



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

STEPHANIE
KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Milligan:

SUBJECT: WPI Segment No.: 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Study / Advance Notification / Hillsborough County, FL
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

The Department of Transportation is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for US 41 (SR 45), from 12th Street to Kracker Avenue in southern Hillsborough County.

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.

A longer segment of US 41 (SR 45) was evaluated in the Programming Screen of the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process (ETDM project #9511) in 2007, from 19th Avenue NE to Gibsonton Drive. Through the ETDM Environmental Screening Tool (EST), the following agencies previously provided review comments:

- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Florida Department of Community Affairs
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Federal Highway Administration
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Hillsborough County MPO
- Miccosukee Tribe
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Department of State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

These comments are available for viewing on the public ETDM web site at: <http://etdmpub.fl-estat.org/est>. No public comments have been received before initiating this PD&E Study.

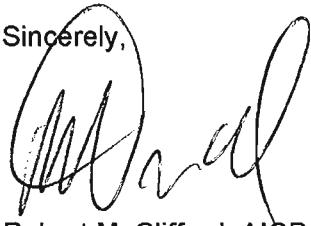
The Department will be preparing a State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) since federal-aid action is not anticipated at this time. In addition, we would appreciate your review of this project's consistency with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program as well as with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government jurisdiction(s) pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statues.

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:

Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development
Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive / MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Attachment

CC:

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration – District Transportation Engineer, *Nahir DeTizio nahirdetizio@fhwa.dot.gov
U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency – Community Mitigation Programs Branch, Chief, Brad Loar brad.loar@dhs.gov
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Regional Environmental Officer, Linda Poythress Linda.P.Poythress@hud.gov
U.S. Department of the Interior – Fish & Wildlife Service – Biologist, *Todd Mecklenborg todd_mecklenborg@fws.gov
U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office – Associate State Director, Alan Barron Bail Alan_Barron_Bail@blm.gov
U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs – Director, W. Patrick Ragsdale Patrick.Ragsdale@bia.gov
U.S. Department of Interior – US Geological Survey – Florida Integrated Science Center, Orlando, Director, Barry Rosen brosen@usgs.gov
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – National Center for Environmental Health & Injury Prevention & Control – Director, Henry Falk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – EPA Regional Administrator, *Madolyn Dominy dominy.madolyn@epa.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Biologist, *John Fellows john.p.fellows@usace.army.mil
U.S. Department of Commerce – NOAA National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) – SE Regional Administrator, Dr. Roy E. Crabtree roy.crabtree@noaa.gov
U.S. Department of Commerce – NOAA National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) – Fishery Biologist, *David A. Rydene David.Rydene@noaa.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, Forest Supervisor, Marsha Kearney mkearney@fs.fed.us
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Services - *Rick Allen Robbins Rick.Robbins@fl.usda.gov
U.S. Department of Interior – National Parks Service – Southeast Regional Office, *Anita Barnett anita_barnett@nps.gov
U.S. Coast Guard – Commander (oan) – Seventh District, *Randy Overton randall.d.overton@uscg.mil
Federal Transit Administration – Seventh District, *Tajsha Lashore Tajsha.Lashore@fta.dot.gov
U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Railroad Administration – Office of Economic Analysis, Regional Administrator, Fred Dennin

* Denotes ETAT Member

State Agencies

Florida Department of Transportation – Environmental Management Office, Manager, Carolyn Ismart
carolyn.ismart@dot.state.fl.us

Florida Department of Transportation, Federal-Aid Management Office (MS-21) – Manager, James Jobe james.jobe@dot.state.fl.us

Florida Department of State – Division of Historic Resources, Historic Preservation Officer, Fred Gaske
fgaske@dot.state.fl.us

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Exotic Species Lead, *Scott Sanders
scott.sanders@myfwc.com

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Environmental Manager, *Lauren P. Milligan
Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us

Florida Department of Community Affairs – Senior Planner, *Gary Donaldson
gary.donaldson@dca.state.fl.us

Florida Department of State – Architectural Historian, *Sherry Anderson sanderson@dot.state.fl.us

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – *Dennis Hardin hardind@doacs.state.fl.us

Regional & Local Agencies

Southwest Florida Water Management District, District ETAT Representative, *C. Lynne Miller
clmiller@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, District ETAT Representative, *John M. Meyer
johnm@tbrpc.org

Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Interim Executive Director, Ramond Chairamonte rayc@plancom.org

Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Wally Blain, AICP blaing@plancom.org

Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, Executive Director, Michael P. Howe
mhowe@sarasota-manateempo.org

Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County – Executive Director, Richard E. Garrity, PhD

Tribal Officials

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Billy Cypress, Chairman; Attn: *Steve Terry, Land Resource Manager stevet@miccosukeetribe.com

Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief, A.D. Ellis; Attn: Ms. Joyce Bear, Historic Preservation Manager

Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Buford Rolin, Chairman; Attn: Mr. Robert Thrower, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief, Enoch Kelly Haney; Attn: Pare Bowlegs, Historic Preservation Officer

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Chairman, Mitchell Cypress

Seminole Tribe of Florida, AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum, *W.S. Steele, THPO wsteele@semtribe.com

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Chairman, Beasley Denson; Attn: Kenneth H. Carleton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

* Denotes ETAT Member

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET

- 1. NEED FOR PROJECT:** The purpose for the proposed project is to provide increased capacity and safer facility to better meet future transportation demand in this rapidly developing area of Hillsborough County. US 41/SR 45 is a major north-south urban principal arterial. US 41 runs parallel to Interstate 75 and US 301 and provides connectivity among the communities of Ruskin, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton and Riverview. While US 41 is not on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), a short (0.92 miles) segment of US 41 between Pembroke Road and Big Bend Road (CR 672) is part of a SIS connector, which connects the Port of Tampa to I-75, both of which are SIS facilities.
- 2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** This project involves an approximately 6.2 mile segment of US 41 (SR 45) extending north from 12th Street to Kracker Avenue ([Figure 1](#)). The highway is to be improved from an existing four-lane divided facility to a six-lane divided facility. There are no bridge structures located on this portion of US 41.

The Build Alternative is likely to also include intersection improvements and construction of storm water management facilities. A separate traffic study will provide data to support future design alternatives and recommendations. The PD&E Study will also include the consideration of a No-Build Alternative.

As part of the Department's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process, a longer segment of this roadway (US 41 from 19th Avenue to Gibsonton Drive) has been screened through the Programming Screen as ETDM # 9511. A *Programming Screen Summary Report* has not yet been published.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION:

- Land Uses:** Existing land uses include mostly agricultural, industrial, commercial, and low-density residential uses.
- Wetlands:** Mangrove swaps were observed on both sides of US 41 just north of Kracker Avenue to Ohio Street. The project does not fall within an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment area. Minimal wetland impacts are anticipated by the proposed project. A Wetland Evaluation/ Biological Assessment will be conducted by the FDOT and reports will be provided to the appropriate agencies.
- Floodplains:** Approximately 75 percent of the project area is located within the 100-year floodplain. These floodplains are designated as FEMA FIRM Zone AE (Special Floodplain Hazard Areas). FDOT will evaluate the need for compensation for encroachment and lost floodplain storage impacts, identify mitigation, and utilize information from existing watershed management plans. A Location Hydraulics Report (LHR) will be conducted during the PD&E phase.
- Wildlife Habitat:** The entire project area is located within NOAA's Tampa Bay Estuarine Drainage Area Coastal Assessment Framework (CAF #G070) and in the Tampa Bay Ecosystem Management Area. A Wetland Evaluation/Biological Assessment will be conducted by the FDOT and reports will be provided to the appropriate agencies.

- e. **Outstanding Florida Waters:** The project area crosses a few small waterways that connect to Hillsborough Bay, including Sims Branch, Jackson Branch, Newman Branch, the Apollo Beach Canal and Wolfe Branch. There are minimal to no coastal wetlands and mangrove wetlands within the revised study limits.
- f. **Aquatic Preserve:** The project area lies within the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and is the District's top priority SWIM Program water body (Category 1 – most in need of restoration). During this PD&E Study, the FDOT will coordinate with the appropriate agencies regarding specific permitting requirements.
- g. **Coastal Zone Consistency Determination Required:** YES NO
- h. **Cultural Resources:** The project corridor has not been subjected to a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS). During this PD&E Study, a CRAS will be conducted to determine if any sites are on or eligible for nomination to the *National Register of Historic Places*.
- i. **Coastal Barrier Resources:** No Coastal Barrier Resources are found within a 1 mile buffer of the project area.
- j. **Contamination:** There are several facilities within the 100-ft buffer that have petroleum storage tanks on-site. Two solid waste facilities are located within a 500-ft buffer but should not be impacted by this project. A Contamination Screening Evaluation Report will be prepared during the PD&E Study.
- k. **Sole Source Aquifer:** Not Applicable.
- l. **Noise Sensitive Sites:** The potential exists for increases in traffic noise to the surrounding communities. A detailed noise evaluation will be conducted during the PD&E Study.
- m. **Essential Fish Habitat:** Coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service will be conducted during the PD&E Study, although an EFH assessment should not be necessary for this study.
- n. **Farmlands:** Although there are no Prime Farmland map units or soils within the project area, the USDA-NRCS considers any agricultural lands that produce commodity crops as Unique Farmland. Farmlands adjacent to the project will be assessed during this PD&E Study. If commodity crops (Unique Farmland) are found within the project corridor, attempts to avoid/minimize impacts to these areas will be explored.
- o. **Communities:** The project passes through both Gibsonton and Apollo Beach. The potential affect on community services and cohesion will be evaluated as part of this Study. The potential for relocation is unknown at this time. The FDOT will include public involvement opportunities throughout the Study.
- p. **Recreation Areas:** The project area is a main route for access to many recreational areas, including two public boat ramps, Big Bend Bird and Manatee Viewing Area, The Kitchen, Apollo Beach Nature Preserve, Wolf Branch, and two county preserves which currently do not have public access. No direct impacts to recreation areas are expected due to the proposed roadway project.
- q. **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Not Applicable.

4. NAVIGABLE WATERWAY CROSSING: YES x NO

5. **LIST OF 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.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404, Water Quality Certification.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection – NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system) General Permit.

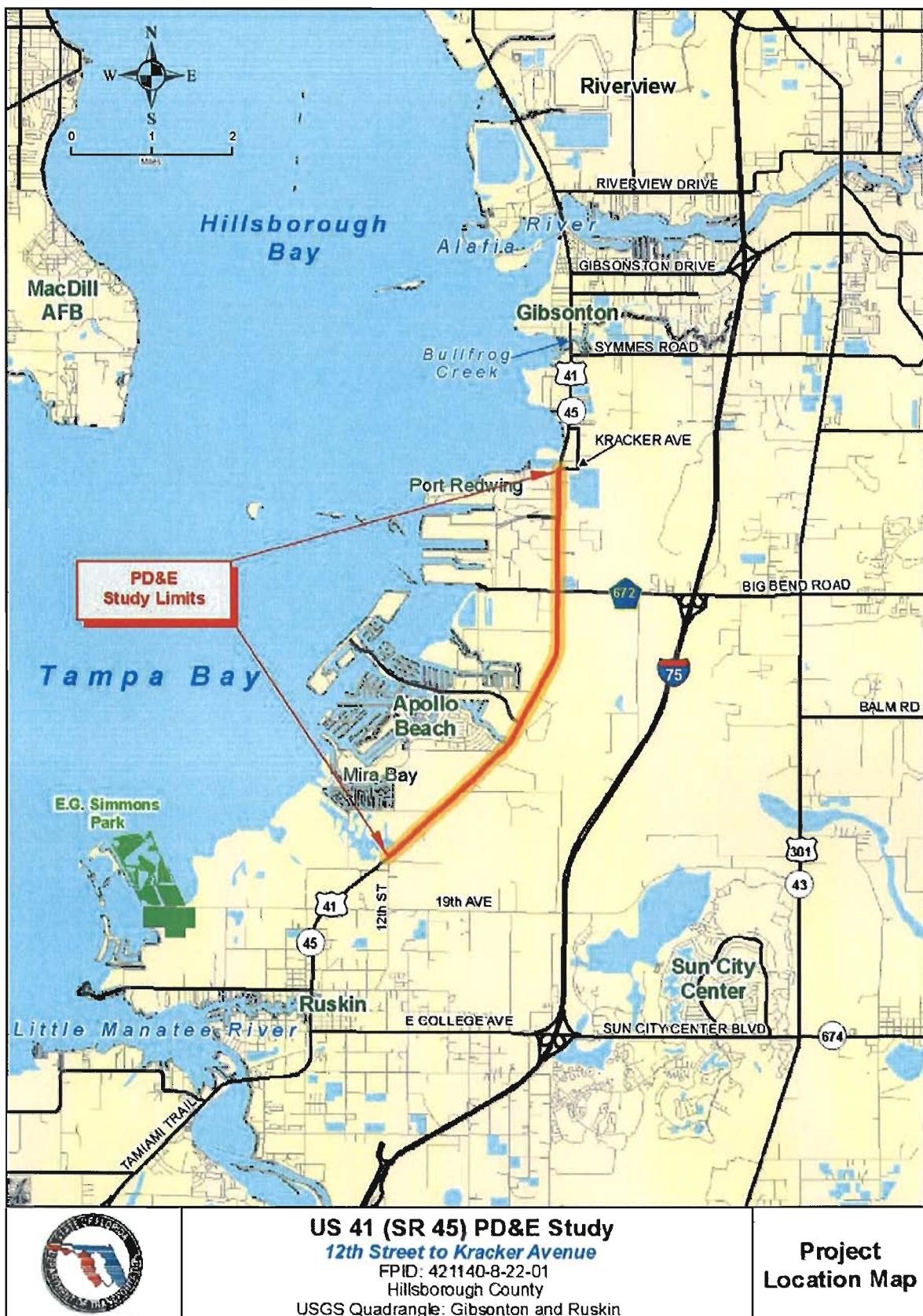


Figure 1

FEDERAL

Nahir DeTizio, District Transportation Engineer
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Tallahassee, FL 32303
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Brad Loar, Mitigation Division Chief
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Fred Dennin, Regional Administrator
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Atlanta, GA 30303

STATE

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James Jobe, Manager
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Fred Gaske, Historic Preservation Office
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Scott Sanders, Exotic Species Lead
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Lauren P. Milligan, Environmental Manager
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Gary Donaldson, Senior Planner
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Florida Department of Community Affairs
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
Gary.donaldson@dca.state.fl.us

Sherry Anderson, Architectural Historian
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sanderson@dot.state.fl.us

Dennis Hardin
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
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The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
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REGIONAL / LOCAL AGENCIES

C. Lynne Miller, District Stormwater Resources of Florida
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
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John M. Meyer, District ETAT Representative
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
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Raymond Chairamonte, Interim Executive Director
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Wally Blain, AICP
Hillsborough County MPO
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Michael P. Howe, Executive Director
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Richard D. Garrity, PhD, Executive Director
Environmental Protection Commission of
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Roger P. Stewart Center
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TRIBAL

Billy Cypress, Chairman
Attn: Steve Terry Land Resource Manager
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144
stevet@miccosukeetribe.com

A.D. Ellis, Principal Chief
Attn: Joyce Bear, Historic Preservation Manager
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

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

Enoch Kelly Haney, Principal Chief
Attn: Pare Bowlegs, Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

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

W.S. Steele, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum
HC-61, Box 21-A
Clewiston, FL 33440
wsteele@semtribe.com

Beasley Denson, Chairman
Attn: Kenneth H. Carleton,
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 393



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

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

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Mr. Steele:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the process of conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the above project. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advanced Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

Please consider this letter an invitation to offer us your comments in this early data gathering stage of the project development process. Naturally future consultation under the Section 106 process will take place as appropriate. The Department is especially interested in any first hand knowledge you could share with us involving any cultural resource issues in the project area, or any concerns you may have regarding the project in general.

Please submit any written comments you may have to:

Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development
Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
11201 North McKinley Drive / M.S. 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

We look forward to your comments and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Manny Santos, Project Manager, at (813) 975-6173 or toll free at 1-800-226-7220 or Manuel.Santos@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Enclosures

cc: George Ballo, CEMO



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

Mr. Enoch Kelly Haney
Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

Attention: Mr. Pare Bowlegs, Historic Preservation Officer

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Mr. Bowlegs:

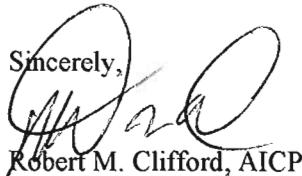
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Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
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Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP

Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Enclosures

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STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

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

Attention: Mr. Robert Thrower, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Mr. Thrower:

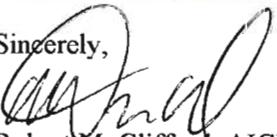
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Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development
Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
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Tampa, FL 33612-6456

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Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP

Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Enclosures
cc: George Ballo, CEMO



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STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
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June 25, 2008

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

Attention: Ms. Joyce Bear, Historic Preservation Manager

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Ms. Bear:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the process of conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the above project. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advanced Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

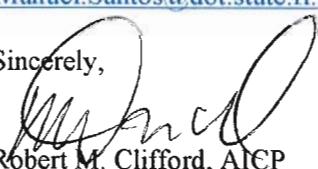
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Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
11201 North McKinley Drive / M.S. 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

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Sincerely,


Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Enclosures

cc: George Ballo, CEMO



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

Mr. Beasley Denson
Chairman
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Attention: Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Mr. Carleton:

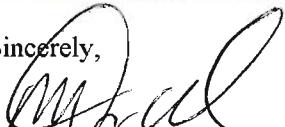
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the process of conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the above project. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advanced Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

Please consider this letter an invitation to offer us your comments in this early data gathering stage of the project development process. Naturally future consultation under the Section 106 process will take place as appropriate. The Department is especially interested in any first hand knowledge you could share with us involving any cultural resource issues in the project area, or any concerns you may have regarding the project in general.

Please submit any written comments you may have to:

Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development
Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
11201 North McKinley Drive / M.S. 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

We look forward to your comments and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Manny Santos, Project Manager, at (813) 975-6173 or toll free at 1-800-226-7220 or Manuel.Santos@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Enclosures
cc: George Ballo, CEMO



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

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

Attention: Steve Terry, Land Resource Manager

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Mr. Terry:

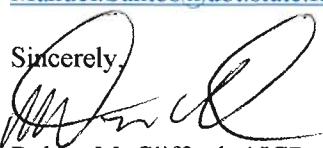
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Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 25, 2008

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

Re: WPI Seg. No. 421140 8
US 41 (SR 45) PD&E Services/ Hillsborough County / Advance Notification
From 12th Street to Kracker Avenue

Dear Mr. Cypress:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the process of conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the above project. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advanced Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

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Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
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Robert M. Clifford, AICP
Department Head, Intermodal Systems Development

Enclosures

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