Section 4(f) Resources

Florida Department of Transportation

SR 45 US 41 SR 44 WEST MARION CO LINE

District: FDOT District 7

County: Citrus County

ETDM Number: N/A

Financial Management Number: 237811-1-21-01

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Manager: Kirk R. Bogen

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT. Submitted pursuant 49 U.S.C. § 303.

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Summary and Approval

Resource Name	Facility Type	Property Classification	Owner/Official with Jurisdiction	Recommended Outcome	OEM SME Action
Withlacoochee State Trail	This facility is a trail.	Park/Rec Area	FDEP	Not Applicable	Determination 07-12-2023

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Withlacoochee State Trail

Facility Type: This facility is a trail.

Property Classification: Park/Rec Area

Address and Coordinates:

Address: 1966 US-41, Inverness, FL, 34450, USA

Latitude: 28.84877 Longitude: -82.34449

Description of Property:

Withlacoochee State Trail is a 46 mile long paved 12 foot wide trail located at 3100 South Old Floral City Road, Inverness, FL 34450. It is officially designated as part of the Florida Greenways and Trail System and this state trail is also designated as a National Recreation Trail.

In the late 1800s, railroad entrepreneur Henry Plant established a rail line that ran from Croom to Inverness, Florida, thus completing the Plant System's West Coast Route. The Plant System eventually became the Atlantic Coast Line in 1902, the Seaboard Coast Line in 1967, and finally, CSX Transportation in 1980. In December 1989, CSX Transportation sold their 46 miles of ROW between Gulf Junction (Citrus Springs) and Owensboro Junction, six miles north of Dade City, to the state of Florida to establish the Withlacoochee State Trail. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) determined that the Seaboard Coastline Railroad/ Atlantic Coastline Railroad [Cl00335] was ineligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing on May 20, 2020. Note that this was also recorded as Cl01120, which SHPO has changed to Cl00335 in their files. The corridor was one of the first purchased under the Florida Rails to Trails Program utilizing State Infrastructure funds. The Withlacoochee State Trail is one of the longest, paved rail-trails in Florida.

The Withlacoochee State Trail is primarily used for walking, biking, skating, horseback riding, bird watching, and viewing plants and wildlife.

Owner/Official with Jurisdiction: FDEP

Recommended Outcome: Not Applicable

Rationale:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Florida Rails to Trails signed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on 12/6/1995 and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on 1/26/1996 and concurred with by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on 2/1/1996 satisfies the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 303 (popularly known as Section 4(f)), and 23 CFR 771, for transportation improvements using federal funds. The purpose of this MOU was to develop a mutually acceptable process for the coordination, planning, and joint development of near term and future transporation improvements and trail projects contained within the Florida Rails to Trails Program. This MOU and the subsequent planning activities of signatories to this MOU, are intended to satisfy the FDOT that Section 4(f) does not apply for federally funded transportation improvements that intersect with trails administered by the FDEP, since full consideration of multiple land use and joint development would have occurred pursuant to this MOU as part of the trail planning and management process. The Withlacoochee State Trail Approved Unit Management Plan (December 23, 2015) indicates the Withlacoochee State Trail is designated single-use to provide public outdoor recreation and multimodal transportation opportunities. A planned use for the Withlacoochee State Trail includes the widening of US 41 between Inverness and Floral City.

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Coordination with FDEP will continue as the project advances through design and construction and safe pedestrian access will be included in the design plans and maintained throughout construction.

OEM SME Determination Date: 07-12-2023

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Resource Attachments

Withlacoochee State Trail

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