 feet below the ground surface.
- School Bus Road over I-75 The subsurface conditions consisted of about 4 to 9 feet of medium dense sands underlain by firm to hard clays extending to depths of

about 46 to 57 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, hard limestone was encountered. In the borings performed at the Piers 3 and 4 locations, a cavity about 1 to 4 feet thick was noted on the Report of Core Borings between the clays and limestone.

- **Hickory Hill Road over I-75** The subsurface conditions consisted of about 9 to 12 feet of loose to medium dense sands underlain by soft to hard clays extending to depths of about 53 to 63 feet below the ground surface.
- SB and NB I-75 over SR 50 The subsurface conditions consisted of loose to very dense sands throughout, with occasional layers of stiff to very stiff clays encountered at depths ranging from 50 to 75 feet below the ground surface.
- SB and NB I-75 over Croom Rital Road The subsurface conditions consisted of about 22 to 50 feet of loose to dense sands underlain by firm to hard clays extending to depths of about 35 to 60 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, hard limestone was encountered.
- SB and NB I-75 over Withlacoochee River The subsurface conditions consisted of very loose to very dense sands underlain by very soft to hard clays. Organic soils (muck) were encountered at numerous locations from the ground surface to depths of about 0.5 to 4 feet below the ground surface. Below the clays, very soft to hard limestone was encountered with occasional layers of silty and/or clayey sands encountered in some of the borings. The elevation at which the limestone was encountered varied from approximately +30 to -20 feet, NGVD. Considering these borings are less than 150 feet apart, it is our opinion that the limestone layer in this area is inconsistent.

Widening of I-75 SB and NB bridges over SR 50, Croom Rital Road and the Withlacoochee River occurred in 2002. Foundations for these bridges prior to the bridge widening typically consisted of HP 12x53 steel piles used at the end bents and 18 inch square concrete piles used at the intermediate piers. During the bridge widening in 2002, additional 18 inch square concrete piles were installed for these bridges at the end bent and intermediate pier locations, except for the I-75 SB and NB bridges over SR 50 where 48 inch diameter drilled shafts were used at the intermediate pier locations to support the bridge widening.

The following table (**Table 6-1**) provides summaries of the bridge data obtained from the existing structures plans for each bridge location including pile sizes, pile design loads, unloaded test pile locations and lengths, and pile cut-off elevations. Pile/Drilled Shaft Data Tables established in 1999 for the widening of I-75 SB and NB bridges over SR 50, Croom Road and the Withlacoochee River are included in **Appendix C**.

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Table 6-1 Existing Bridge Data Summary

BENT OR PIER NUMBER	PILE SIZE (in)	DESIGN LOAD (tons)	UNLOADED TEST PILE LENGTH (feet)	APPROXIMATE PILE CUT-OFF ELEVATION (feet, NGVD)				
Darby Road/CR-578A over I-75								
End Bent 1	18	35	65	112.4 – 121.2				
Pier 1	14	45		95.5 – 116.9				
Pier 2	14	45	45	Not Shown in the Plans				
Pier 3	14	45		96.8 – 117.0				
End Bent 2	18	35	70	112.7 – 121.6				
CR-578 over I-7	75							
End Bent 1	18	35	55	126.1 – 133.9				
Pier 1	14	45	50	108.9 – 130.1				
Pier 2	14	45	40	107.6 – 129.8				
Pier 3	14	45	40	109.6 – 130.8				
End Bent 2	18	35	55	127.2 – 135.0				
CR-577 over I-7	75							
End Bent 1	HP 12 x 53	(except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		202.2 – 210.2				
Pier 1	18	45 Not Shown		185.4 – 205.9				
Pier 2	18			184.9 – 206.2				
Pier 3	18	45	in the Plans	185.6 – 205.9				
End Bent 2	HP 12 x 53	31 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		202.2 – 210.2				
CR-41 over I-75	;							
End Bent 1 HP 12 x 53		23 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	90	148.6				
Pier 1	·		80	127.8				
Pier 2	Pier 2 18 45		80	126.3				
Pier 3	Pier 3 18		80	126.3				
Pier 4	Pier 4 18 45		80	129.3				
End Bent 2	HP 12 x 53	23 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	90	151.5				

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Table 6-1
Existing Bridge Data Summary (Continued)

BENT OR PIER NUMBER	PILE SIZE (in)	DESIGN LOAD (tons)	UNLOADED TEST PILE LENGTH (feet)	APPROXIMATE PILE CUT-OFF ELEVATION (feet, NGVD)			
School Bus Road over I-75							
End Bent 1	HP 12 x 53	21 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	75	177.6			
Pier 1	18	45	60	155.5			
Pier 2	18	45	60	152.0			
Pier 3	18	45	60	153.5			
Pier 4	18	45	60	159.3			
End Bent 2	HP 12 x 53	21 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	75	179.8			
Hickory Hill Ro	ad over I-75						
End Bent 1	HP 12 x 53	37 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	60	113.6			
Pier 1	18	45	60	93.0			
Pier 2	18	45	60	91.0			
Pier 3	18	45	60	90.3			
End Bent 2	HP 12 x 53	37 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	60	110.6			
SB I-75 over SR	50 (Prior to Br	idge Widening in 2002)					
End Bent 1L	HP 12 x 53	22 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	65	86.7 – 94.7			
Pier 1L	18	45		85.8 – 90.1			
Pier 2L	18	45	50	70.8			
Pier 3L	18	45		85.7 – 90.0			
End Bent 2L	HP 12 x 53	22 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		86.7 – 94.6			

Table 6-1
Existing Bridge Data Summary (Continued)

BENT OR PIER NUMBER	PILE SIZE (in)	DESIGN LOAD (tons)	UNLOADED TEST PILE LENGTH (feet)	APPROXIMATE PILE CUT-OFF ELEVATION (feet, NGVD)				
NB I-75 over SF	NB I-75 over SR 50 (Prior to Bridge Widening in 2002)							
End Bent 1R	HP 12 x 53	22 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		86.7 – 94.7				
Pier 1R	18	45	50	85.8 – 90.1				
Pier 2R	18	45		70.8				
Pier 3R	18	45	50	85.7 – 90.0				
End Bent 2R	HP 12 x 53	22 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	65	86.7 – 94.6				
SB I-75 over Croom Rital Road (Prior to Bridge Widening in 2002)								
End Bent 1L	HP 12 x 53	31 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		94.4				
Bent 2L	18	45	65	93.4 – 94.0				
Bent 3L	18	45		93.2 – 93.8				
Bent 4L	18	45	60	92.9 – 93.6				
Bent 5L	18	45		92.4 – 93.2				
End Bent 6L	HP 12 x 53	30 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		93.1				
NB I-75 over Ci	room Road (Pric	or to Bridge Widening in 2002)						
End Bent 1R	HP 12 x 53	31 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	65	94.7				
Bent 2R	18	45	65	93.7 – 94.4				
Bent 3R	18	45		93.7 – 94.3				
Bent 4R	18	45		93.6 – 94.2				
Bent 5R	18	45	60	93.2 – 93.9				
End Bent 6R	HP 12 x 53	30 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	65	94.1				

Table 6-1
Existing Bridge Data Summary (Continued)

BENT OR PIER NUMBER	PILE SIZE (in)	DESIGN LOAD (tons)	UNLOADED TEST PILE LENGTH (feet)	APPROXIMATE PILE CUT-OFF ELEVATION (feet, NGVD)				
SB I-75 over Wi	SB I-75 over Withlacoochee River (Prior to Bridge Widening in 2002)							
End Bent 1L	HP 12 x 53	32 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	70	59.0 – 59.6				
Bent 2L	18	45		58.6 – 59.2				
Bent 3L	18	45	60	58.5 – 59.0				
Bent 4L	18	45		58.2 – 58.8				
Bent 5L	18	45	60	58.0 – 58.6				
Bent 6L	18	45		57.8 – 58.4				
Bent 7L	18	45		57.5 – 58.1				
End Bent 8L	HP 12 x 53	32 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		57.3 – 57.9				
NB I-75 over Withlacoochee River (Prior to Bridge Widening in 2002)								
End Bent 1R	HP 12 x 53	32 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)		59.0 – 59.5				
Bent 2R	18	45	60	58.6 – 59.2				
Bent 3R	18	45		58.5 – 59.0				
Bent 4R	18	45	60	58.2 – 58.9				
Bent 5R	18	45		58.0 – 58.6				
Bent 6R	18	45		57.8 – 58.4				
Bent 7R	18	45		57.5 – 58.1				
End Bent 8R	HP 12 x 53	32 (except piles supporting wings required to be driven to 20 tons)	55	57.4 – 58.0				

#### 6.3 FEASIBILITY OF FOUNDATION ALTERNATIVES

#### 6.3.1 General

The feasibility of typical foundation alternatives for the future widening of the project bridge structures is discussed below. Based on the review of published information, available geotechnical information from the past projects and field reconnaissance, the project soil conditions do not appear to pose any extraordinary concerns related to the design and construction of the various alternatives. However, specific geotechnical

explorations at the project bridge structures and cost analyses will better define suitable foundation alternatives.

#### 6.3.2 Scour Depths

Anticipated scour depths have not been developed during the PD&E Study. However, scour should be considered when assessing the total axial capacity and lateral stability of bridge foundations. It is our understanding that scour analyses will not be performed until the final design phase of the project.

#### **6.3.2** Shallow Foundations

Where appropriate, the use of shallow foundations is typically the most cost effective. With this foundation system, the structure loads are transmitted to the subsoil at a pressure suited for the properties of the soil. These properties are typically governed by the allowable soil pressure and the total and differential settlement criteria. Typically settlements would exceed the tolerances for bridge structures. Also, due to the potential for scour, greater embedment of the footings and additional measures to counter scour may be required. Therefore, the shallow foundation alternative becomes less favorable.

#### **6.3.3** Deep Foundations

Based on our experience on similar projects, it is our opinion that deep foundations are most appropriate for the proposed bridge structures. The following foundation types are considered to be reasonable alternatives:

- Square precast prestressed concrete (SPC) piles
- Steel Piles
- Drilled Shafts

#### **6.3.3.1** Square Precast Prestressed Concrete Piles

Square precast prestressed concrete (SPC) piles are considered an appropriate foundation type. They are the most common bridge foundation type in Florida and prior experience has generally shown them to be an economical foundation type. Typical pile sizes are 18 inch and 24 inch SPC piles.

#### **6.3.3.2** Steel Piles

Steel piles are a foundation alternative, however, previous experience has shown that they are usually more expensive than precast prestressed concrete piles. Steel piles include pipe piles and H-sections. Steel piles are well suited to conditions with high variability of the anticipated penetration depth where frequent splicing is expected. In some instances, steel piles will more easily penetrate dense layers if necessary to achieve a desired

penetration. In comparison with precast prestressed square concrete piles, the steel piles do not develop as much capacity for similar pile size and penetration depths and rough cost data indicate that the steel pipe piles are as expensive as the 18 inch SPC piles. Steel H-sections are not addressed further because they have even lower capacities than pipe piles for similar or greater costs.

#### **6.3.3.3 Drilled Shafts**

Drilled cast-in-place straight sided concrete shafts are also a feasible foundation alternative for the project. Drilled shafts have the advantage of being able to develop high axial and lateral capacities in a single unit. A disadvantage of drilled shaft foundations include a high dependency on construction procedures and quality control. This type of foundation system is often the selected foundation alternative for sites where limestone or very dense bearing strata are present at a relatively shallow depth. In addition, drilled shaft installation typically generates lower construction-induced vibrations than driven piles. Typical drilled shaft sizes are 36, 42 and 48 inches in diameter. It should be recognized that artesian potentiometric water levels need to be given consideration in the evaluation of the drilled shaft foundation alternative due to the problems that artesian water levels can cause with drilled shaft construction.

#### 7. CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

#### 7.1 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Site preparation and construction should be in accordance with the latest FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction and the Roadway and Traffic Design Standards.

#### 7.2 EXCAVATIONS

In Federal Register, Volume 54, No. 209 (October 1989), the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) amended its "Construction Standards for Excavations, 29 CFR, part 1926, Subpart P". This document was issued to better insure the safety of workmen entering trenches or excavations. It is mandated by this federal regulation that excavations, whether they be utility trenches, basement excavations or footing excavations, be constructed in accordance with the current OSHA guidelines. It is our understanding that these regulations are being strictly enforced and if they are not closely followed, the owner and the contractor could be liable for substantial penalties.

The contractor is solely responsible for designing and constructing stable, temporary excavations and should shore, slope or bench the sides of the excavations as required to maintain stability of both the excavation sides and bottom. The contractors "responsible person", as defined in 20 CFR part 1926, should evaluate the soil exposed in the excavations as part of the contractor's safety procedures. In no case should slope height, slope inclination or excavation depth, including utility trench excavation depth, exceed those specified in all local, state and federal safety regulations.

As revealed in the "Soil Survey of Sumter County, Florida", near-surface boulders may be encountered in a few areas near the northern end of the project alignment. Excavations in these areas, if necessary, may be difficult. Therefore, the limits of near-surface boulders, if encountered in areas proposed for excavation, will need to be delineated during the design level study.

#### 7.3 GROUNDWATER CONTROL

Depending upon groundwater levels at the time of construction, some form of dewatering may be required for excavations and/or to achieve the required compaction. Groundwater can normally be controlled in shallow excavations with a sump pump. During subgrade soil preparation, any plastic soils below design grade could become disturbed by construction activities. The contractor may be directed by the Department's representative to remove the disturbed or pumping soils to a depth of 12 to 18 inches below design grade and backfill the area with structural fill in accordance with the latest FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

Surface water and groundwater control should be used to allow construction to occur in accordance with the Florida Department of Transportation Standard Specifications. The construction area should be maintained to prevent surface water from disturbing the construction area and water diverted through a temporary ditch or pumped around construction activities. If a pump is used, a standby pump is recommended.

Depending upon groundwater levels at the time of construction, groundwater may also enter from the bottom and sides of excavated areas. Such seepage will act to loosen soils and create difficult working conditions. Therefore, it may be necessary to wellpoint or sump pump and rim ditch excavation areas. Groundwater levels should be at least 2 feet below the lowest anticipated excavation depth to facilitate proper material placement and compaction.

#### 8. SINKHOLE/GROUND SUBSIDENCE EVALUATION

A sinkhole evaluation, which consisted of field reconnaissance of the proposed roadway alignment and a study of available published data, was completed. Sinkhole frequency data developed by Subsurface Evaluations, Inc. (SEI) was also reviewed to establish the potential for new sinkhole development along the roadway alignment. A map depicting reported new sinkhole frequency in Central and West- Central Florida is provided in **Appendix D**. As seen from this map, the roadway alignment is located within areas where the maximum reported new sinkhole frequency is between 0.00 and 0.06 new sinkholes per square mile per year.

It should be recognized that additional data may be obtained from conducting geophysical and geotechnical studies along the proposed alignment to evaluate the potential impact of subsidence to the performance of the roadway. In order to obtain this data, it would be necessary to complete extensive ground penetrating radar (GPR) or other geophysical testing along with deep test borings. Even with this type of testing, it is difficult to accurately predict the time or extent of ground subsidence activities.

Based on past karst/sinkhole activity in the area, the potential exists for new sinkholes to develop along the roadway alignment that are not visually apparent at this time. Geophysical studies could be performed along the proposed roadway alignment to provide guidance with respect to sinkhole remediation, but in view of the length of the roadway alignment, this program of investigation is not generally considered practical during this phase of the project. The risk for sinkhole development along the alignment is generally considered low in Sumter County and moderate to high in Pasco County and the southern portion of Hernando County as seen by the information in **Appendix D**. A higher potential for sinkhole development is present adjacent to existing sinkholes.

#### 9. **REPORT LIMITATIONS**

Professional services have been performed, findings obtained, and recommendations prepared in accordance with generally accepted geotechnical engineering principles and practices. This company is not responsible for the conclusions, opinions or recommendations made by others based on this data.

The recommendations submitted in this report are based upon the anticipated location and type of construction proposed for this project. If any variations become evident during the course of the design of the project or during construction, a re-evaluation of the recommendations contained in this report will be necessary after we have had an opportunity to observe the characteristics of the conditions encountered.

The report presented herein does not include any field or laboratory testing or any environmental assessment or investigation for the presence or absence of hazardous or toxic materials in the soil, groundwater, or surface water within or beyond the site studied. Any statements in this report are intended only as a guide for assessing the feasibility of the proposed project improvements.

### **APPENDIX A**

Figures 2-1 through 2-3: USGS Quadrangle Maps

Figures 3-1 through 3-3: USDA SCS Soil Maps

Figures 4-1 through 4-3: Areas with Shallow Seasonal

**High Groundwater Levels** 

Figures 5-1 and 5-2: Areas with Organic Soils

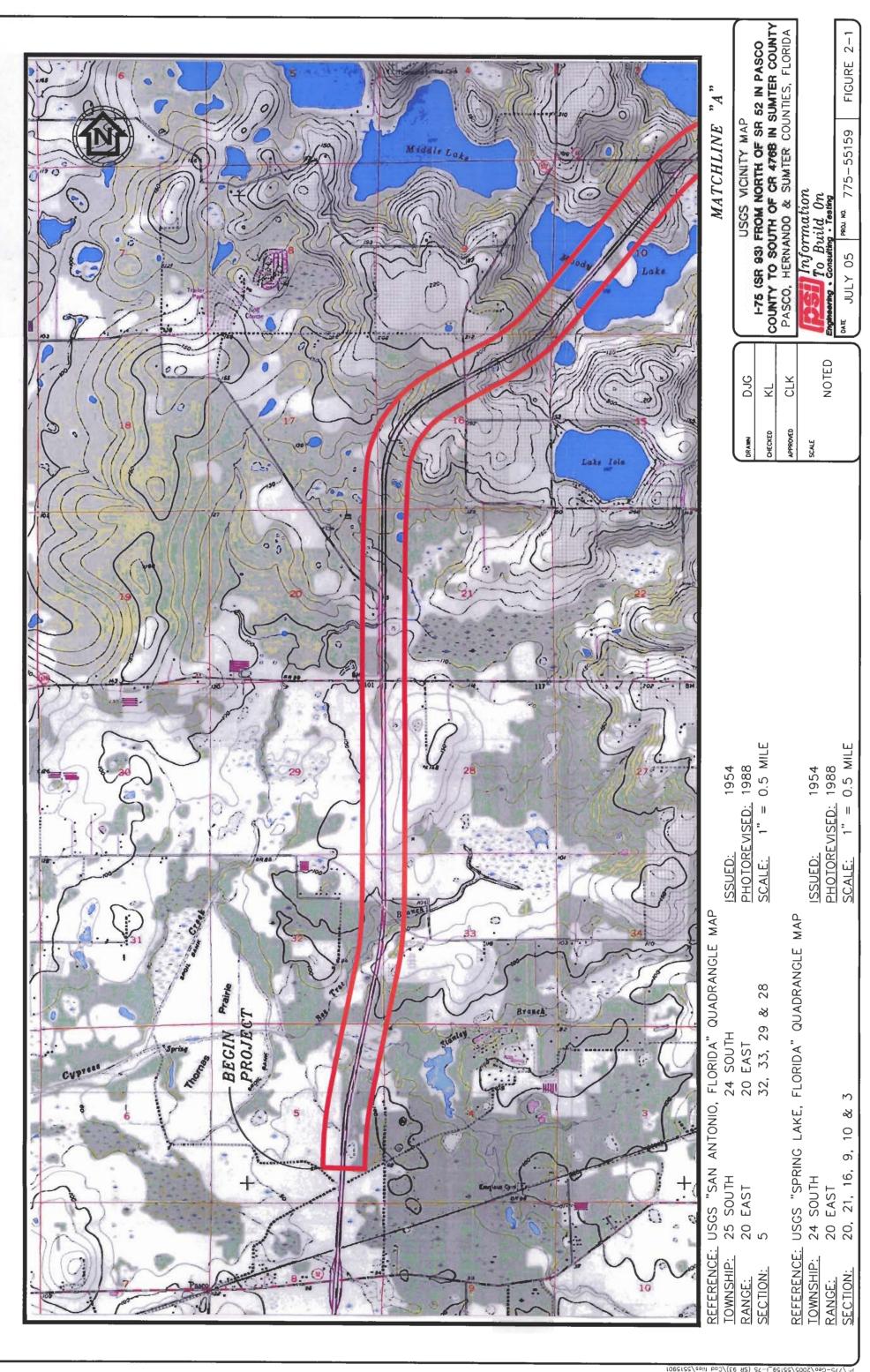
Figures 6-1 through 6-3: Areas with Shallow Clayey

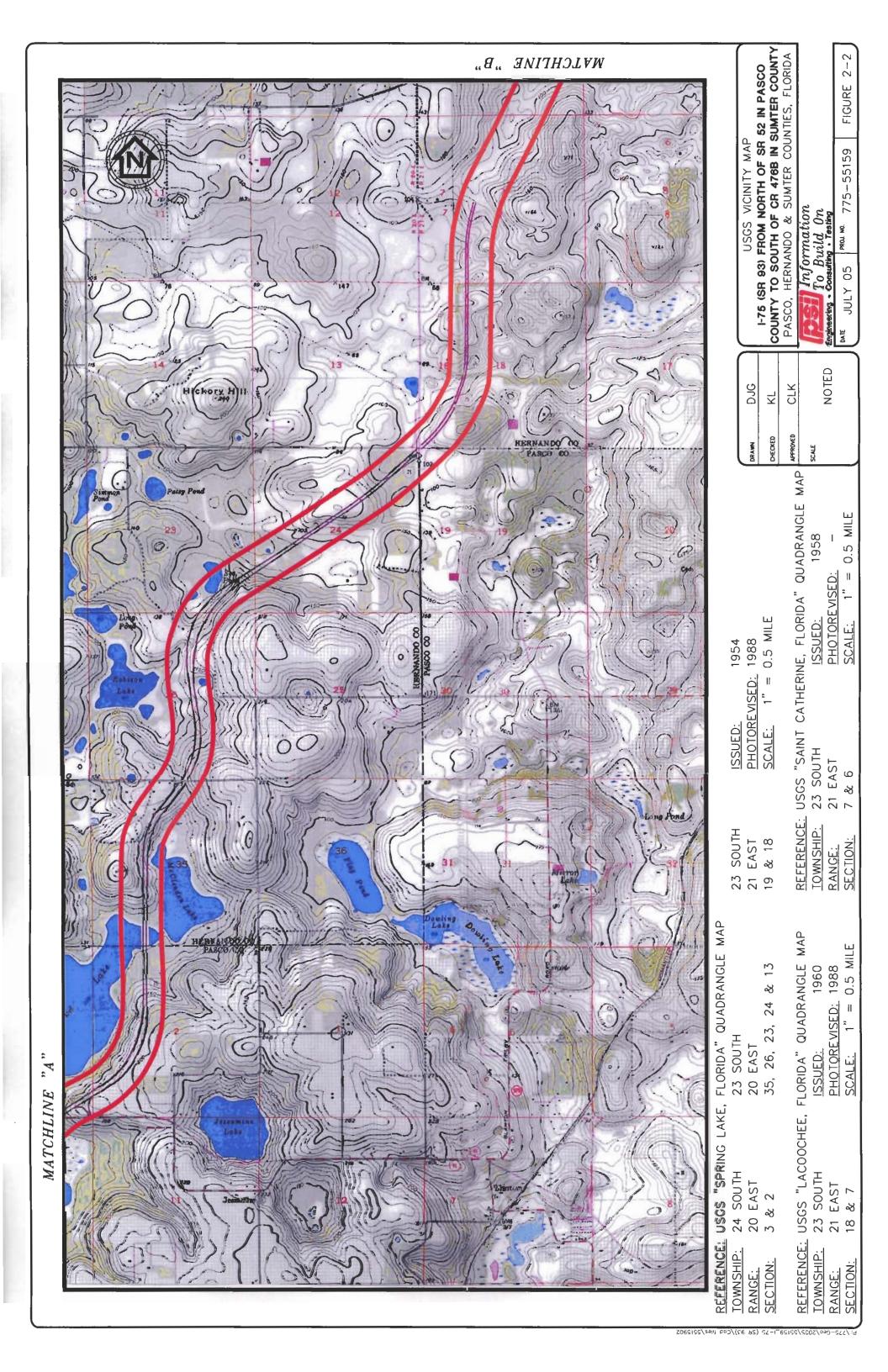
**Soils** 

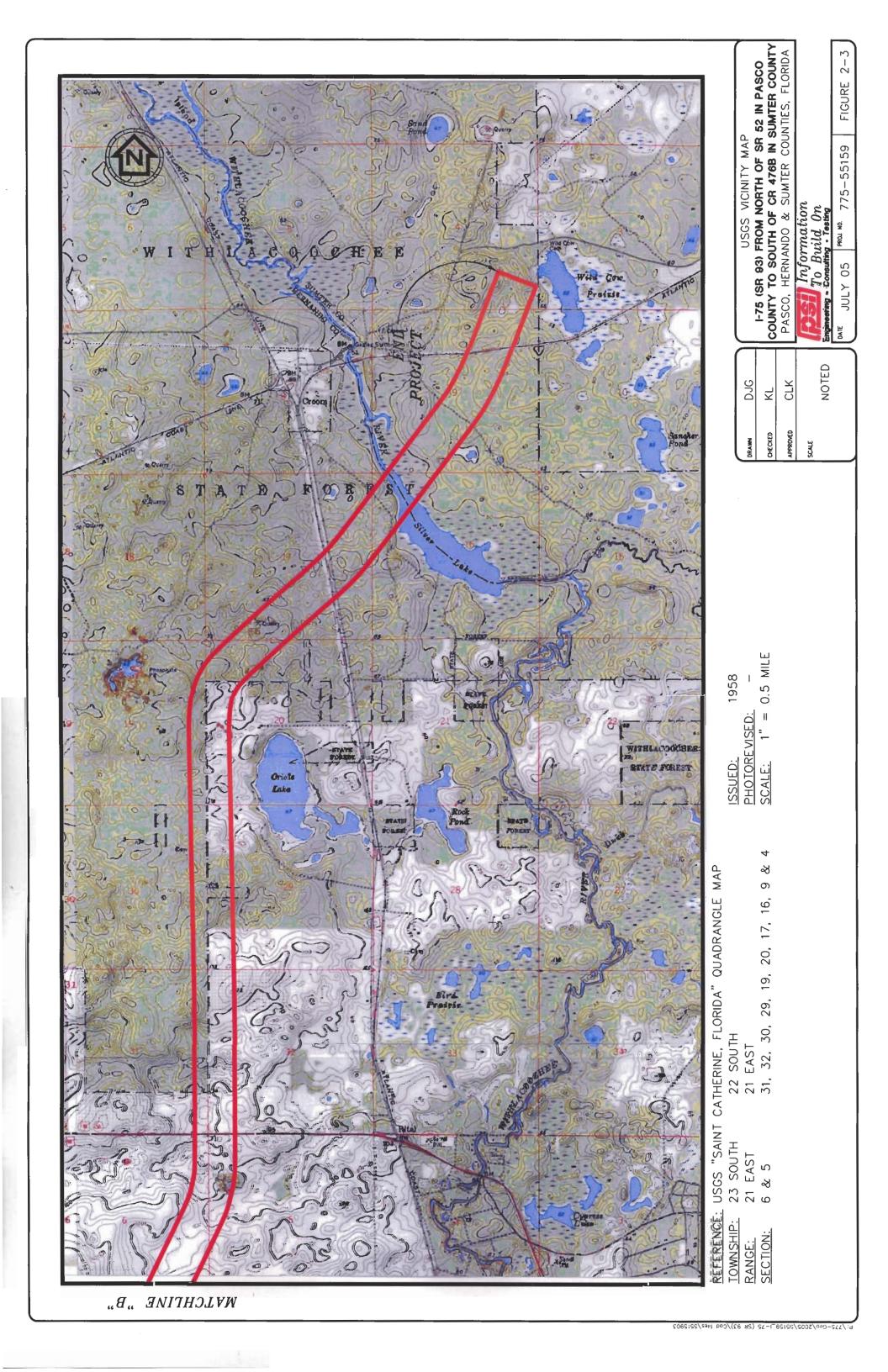
Figure 7-1: Areas with Near-Surface

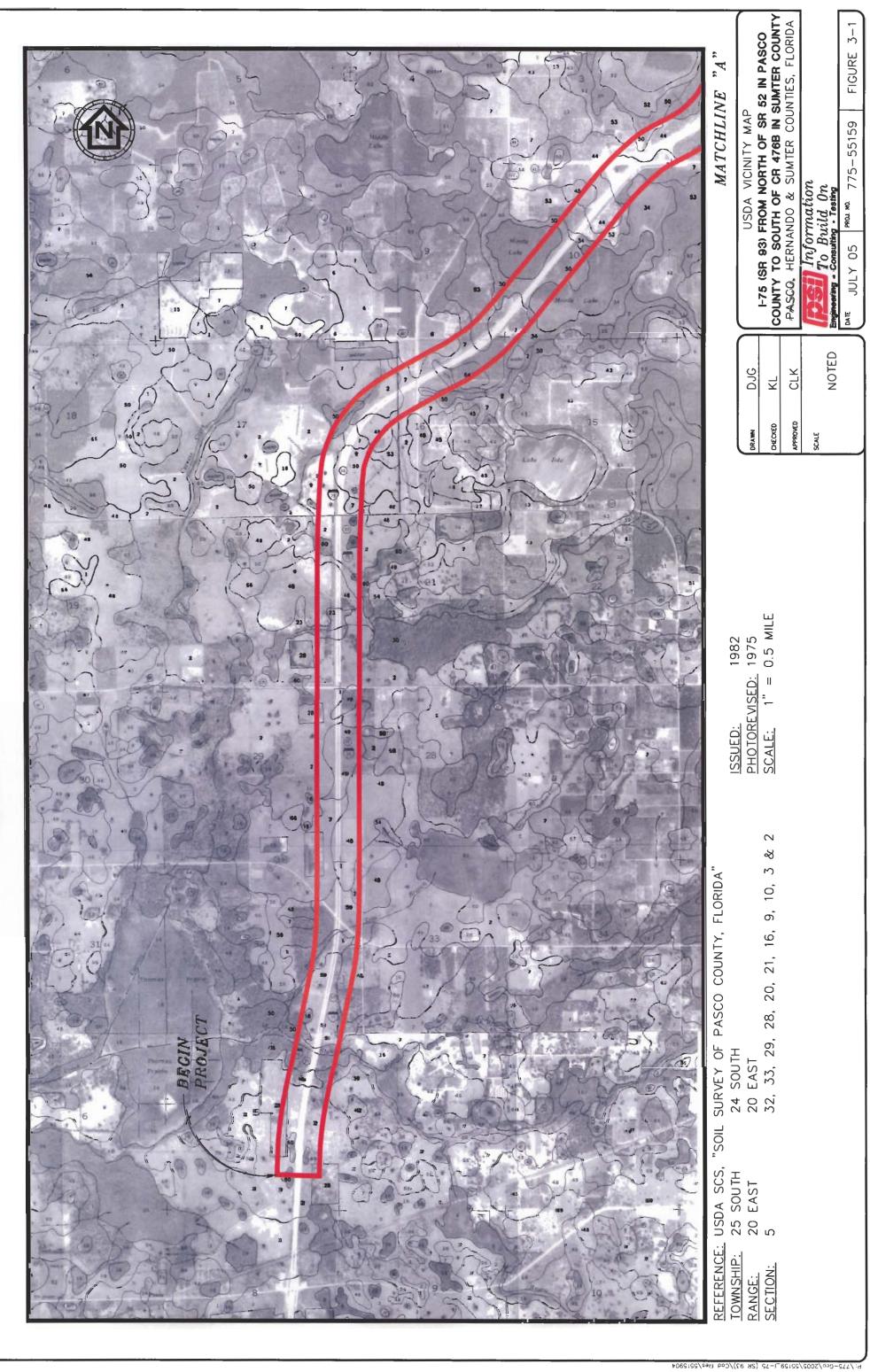
**Boulders** 

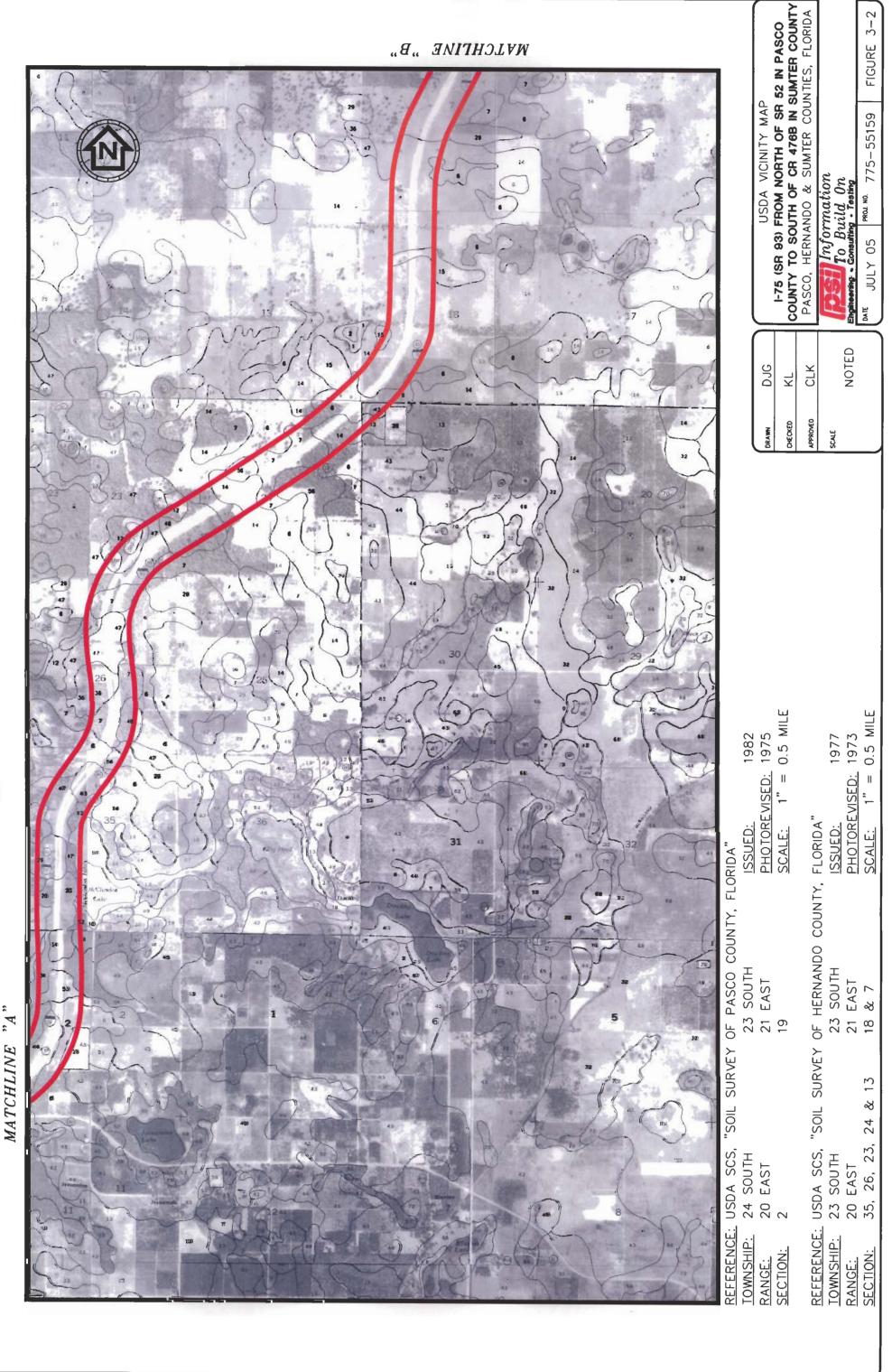


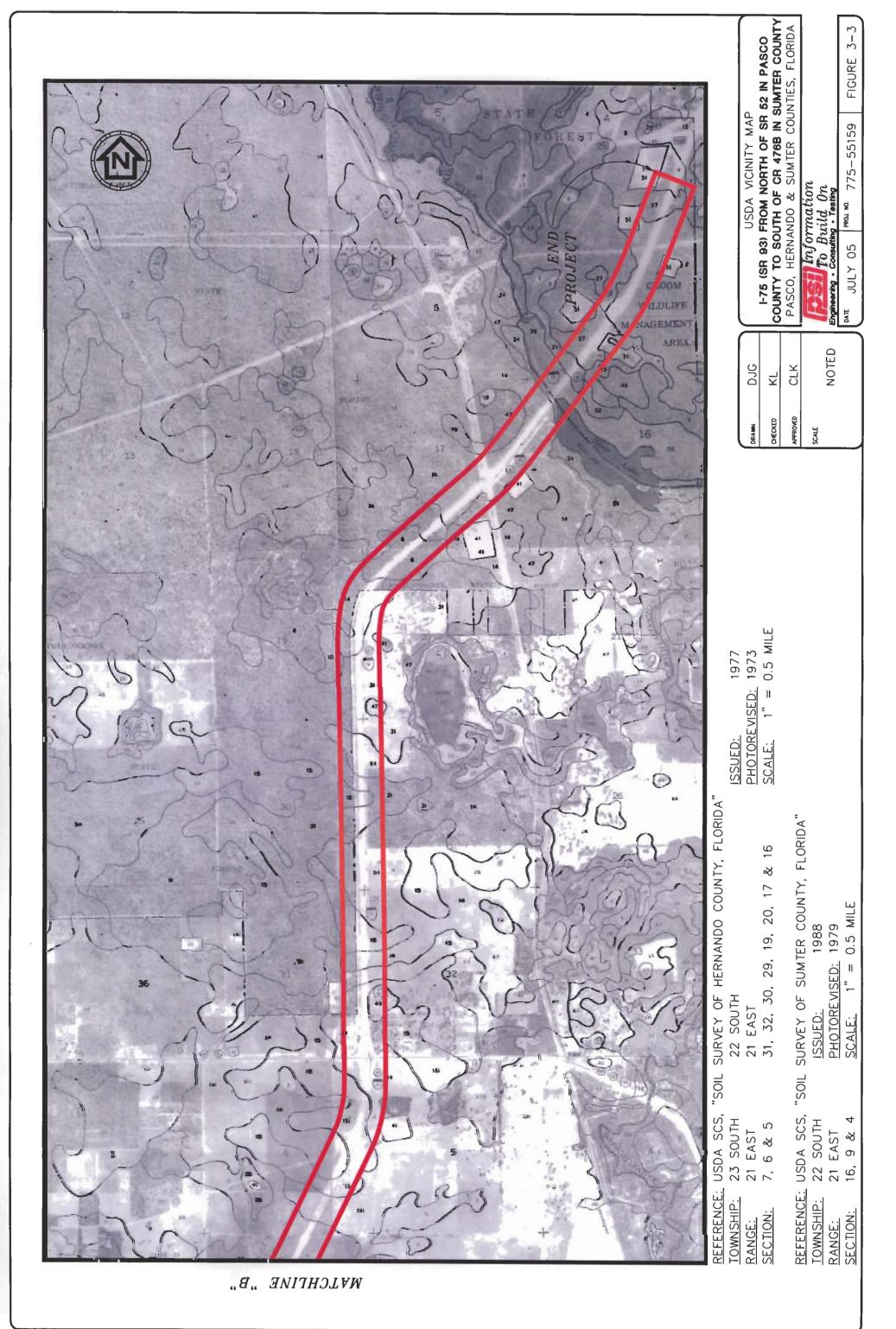


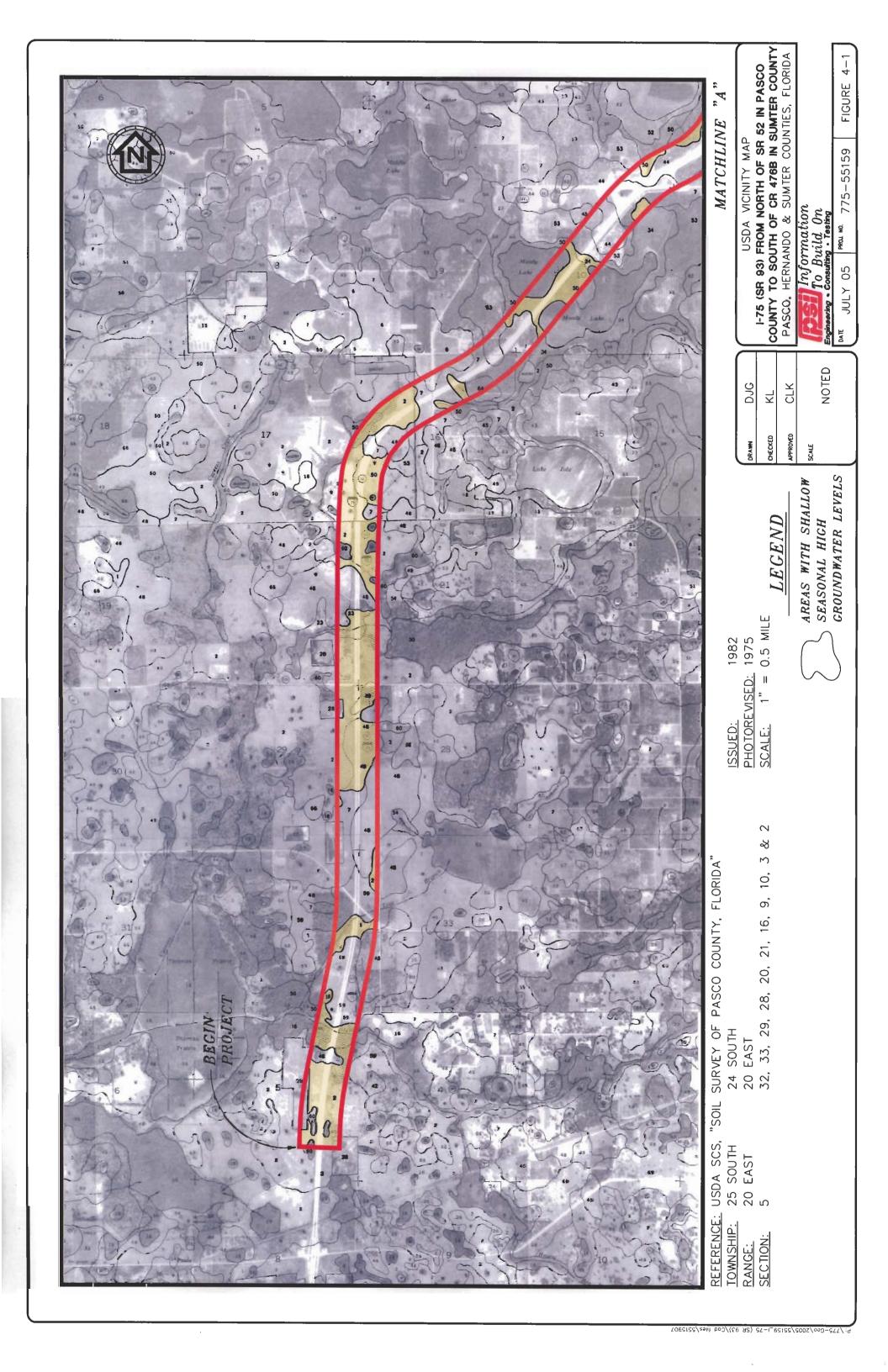


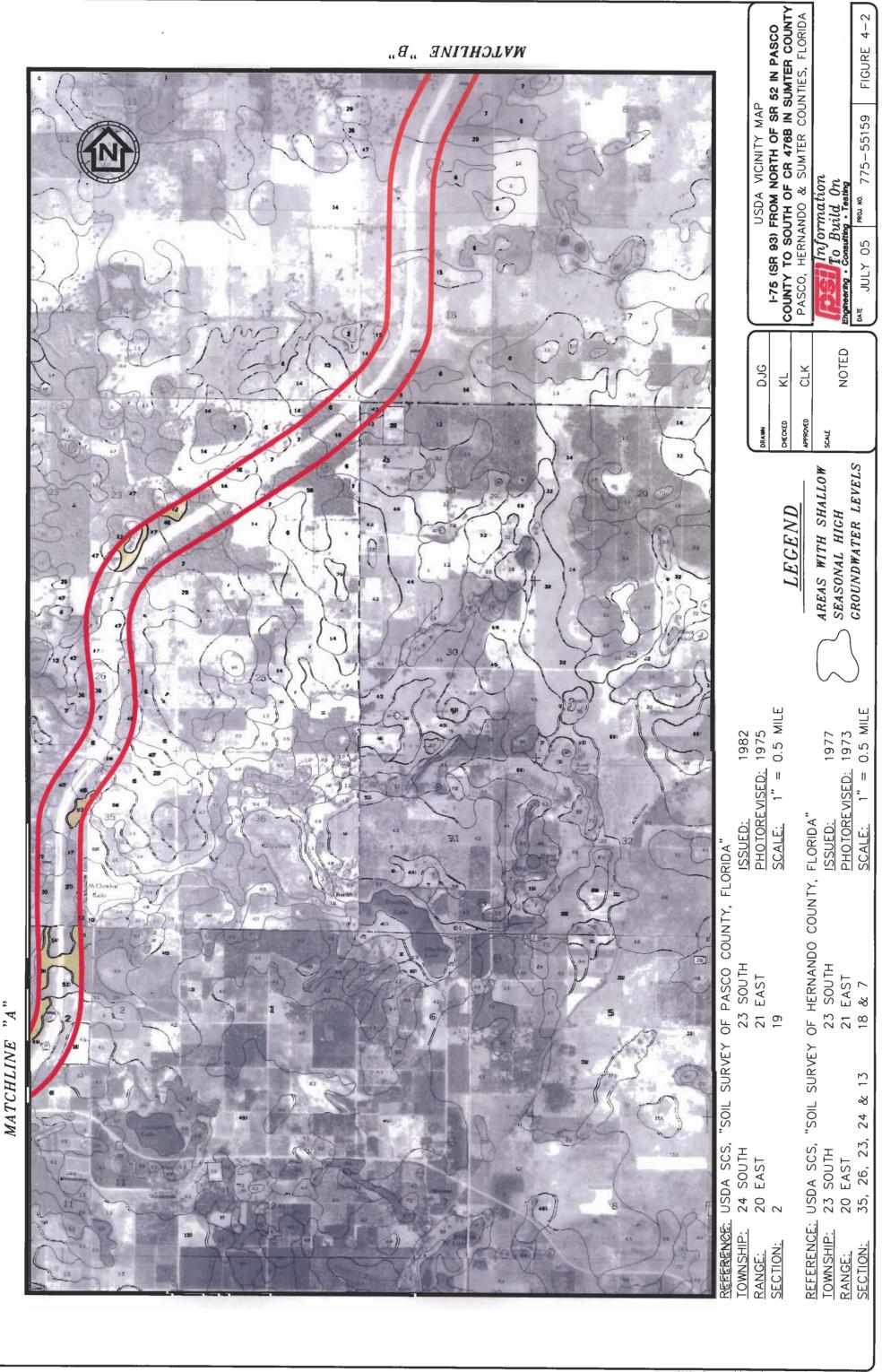


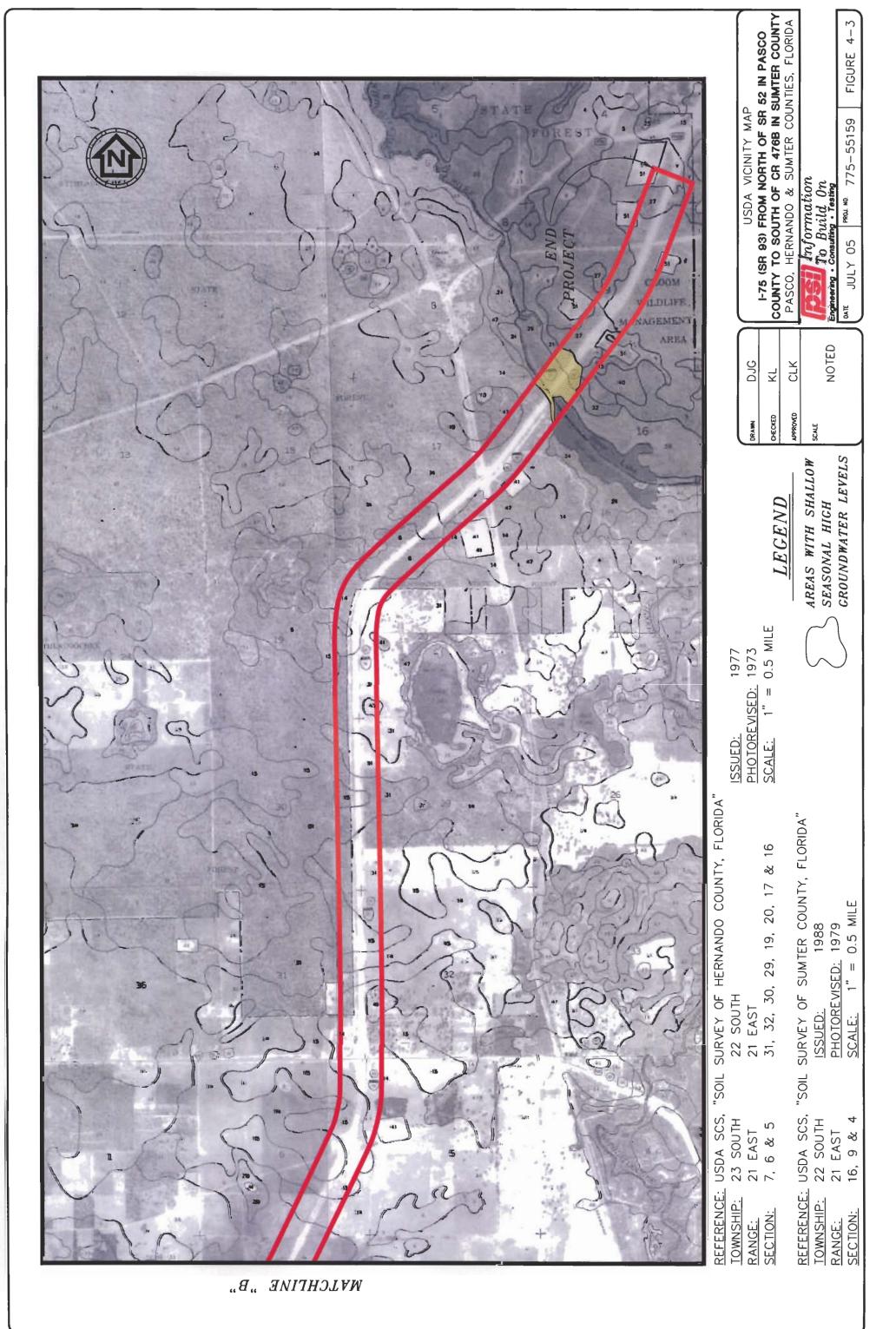


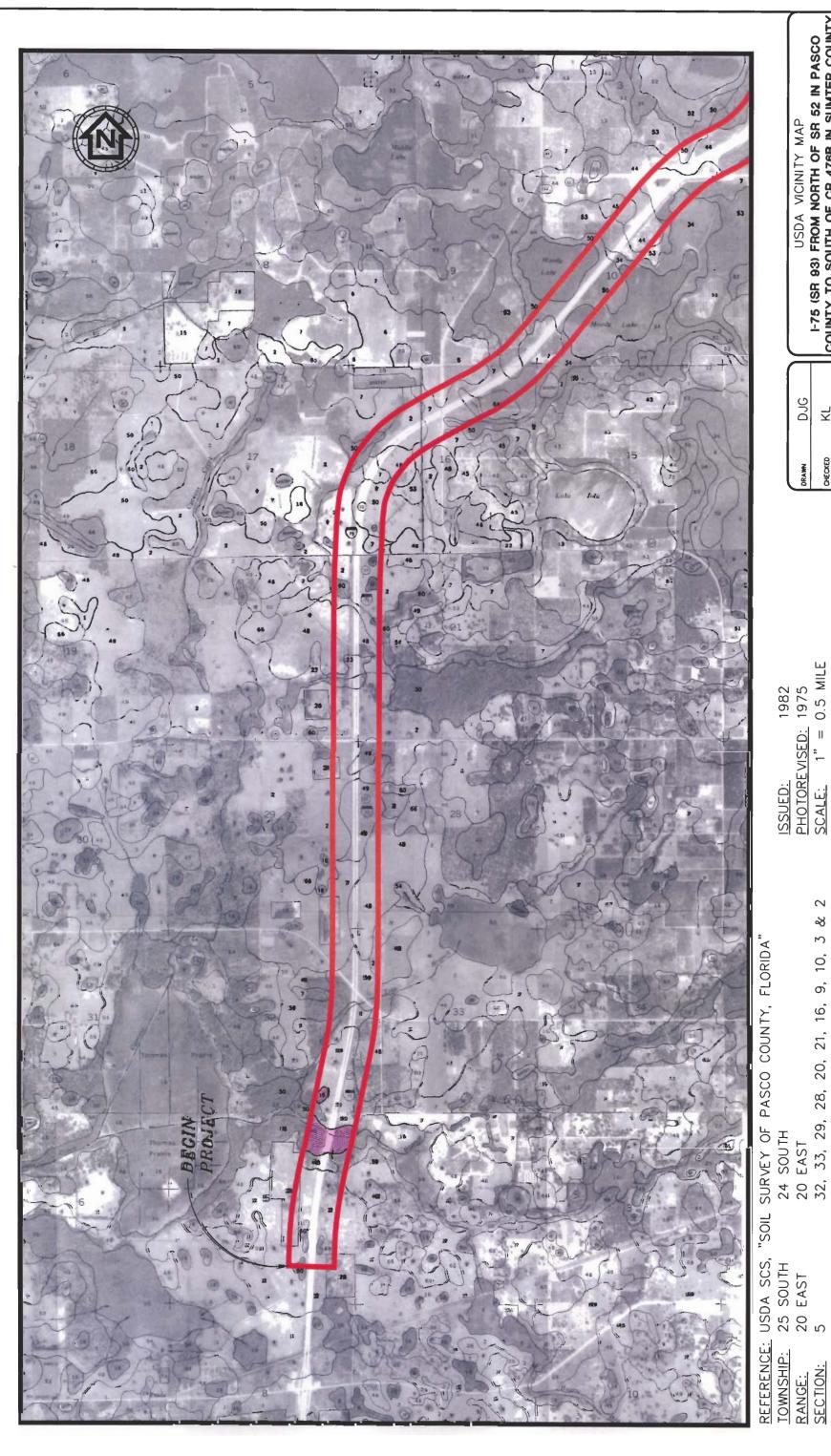












I-75 (SR 93) FROM NORTH OF SR 52 IN PASCO NUNTY TO SOUTH OF CR 476B IN SUMTER COUNTY ASCO, HERNANDO & SUMTER COUNTIES, FLORIDA USDA VICINITY MAP 775-55159 PROL NO. JULY 05 COUNTY NOTED DJG SLK ᅐ

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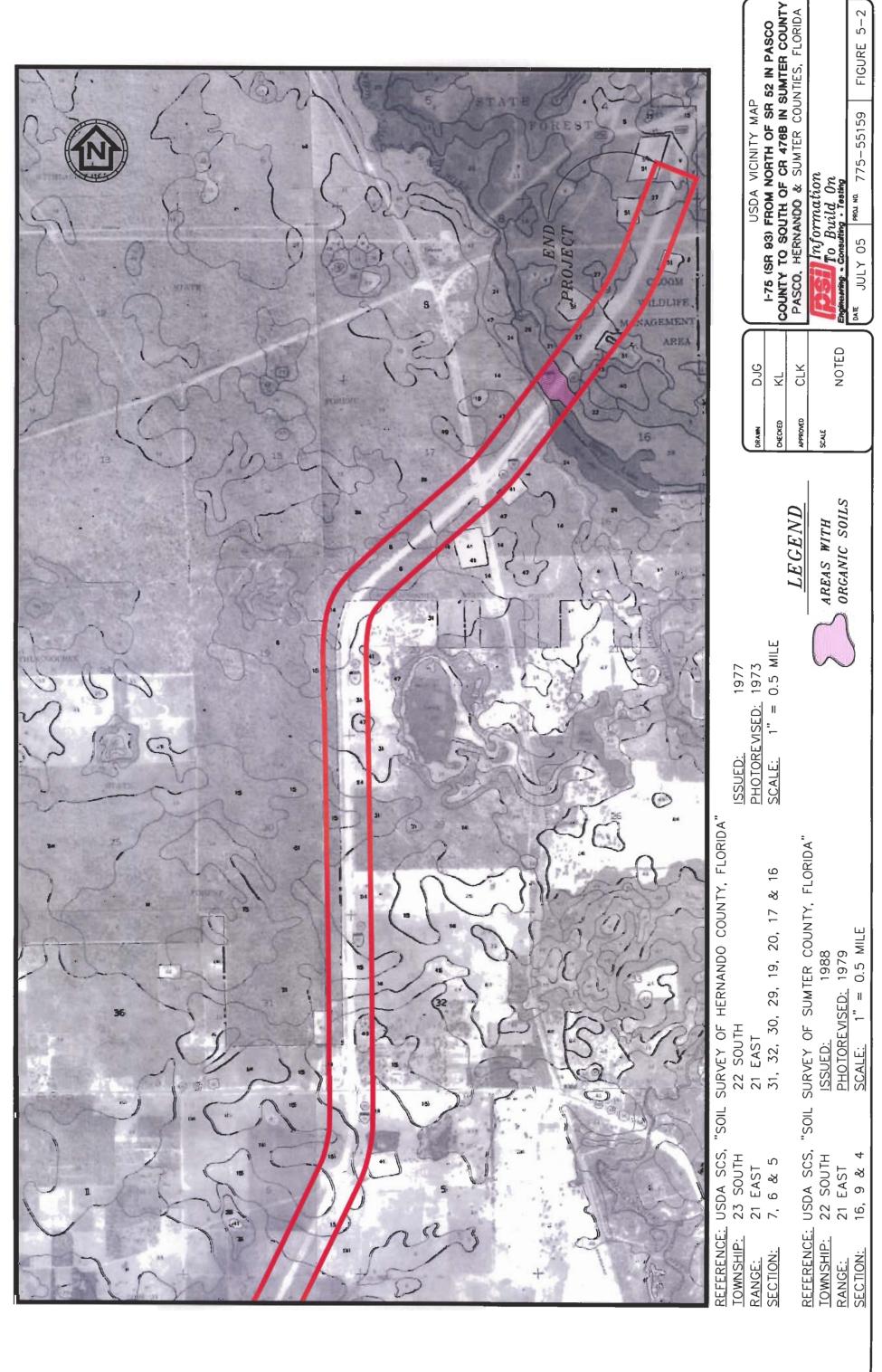
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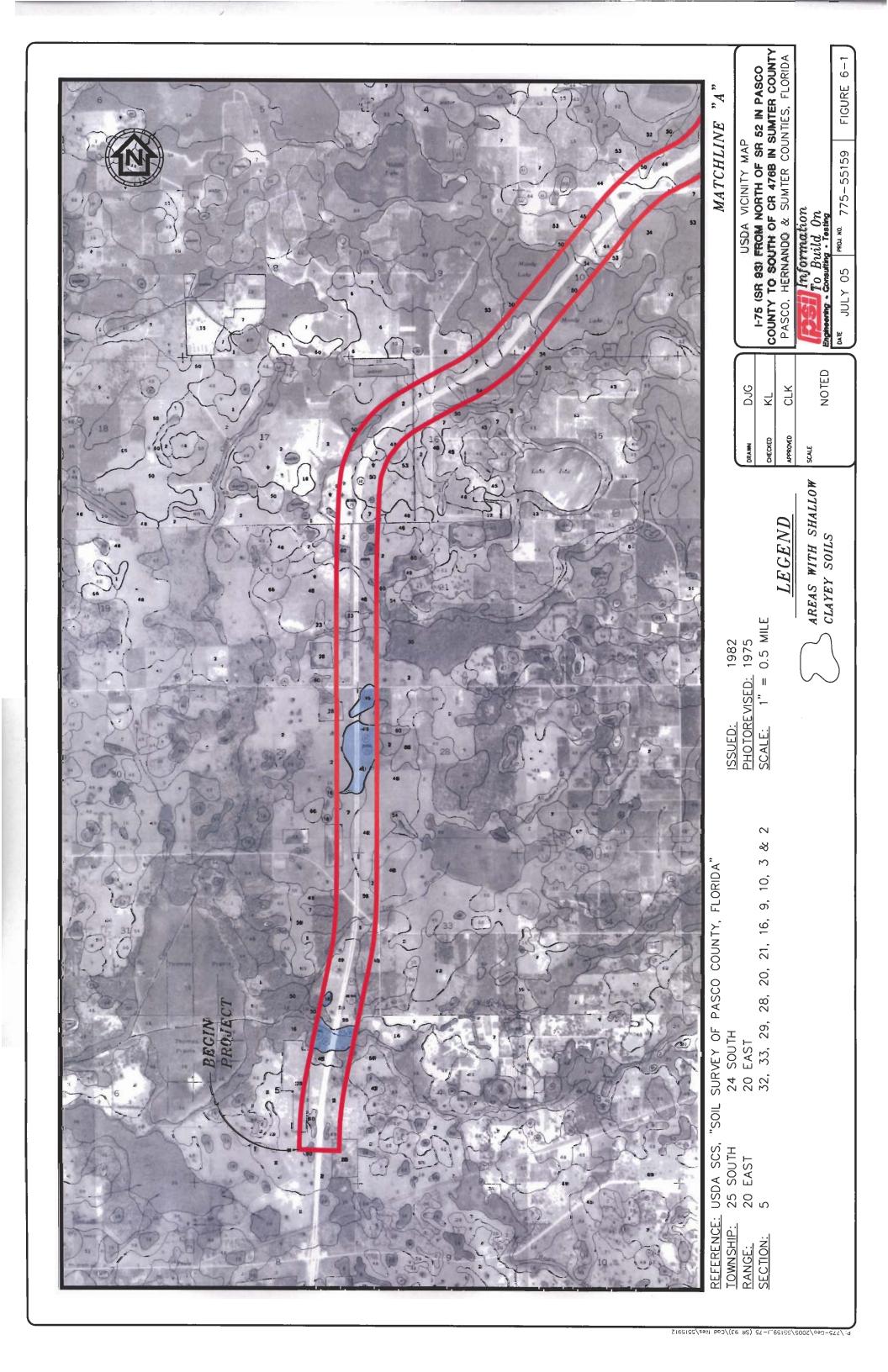
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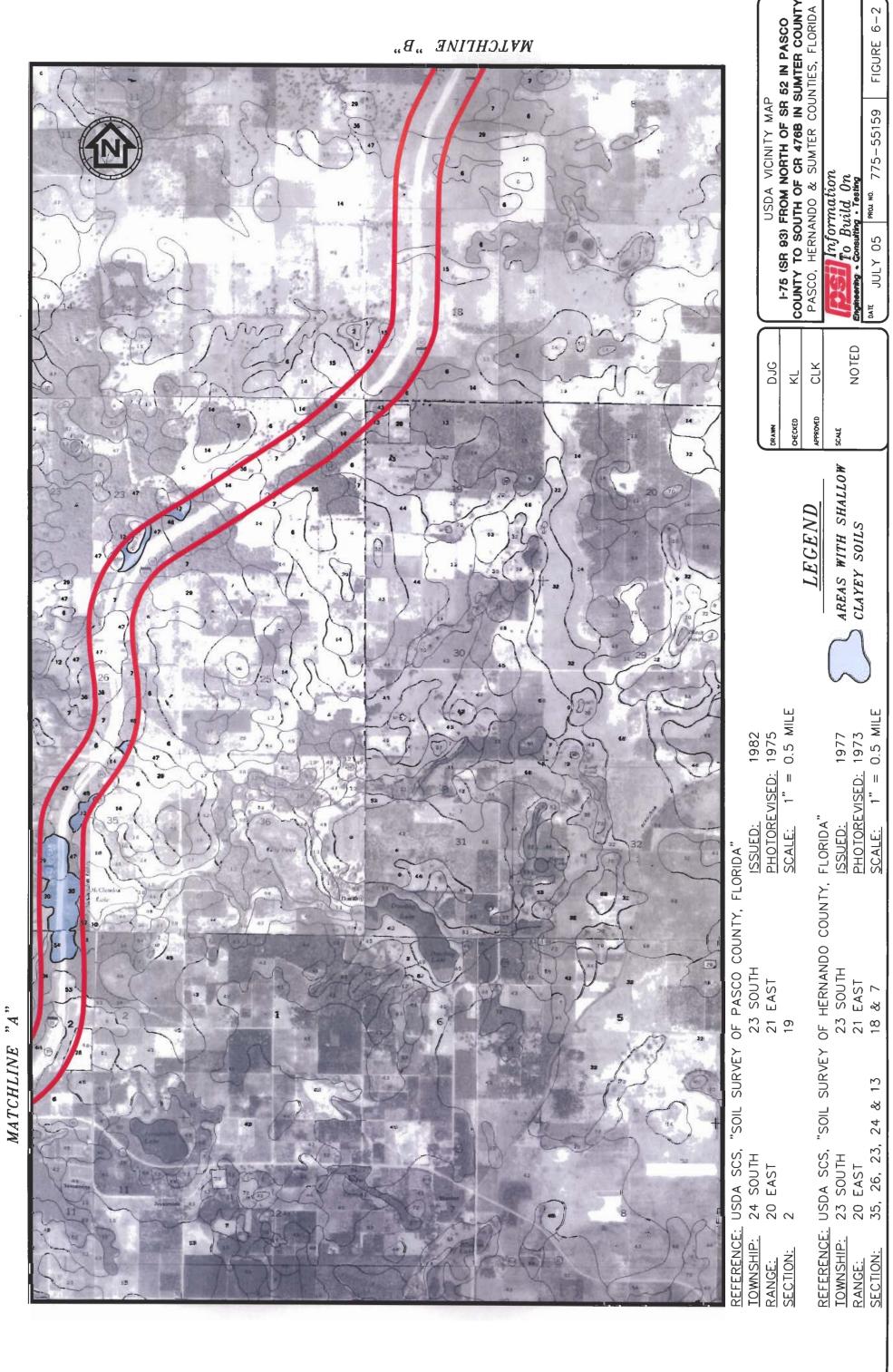
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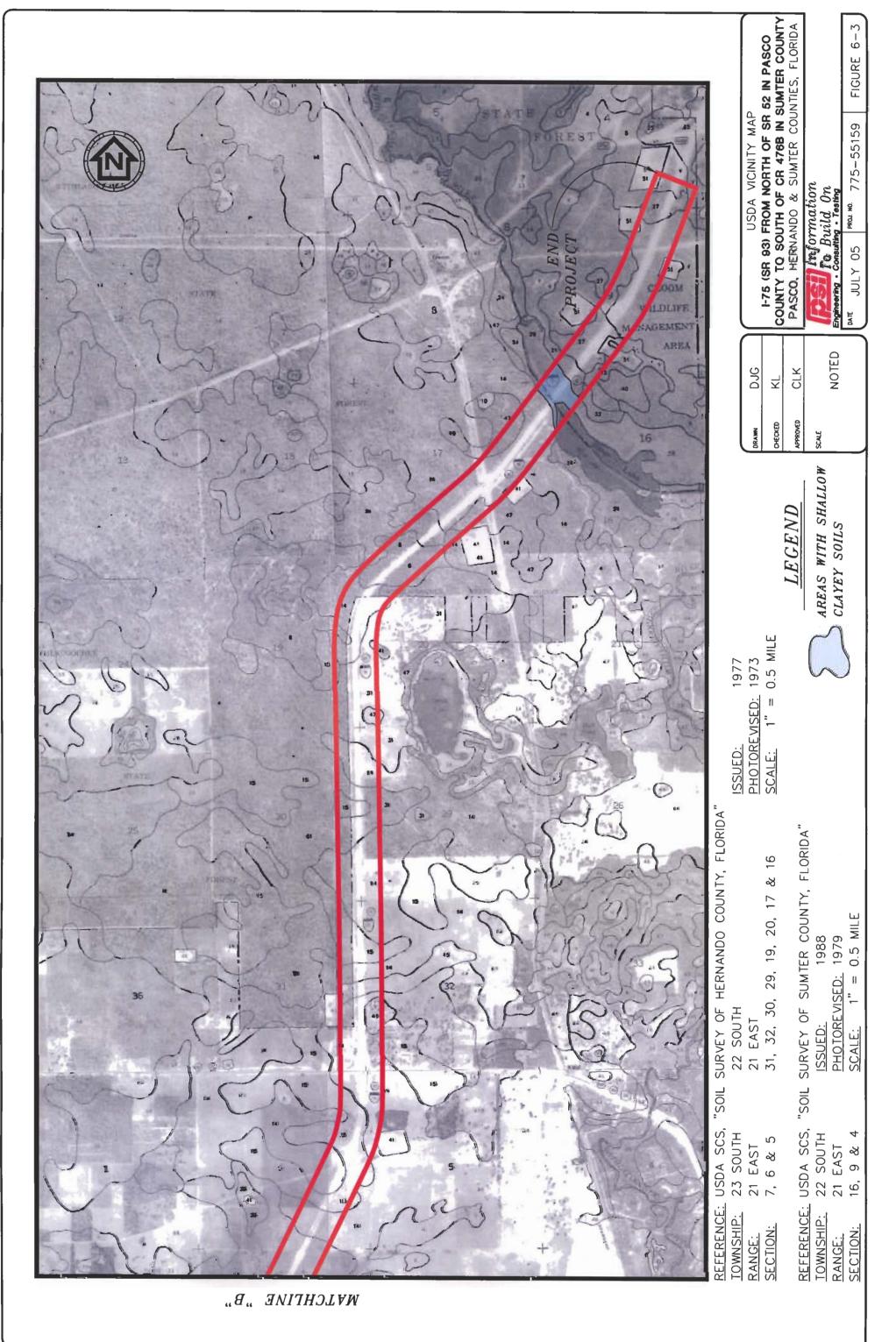
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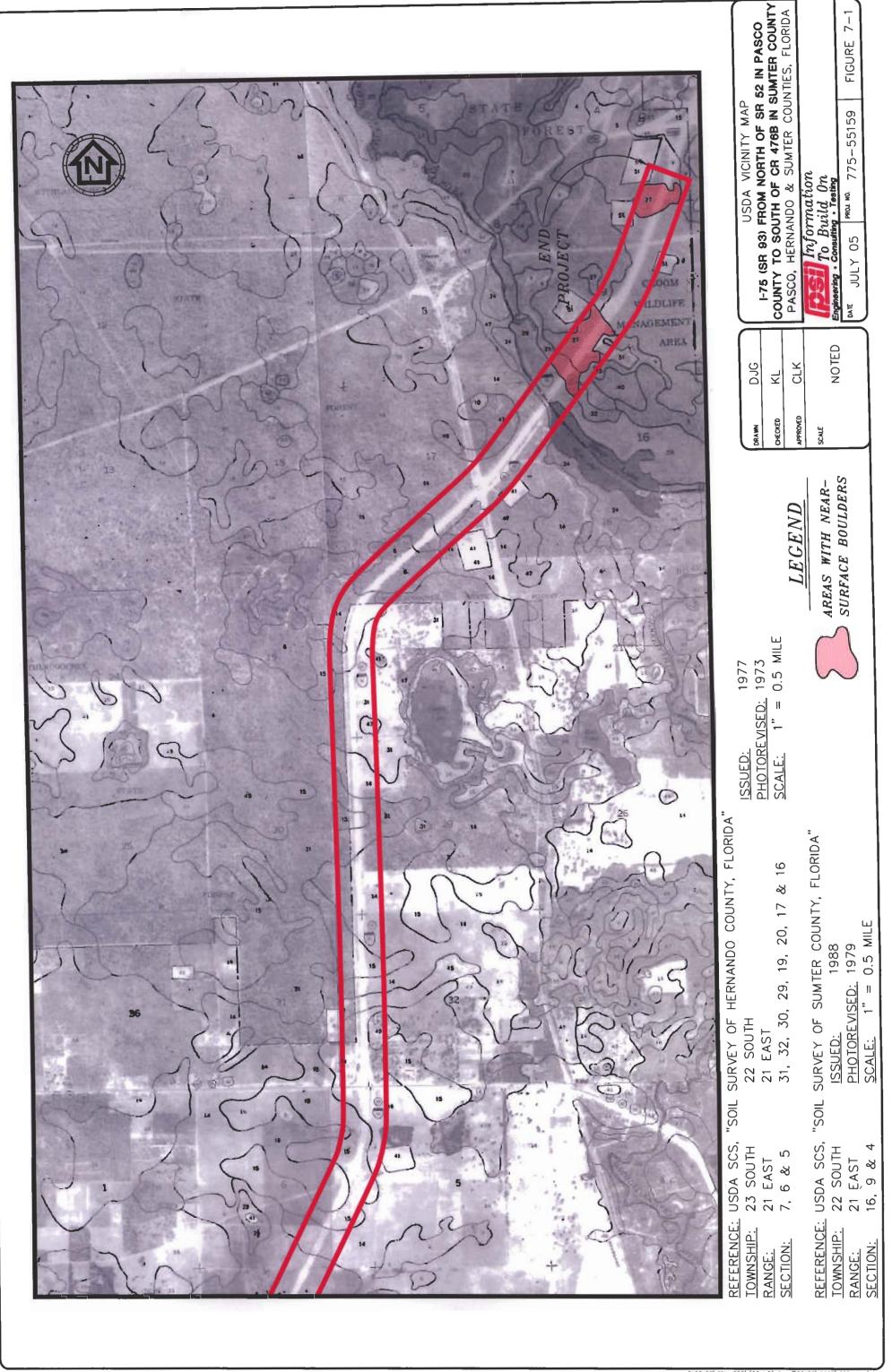
AREAS WITH ORGANIC SOILS









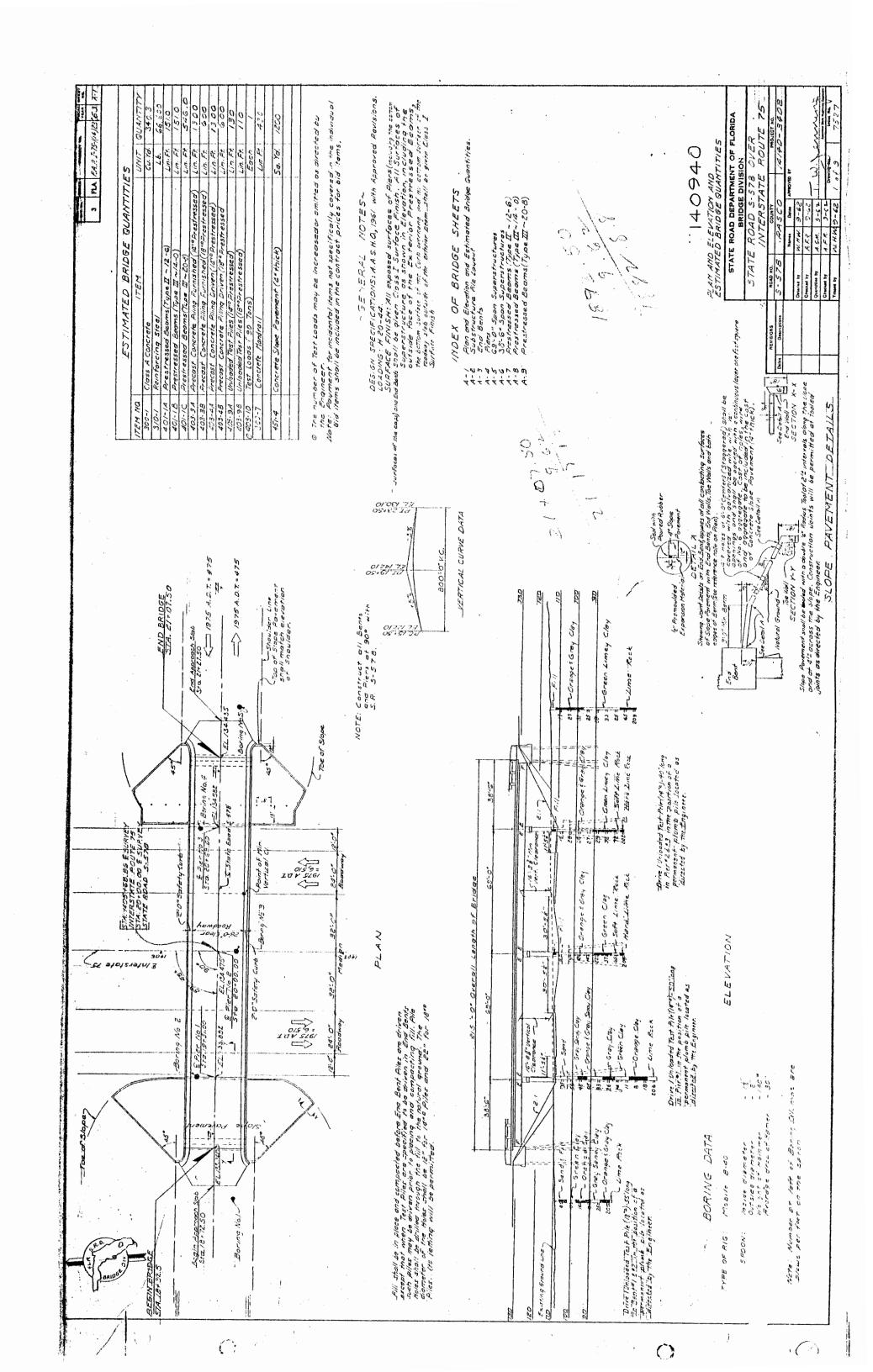


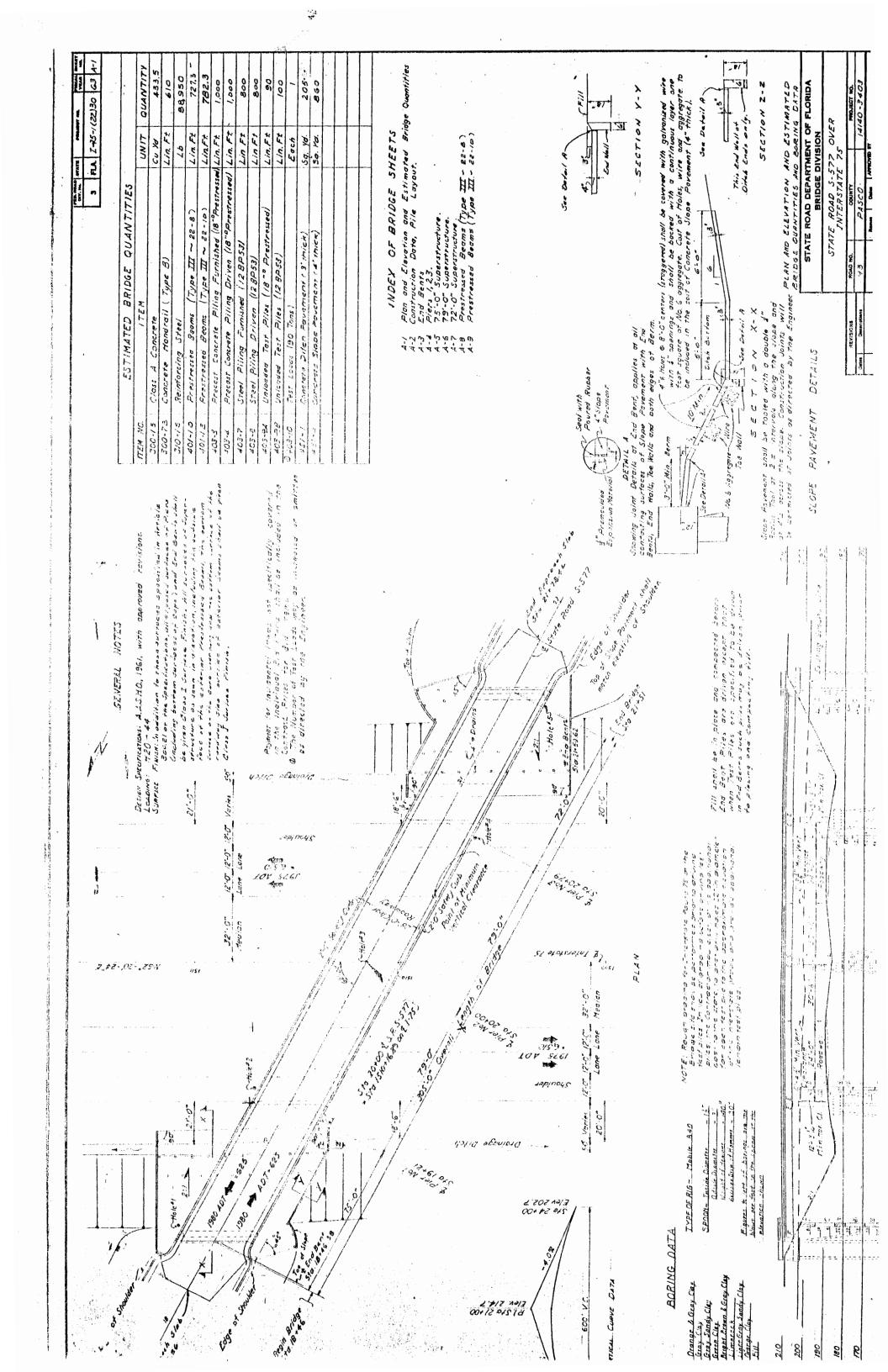
### APPENDIX B

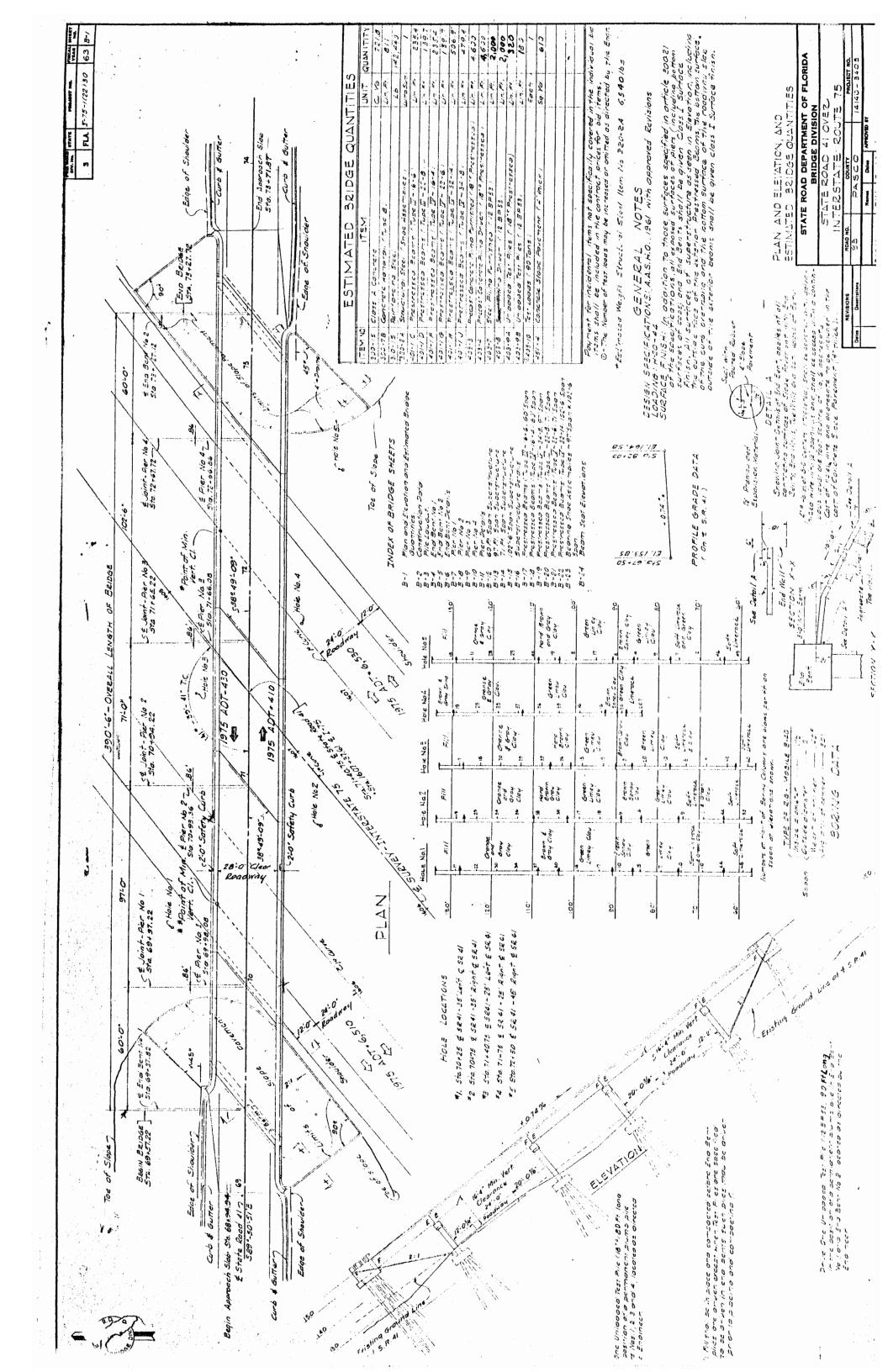
Plan and Elevation Sheets/Report of Core Borings Sheets

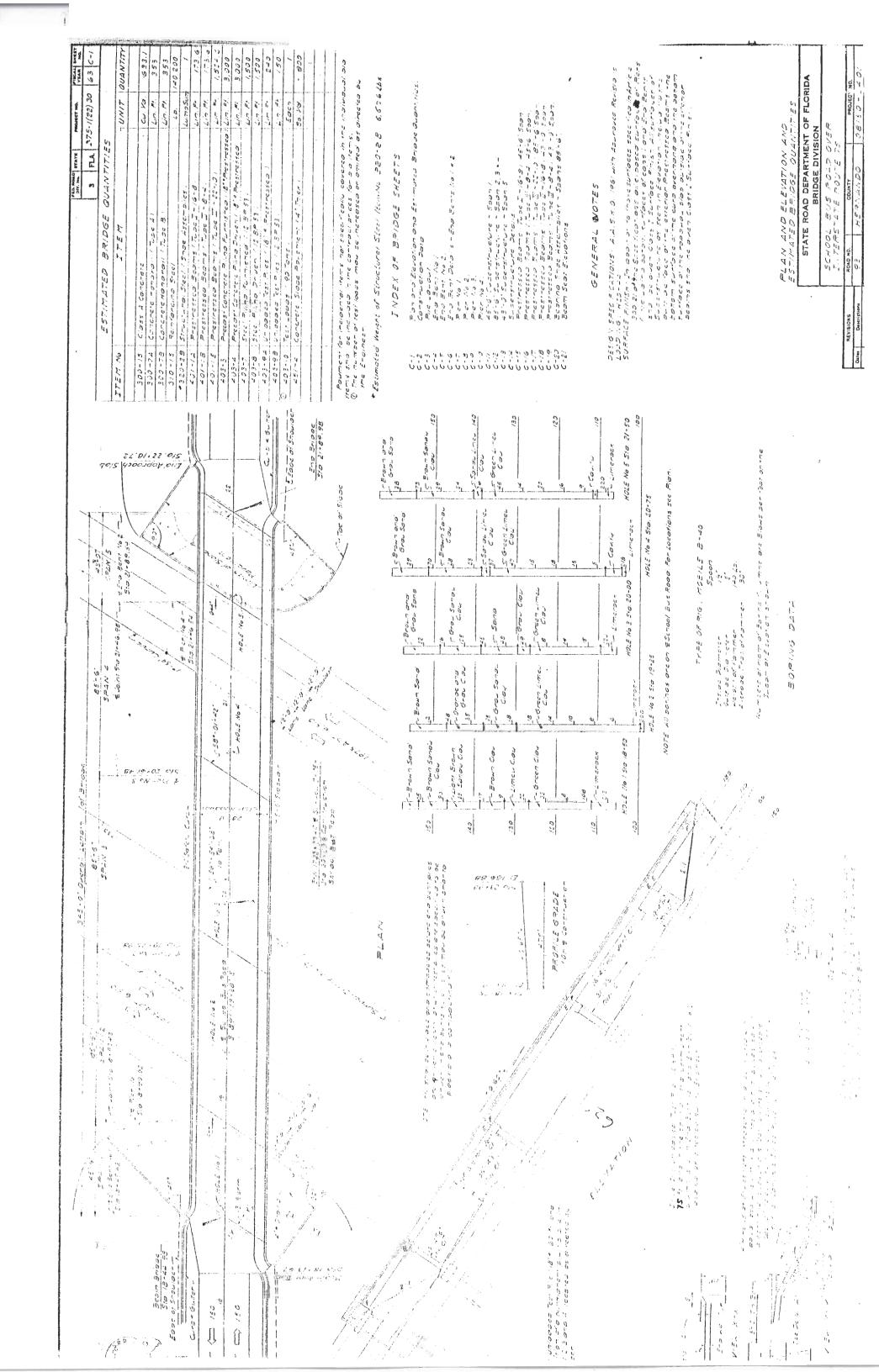


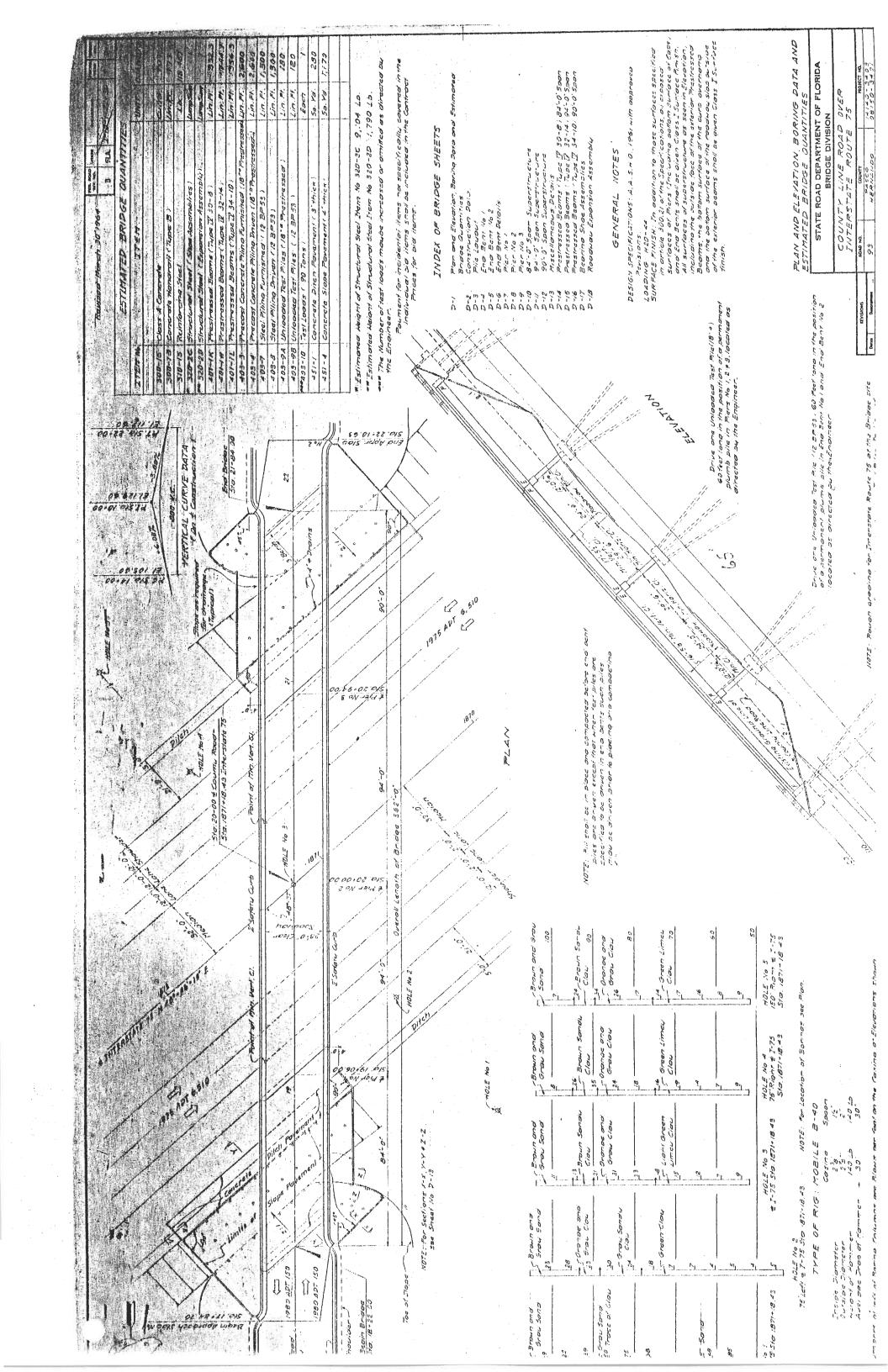
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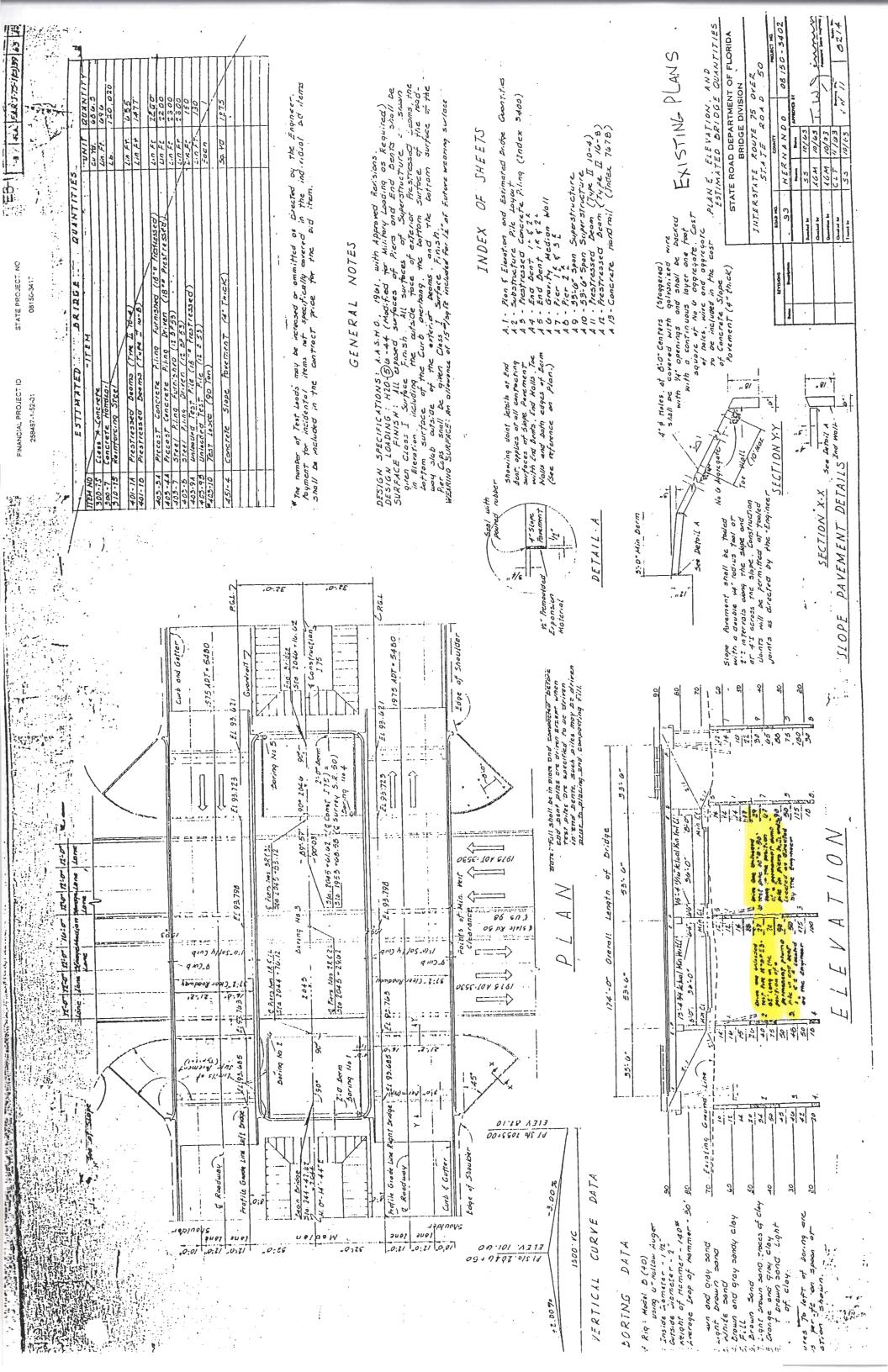


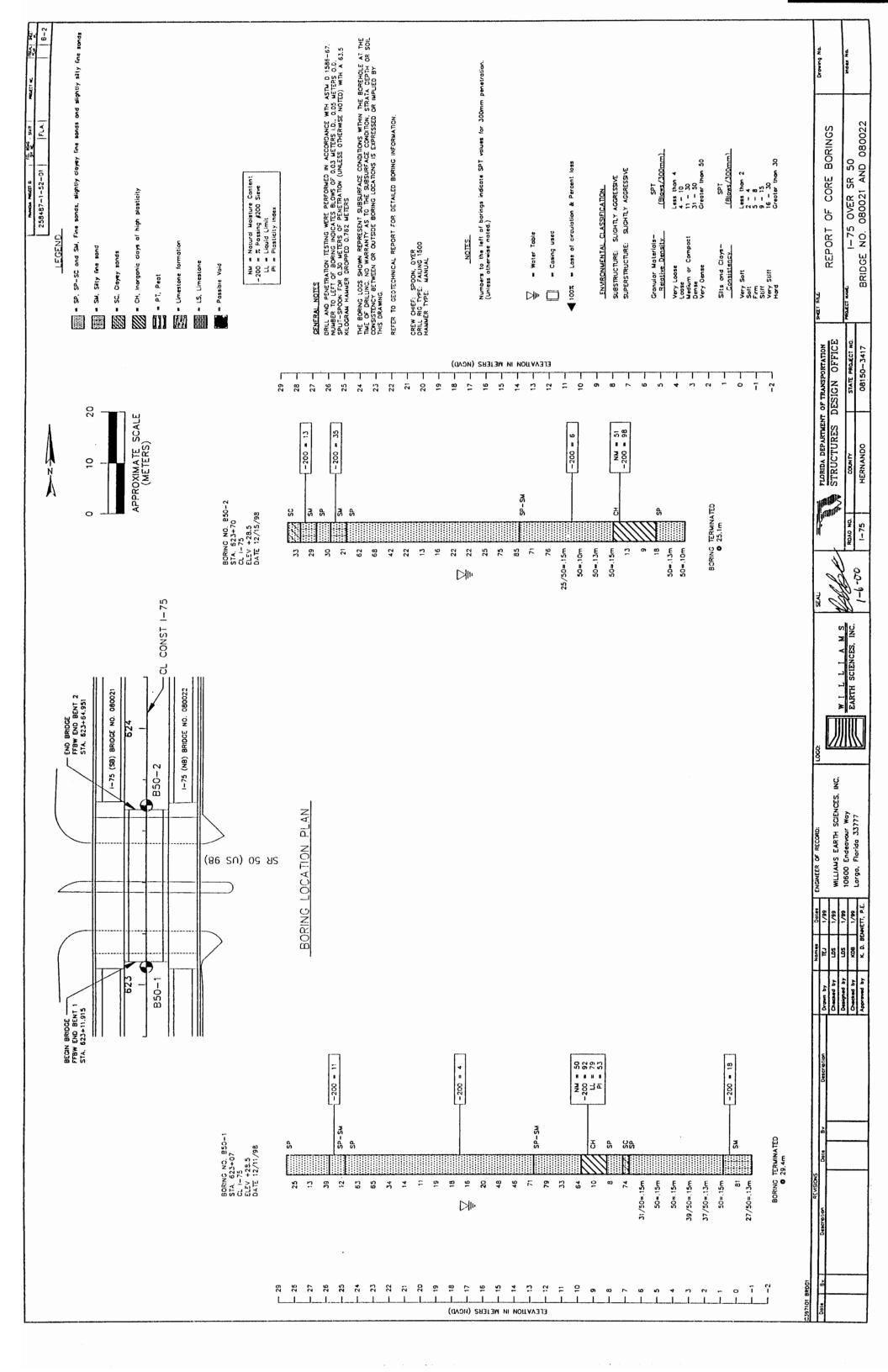


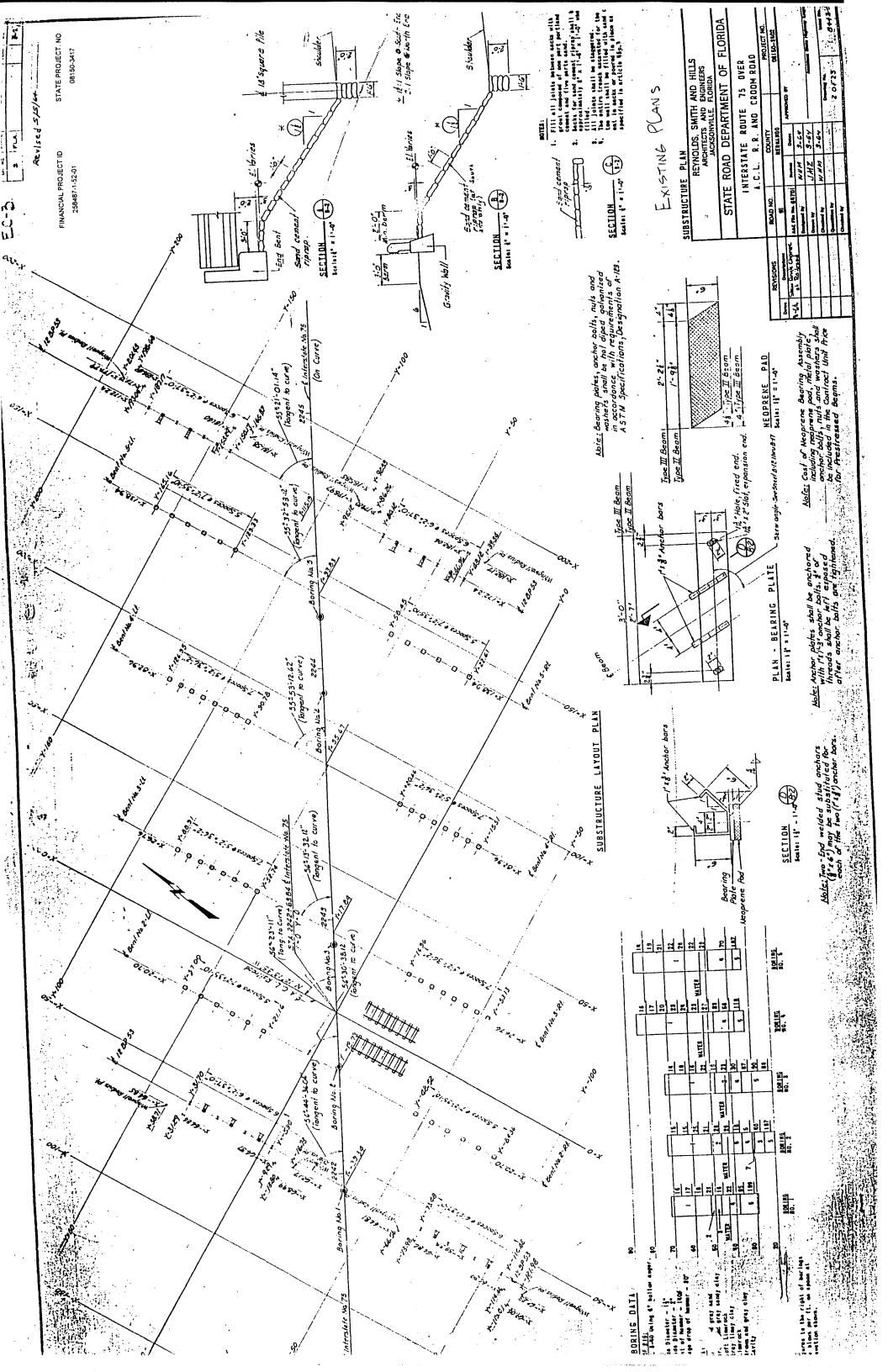


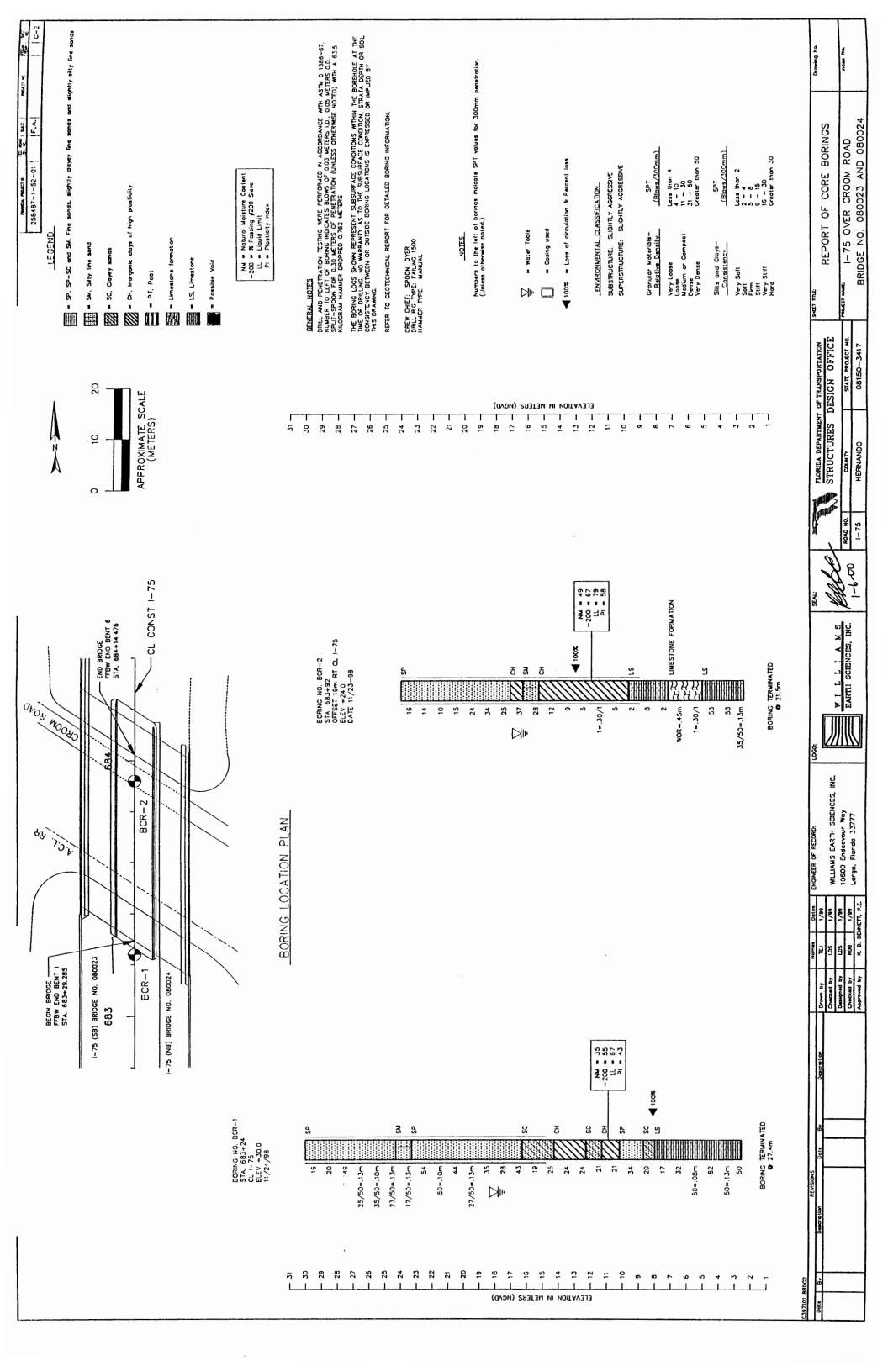


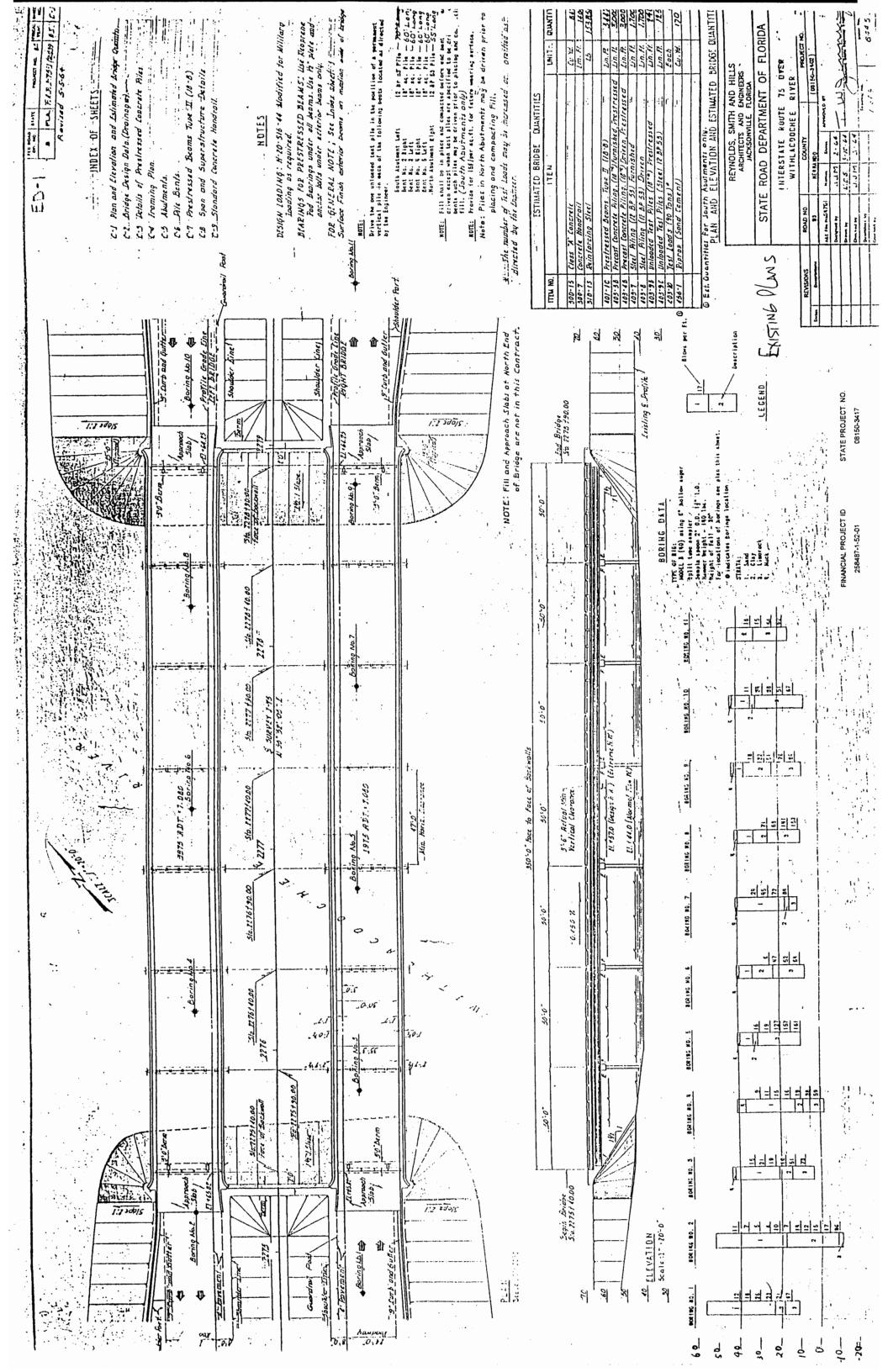


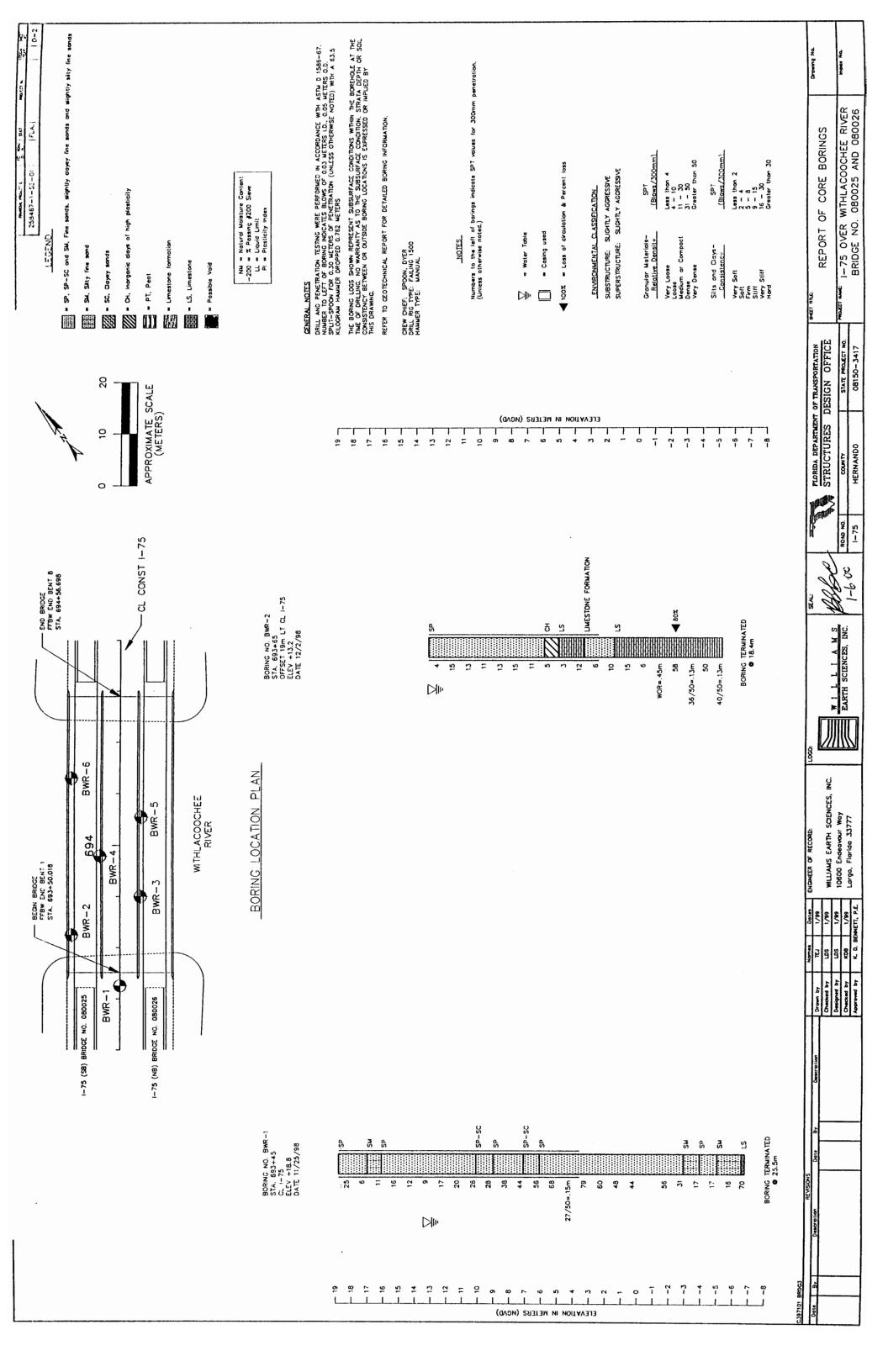


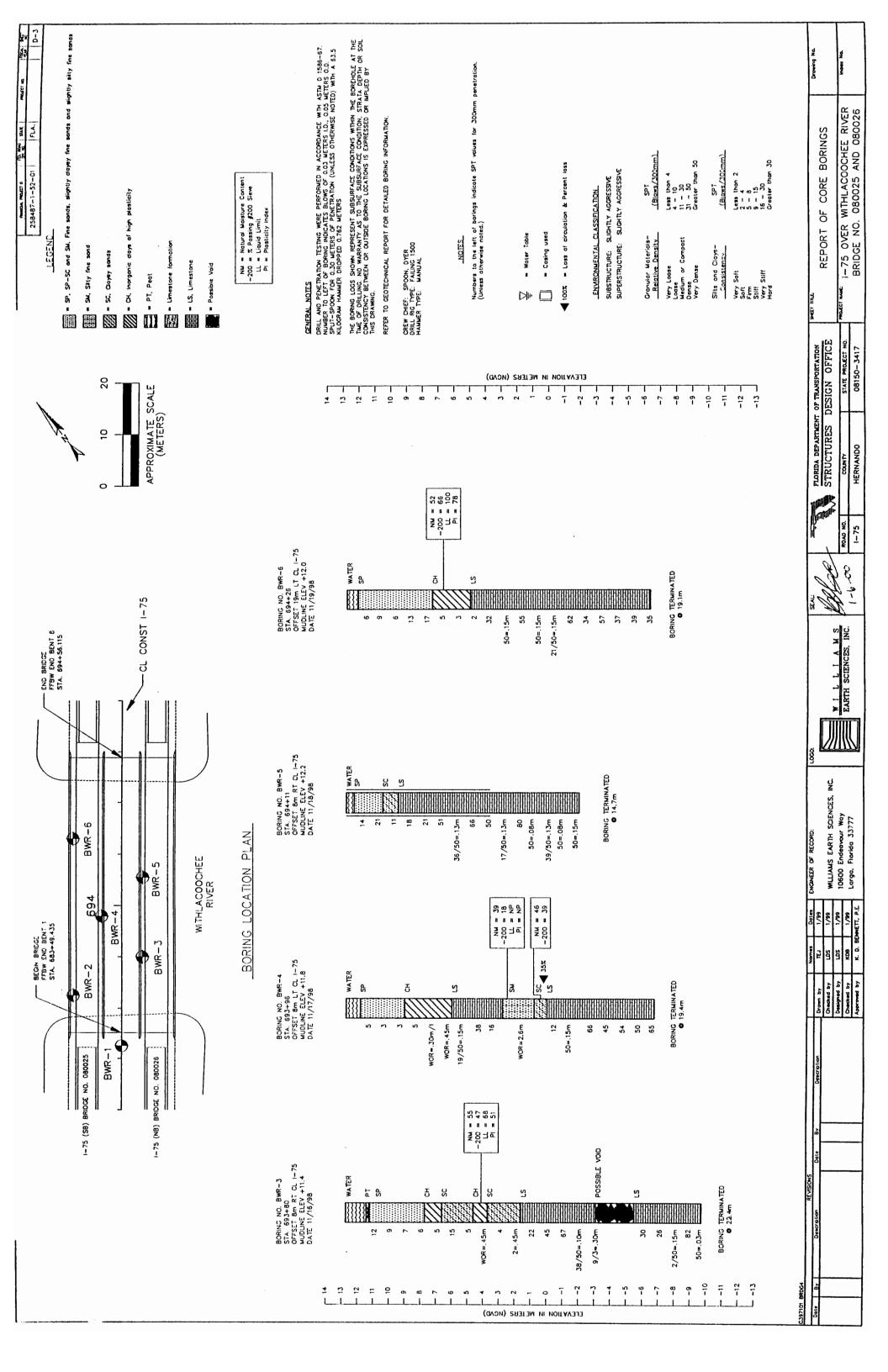








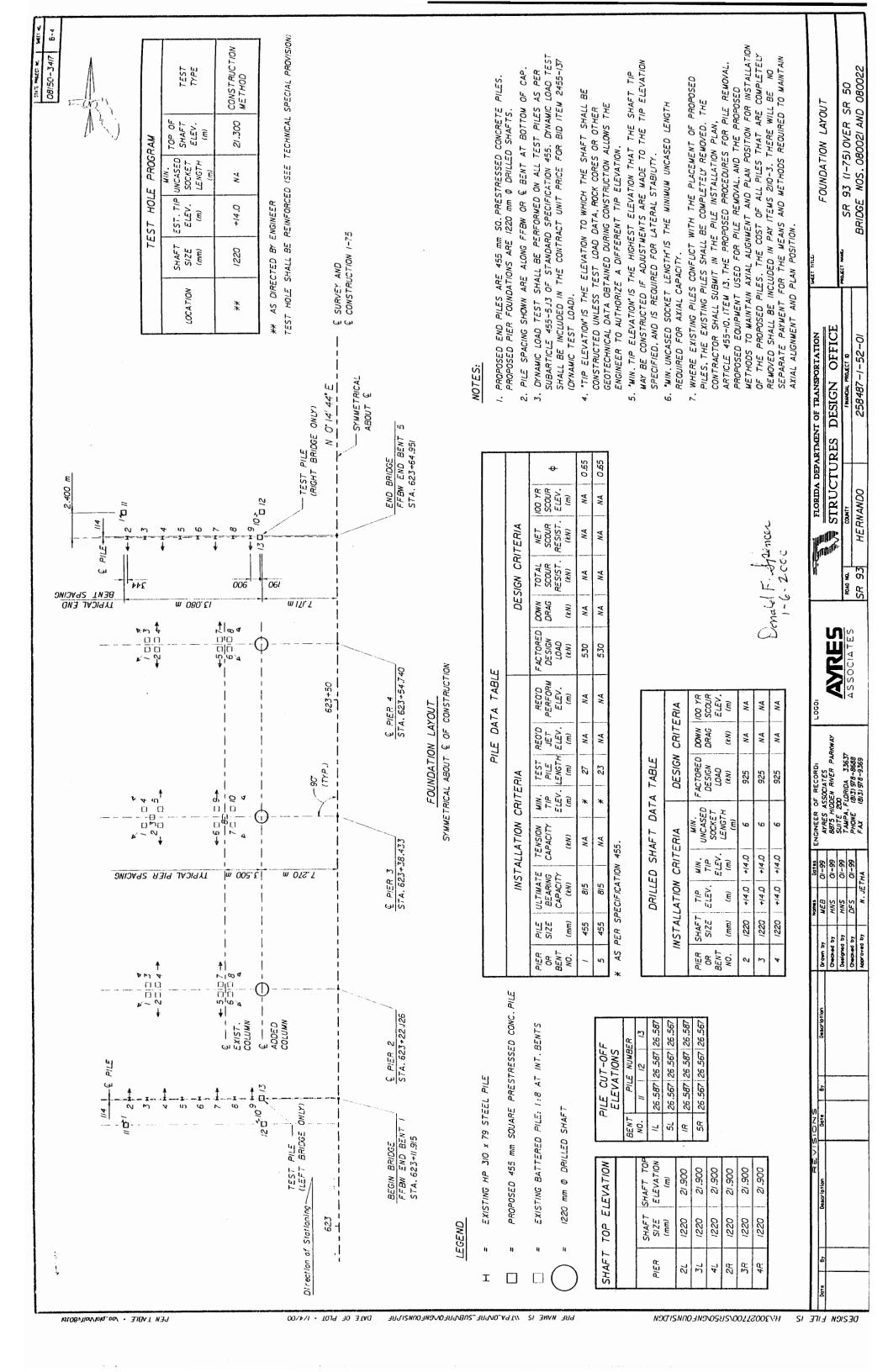


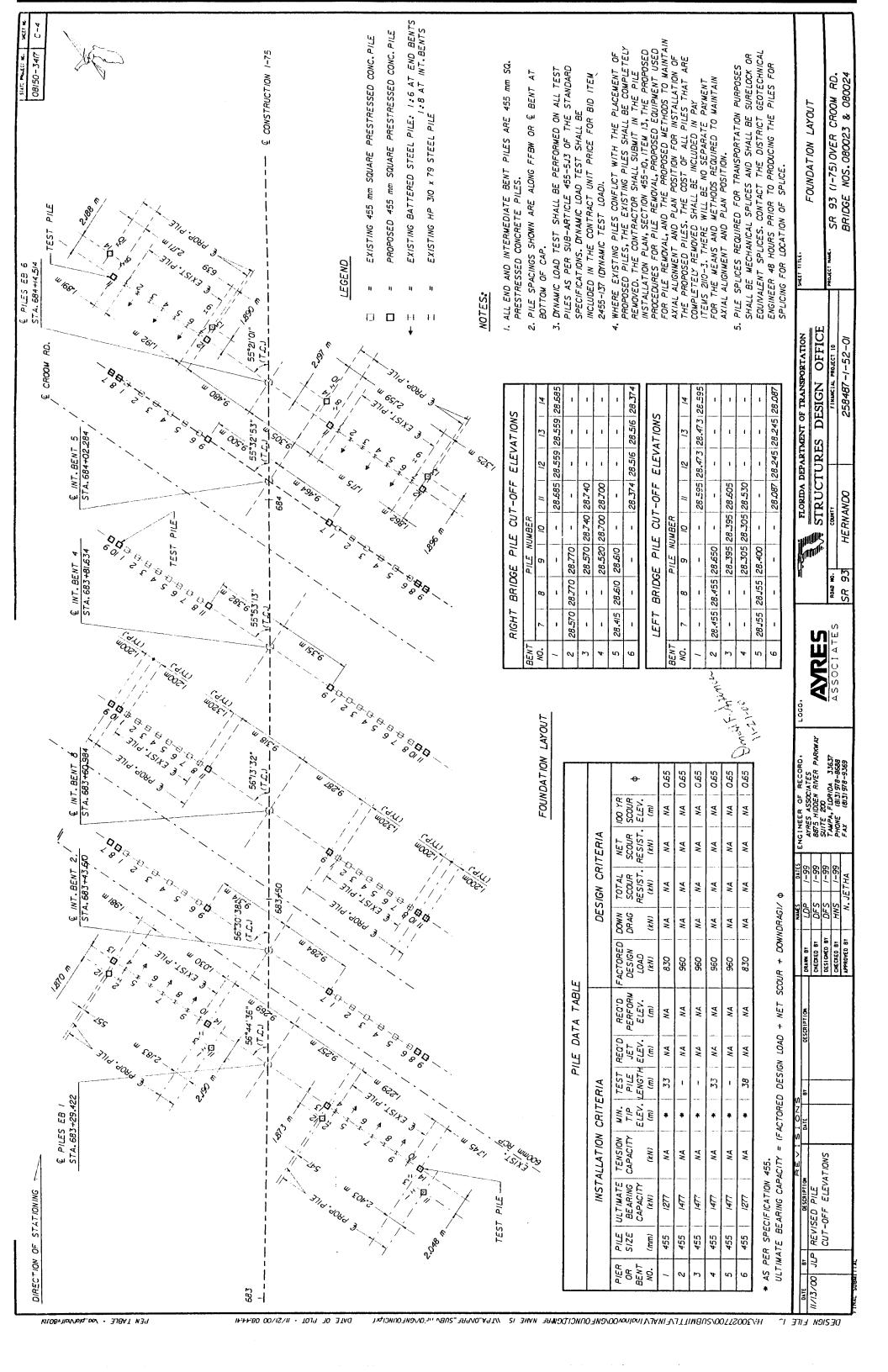


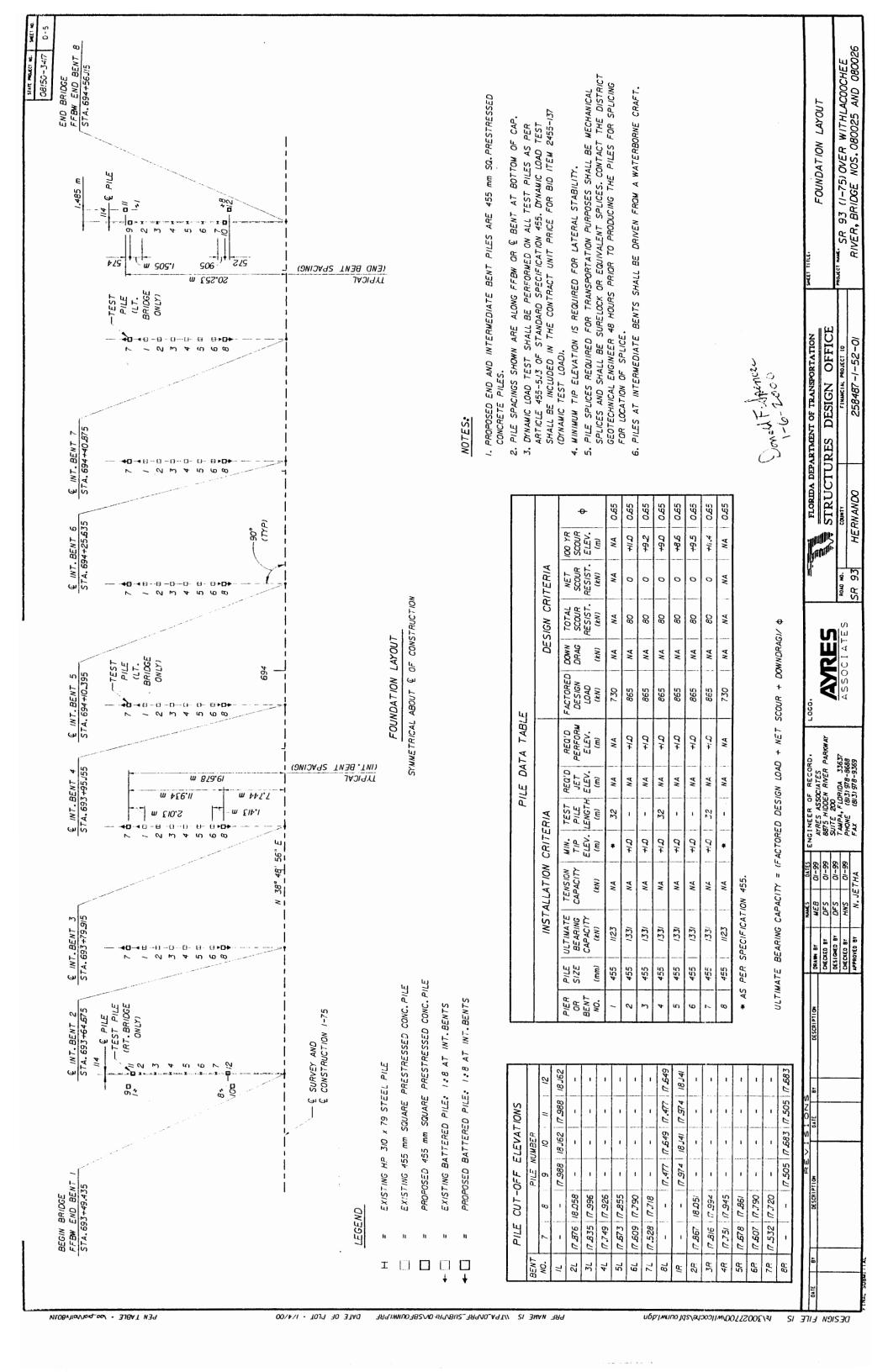
### APPENDIX C

Pile/Drilled Shaft Data Table







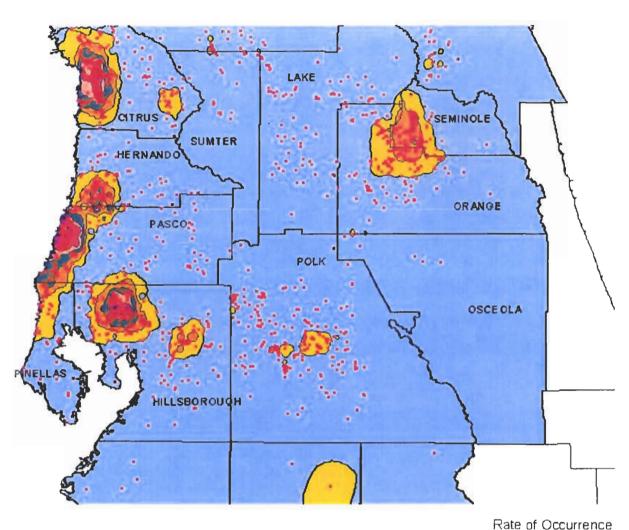


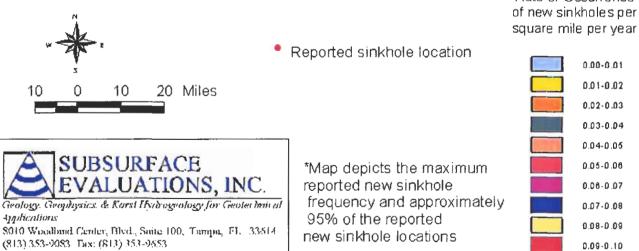
## APPENDIX D

**Reported New Sinkhole Frequency** 



# REPORTED NEW SINKHOLE FREQUENCY in Central and West-Central Florida





www.SubsurfaceEvaluations.com