

# 6.0 Coordination

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## 6.1 Alternatives Analysis Process Coordination

The alternatives analysis process for this PD&E Study has provided opportunities for the involvement of participating agencies and the public, and has considered the input provided by these groups. Since the study began in 2005, over 220 meetings have been held with the public (particularly residents and landowners within the study area), federal, state and local agencies, environmental groups, and other stakeholders.

A multi-step alternatives evaluation was undertaken for the proposed Wekiva Parkway project. Through mid 2005, conceptual alignment alternatives within the entire study area were developed and reviewed with the various stakeholders. After extensive analysis under impact assessment criteria and multiple meetings with State and local agencies, numerous Initial Alternatives within the identified study area were presented for public feedback in workshops in November 2005. The initial alternatives Public Workshops were held on the dates and at the locations shown below:

- *November 9, 2005 – Orange County Public Workshop at Apopka High School*
- *November 10, 2005 – Lake County Public Workshop at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora*
- *November 14, 2005 – Seminole County Public Workshop at the Sanford Civic Center*

A total of 1,147 attendees signed in at the three workshops and 285 comment forms were submitted after the workshops. All public comments were reviewed and responded to in writing. Many of the comments expressed opinions in favor of or against specific alignment alternatives or interchange concepts.

With consideration of the input received, further development of the alternatives was undertaken. After more refinement, evaluation and numerous meetings with multiple stakeholders, the Viable Alternatives were presented for public comment in workshops in July/August 2006. The viable alternatives Public Workshops were held on the dates and at the locations shown below:

- *July 25, 2006 – Seminole County Public Workshop at the Sanford Civic Center*
- *July 26, 2006 – Orange County Public Workshop at Apopka High School*
- *August 1, 2006 – Lake County Public Workshop at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora*

A total of 1,201 attendees signed in at the workshops and 573 comment forms were submitted after the workshops. All public comments were reviewed and responded to in writing. Many of the comments expressed opinions in favor of or against specific alignment alternatives or interchange concepts/locations.

Subsequent meetings with stakeholders were held and additional refinements to the viable alternatives were made. The alternatives selected for further evaluation were initially identified in April 2007, and after additional meetings with the various stakeholders, refinements were made through the end of 2007.

The entire alternatives analysis process is documented in text and graphics in two technical memoranda prepared in 2006. The first is entitled *Technical Memorandum – Development and Analysis of Initial Alternatives*; the second is *Technical Memorandum – Identification and Evaluation of Viable Alternatives*. That information is being updated to include the service road concept in Lake County East and the input received at/after the Public Workshop held in December of 2009. The alternatives analysis process is also described in the *Environmental Assessment* prepared for this PD&E Study, and Appendices A, B, C and D to that document provide 11X17 aerial-based color graphics of all the alignment alternatives developed since 2005. The *Preliminary Engineering Report* for this PD&E Study also provides extensive details on the analysis of alternatives. The alternatives analysis methodologies utilized in this study have been consistent with the requirements in the FDOT PD&E Manual.

## 6.2 Individual Section 4(f) and Section 106 Coordination

As noted in Section 2.0, there has been coordination between FHWA and the SHPO on potential historic resources in the study area; eventually that Section 106 coordination was specific only to the Strite House and Bock House properties in Orange County. In April 2008, OOCEA and FDOT conducted a Cultural Resource Consultation meeting in Apopka with a SHPO representative, the owners of the Strite House and Bock House properties, and other stakeholders. There has also been coordination between FDOT and the USFWS on potential impacts to threatened species (Florida Scrub Jay) habitat in Orange County as discussed in Section 4.

An update on the project study was provided to SHPO staff in a conference call on March 9, 2010. Additional Section 106 consultation with the affected property owners, the SHPO, FHWA, FDOT, OOCEA and other stakeholders will be undertaken to address and resolve issues concerning adverse effects. A Section 106 Case Study will also be prepared.

## 6.3 Programmatic Section 4(f) Coordination

Since the alignment of the proposed Wekiva Parkway closely follows (and will replace) existing SR 46 in the area where impacts to public lands would occur, a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation was prepared. The impacted public lands – Rock Springs Run State Reserve, Seminole State Forest, and Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park – are all owned by the State of Florida. In each case, the direct use impacts on the Section 4(f) lands would be less than one per cent of the total acreage. After extensive coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, full Section 4(f) concurrence was received from those agencies in March 2010 and April 2010, respectively.

The proposed replacement bridge over the Wekiva River and a parallel service road bridge, which would be at the same location as the existing SR 46 bridge, are addressed in a Wild & Scenic River (W&SR) Addendum to the Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation. The Wekiva River, a designated W&SR, is sovereign submerged land owned by the State of Florida. The new bridges would be over about 0.96 acre of a recreation segment of the river, so potential Section 4(f) impacts and improvements over existing conditions are documented. Related coordination and consultation has been ongoing with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS). NPS has management and oversight responsibility for the river, in concert with their Wekiva River System Advisory Management Committee.