

Appendix D

Advance Notification

- D-1 Advance Notification (AN) dated February 23, 2005
- D-2 AN Response from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry dated April 28, 2005
- D-3 AN Response from Florida Department of Environmental Protection dated May 23, 2005



Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

719 South Woodland Boulevard
Deland, FL 32720-6834
Mail Station 501

JOSÉ ABREU
SECRETARY

February 23, 2005

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

ATTN: Lauren P. Milligan, Environmental Consultant

Subject: Advance Notification for Wekiva Parkway Project Development and
Environment Study
Orange, Seminole and Lake Counties, Florida
Financial Project ID: 238275 1 22 01 (FDOT Only)
240200 1 22 01 (FDOT Only)

The attached Advance Notification Package is forwarded to your office for processing through appropriate State agencies in accordance with Executive Order 95-359. Distribution to local and Federal agencies is being made as noted.

Although more specific comments will be solicited during the permit coordination process, we request that permitting and permit reviewing agencies review the attached information and furnish us with whatever general comments they consider pertinent at this time.

This is a Federal aid action and the Florida Department of Transportation and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, with input from the Federal Highway Administration, will determine what degree of environmental documentation will be necessary. The determination will be based upon in-house environmental evaluations and comments received through coordination with other agencies. Please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. In addition, please review this improvement's consistency, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government jurisdictions pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

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:

Ms. Anne Brewer, P.E.
District Project Development and Environment Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation, District 5
719 S. Woodland Boulevard, MS 501
Deland, FL 32720

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Anne Brewer, P.E.
District Project Development and Environment Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation, District 5

Attachments:

Advance Notification Fact Sheet
Mailing List
Application for Federal Assistance

C:

Mailing List (Attached)

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ORLANDO-ORANGE COUNTY EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY**

**WEKIVA PARKWAY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

1. Need for Project

The central Florida region has experienced tremendous growth over the past few decades that has resulted in increasing demands on the region's transportation system and rising development pressures on the land surrounding the Wekiva River Protection Area. The combined growth rate in Orange County, Seminole County and Lake County exceeded 30 percent between 1990 and 2000, compared to approximately 24 percent for the state. The growth rate in the tri-county area is expected to slow over the next two decades to 18 percent between 2000 and 2010 (4 percent higher than the state rate) and 24 percent between 2010 and 2020 (8 percent higher than the state rate). Population growth projections in Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties indicate that travel demand will continue to increase beyond the year 2020.

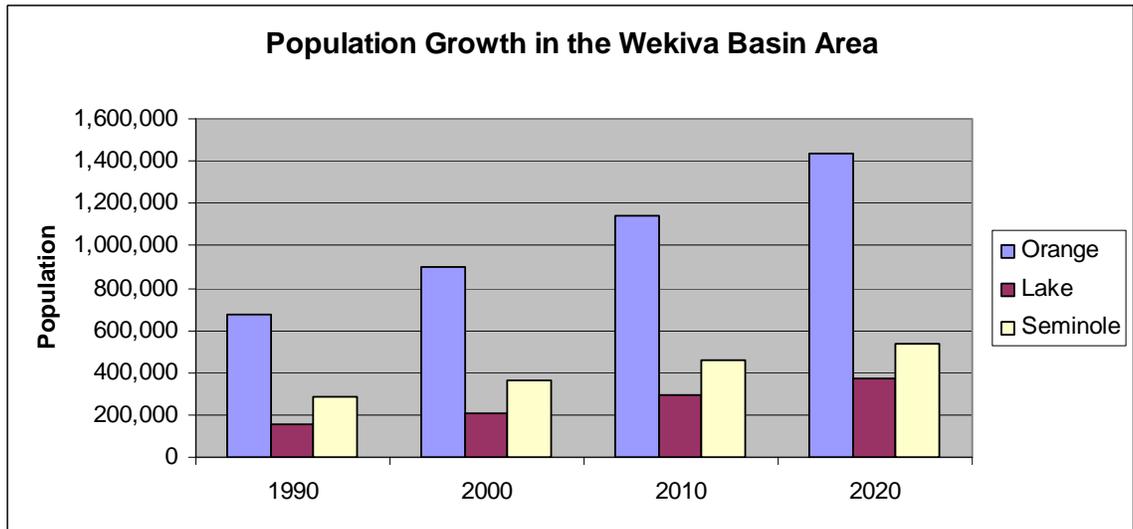


Figure 1. Population Growth in the Wekiva Basin Area

The region is currently served by Florida's Turnpike and Interstate 4, both of which are heavily traveled. A primary component of the regional transportation system is an eastern beltway around Orlando and a portion of a western beltway located between Interstate 4 on the south and US 441 in Apopka, which serve as bypasses for Interstate 4. Completing the beltway connector is an essential component of meeting the growing regional transportation demand.

Previous plans to complete the northwest portion of the beltway were deferred in response to both environmental and community concerns. Alternate plans to address the connector – including widening State Road 46 and building a northwest arterial –have been studied, however stalled due to environmental and community concerns. Existing transportation studies also document that the traditional widening of SR 46 will not alleviate the constrained traffic on Interstate 4 and that the existing roadway network is inadequate to serve travel demand.

The Wekiva Parkway is necessary to:

- Improve regional connectivity – only three east-west travel options exist in a 25-mile envelope;
- Improve safety – From 1997 to 2001, SR 46 has been the location of 14 traffic fatalities and more than 30 bear kills;
- Address increased growth – both population and economic growth as forecasted in local comprehensive plans; and
- Address increased travel demands – the capacity for SR 46 is 24,900 vehicles per day; with historical traffic volume growth exceeding seven percent per year, by 2025, SR 46 would have to support more than 33,000 vehicles per day.

2. **Description of Project**

The purpose of the Wekiva Parkway Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is to determine the most appropriate alignment for the Wekiva Parkway that serves the community while minimizing costs and potential impacts to surrounding homes, businesses and the environment. The study area includes the following components:

- **The Wekiva Parkway** which begins in Orange County at US 441 just west of CR 437 and extends to the north/northeast into Lake County, turning east and crossing the Wekiva River into Seminole County and terminating at I-4. The approximate length of the Wekiva Parkway is approximately 21 miles, with approximately 9 miles in Orange County, 7 miles in Lake County and 5 miles in Seminole County.
- **SR 46 Reconstruction and Realignment** which begins at the SR 46/US 441 interchange in Lake County extending east to a point just east of Round Lake Road then turning southeast on a new alignment entering Orange County with an interchange connection at the Wekiva Parkway. It is expected that the SR 46 improvements will provide controlled-access along the existing alignment from US 441 to the point east of Round Lake Road, while the remaining alignment is expected to be limited-access. The approximate length of the SR 46 Reconstruction and Realignment is approximately 5 miles, with 4 miles in Lake County and 1 mile in Orange County.

- **CR 46A Realignment** which begins on CR 46A in Lake County near the new Heathrow Gatwick Development and extends to the south-southeast on a new alignment and ties into existing SR 46 with an access connection to the Wekiva Parkway. The approximate length of the CR 46A realignment is approximately 3 miles.
- **Wekiva Parkway Access Improvements** are required in Lake County between the realignment of CR 46A and the Wekiva River to allow access to the private property along existing SR 46. It is proposed that the Wekiva Parkway will carry all traffic crossing between Seminole and Lake Counties and provisions for access are required for several properties in this area of Lake County.

The Wekiva Parkway has been the focus of significant community attention within the State of Florida. The Governor of Florida assembled the Wekiva Basin Task Force (Task Force) and the Wekiva River Basin Coordinating Committee (Coordinating Committee) through Executive Orders. These committees considered a full array of issues associated with the Wekiva River Basin. One of the key recommendations that resulted from these significant efforts was the support for development of the Wekiva Parkway. Through the efforts of the Task Force and Coordinating Committee, the Wekiva Parkway Protection Act was signed into law on June 29, 2004. The PD&E study efforts shall take into consideration the legislative direction of the Wekiva Parkway Protection Act, including consideration and implementation of the Guiding Principles referenced in the Act.

The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) and the Florida Department of Transportation – District 5 (FDOT) are providing management services for the PD&E study. FDOT is the lead agency for the Lake County and Seminole County portions of the study. OOCEA is the lead agency for the Orange County portion of the study. The PD&E study is fully funded by OOCEA and FDOT. Funding for the final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction phases of the Wekiva Parkway project has not been programmed. The project will follow NEPA requirements in anticipation of federal funding assistance.

The Wekiva Parkway will be designed as a four-lane limited-access divided expressway, and be expandable to six-lanes. The preferred alignment and location of interchanges will be determined during the PD&E study. A portion of the Wekiva Parkway is expected to be tolled.

The project is located in quadrangles F5 (Apopka), G3 (Sanford), G4 (Sanford), G5 (Sorrento) and G6 (Eustis). Figure 2, located at the end of the fact sheet, presents the study corridor.

3. **Environmental Information**

a. **Land Uses**

The majority of the study area falls within unincorporated portions of Orange, Seminole and Lake Counties. The Cities of Apopka, Mt. Dora, Eustis, Lake Mary and Sanford are within or adjacent to the study area. Other unincorporated communities and/or major developments include: Plymouth, Tangerine, Sorrento, Mt. Plymouth, Zellwood Station, Errol Estates, Spring Hollow, and Rock Springs Ridge.

The predominate land uses currently within the study area include rural/agricultural land uses interspersed by numerous suburban land uses. The Task Force and Coordinating Committee realized that the proposed Wekiva Parkway, associated interchanges, and other roadways in the area will improve access and thereby increase development pressure in the project study area. The protection of groundwater recharge to springs in and around the project study area that feed the Wekiva River is crucial to the long-term health of the Wekiva Basin Ecosystem. To balance the objectives of improving the highway corridors while protecting the Wekiva Basin Ecosystem, the Task Force and Coordinating Committee formulated recommendations to protect the springshed, along with the wildlife and habitat, while preserving the rural character of the area.

b. **Wetlands**

The project study area includes a number of wetland areas ranging from open water lakes to forested systems. The Wekiva River Basin and the Lake Apopka Conservation Area are located in the study area. The Wekiva River Protection Act was enacted by the Florida Legislature in 1988 to protect the resources of the Wekiva River Basin. The Act declared the Wekiva River a natural resource of state and regional importance and delineated an area comprising portions of Lake, Seminole and Orange Counties as the Wekiva River Protection Area. The Lake Apopka Conservation Area contains land that has been acquired by the state as part of the Lake Apopka Restoration Project. The land is primarily old muck farms that will be converted into filter marshes to improve water quality in Lake Apopka.

The study area lies within the Lake Harris and Lake Apopka planning units of the Ocklawaha River Basin, and within the Wekiva River and Lake Monroe planning units of the Middle St. Johns River Basin, as defined by the St. Johns River Management District. The St. Johns River Management District requires that special standards and criteria be met before construction within the Lake Apopka and Wekiva River Basins.

A wetland evaluation will be conducted for the project. Potential wetland impacts are anticipated and will be evaluated during the study. Impacts to wetlands and critical uplands will be avoided and minimized where possible based on safe and sound engineering and construction practices. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the St. John's River Water Management District have regulatory jurisdiction of the wetlands in the study area.

The amount and type of mitigation required for the project related wetland impacts will be based on further analysis of the wetlands' functional values during subsequent project development phases and the permitting process.

c. Floodplains

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the proposed project will involve work in areas of the 100-year floodplain. The proposed study will evaluate any impacts to the floodplains. The proposed improvements are not anticipated to impact any regulated floodways.

d. Wildlife and Habitat

A complete wildlife and habitat assessment will be conducted to evaluate the potential for any adverse impacts to listed species during the PD&E study. The assessment will include measures necessary to mitigate for any impacts to listed species. The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority and the Florida Department of Transportation will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) during the Wekiva Parkway PD&E study.

A list of species, listed by the USFWS as endangered (E) or threatened (T), and believed to potentially inhabit or migrate within the study area is listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1. PROTECTED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN THE WEKIVA PARKWAY STUDY CORRIDOR
Protected Wildlife Species known to occur, or have the potential to occur in the project area based on known ranges and habitat preferences. List is not all-inclusive.

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
			Federal	State
Mammals	Florida Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>		T
	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>		SSC
	Florida Mouse	<i>Podomys floridanus</i>		SSC
Birds	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	T
	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>		SSC
	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		SSC
	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		SSC
	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>		SSC
	Florida Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>		T
	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	T	T
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	SSC
	SE American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>		T
	Burrowing Owl	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>		SSC
	Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T	T
	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>		SSC
Amphibian	Gopher Frog	<i>Rana capito</i>		SSC
Reptiles	Eastern Indigo Snake	<i>Dymarchon corais couperi</i>	T	T
	Sand Skink	<i>Neoseps reynoldsi</i>	T	T
	Short-tailed Snake	<i>Stilosoma extenuatum</i>		T
	Florida Pine Snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>		SSC
	Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>		SSC
	American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T (S/A)	SSC
Plants	Florida Bonamia	<i>Bonamia grandiflora</i>	T	E
	Hand Fern	<i>Cheiroglossa palmata</i>		E
	Beautiful Pawpaw	<i>Deeringothamnus pulchellus</i>	E	E
	Scrub Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum longifolium</i> var. <i>gnaphalifolium</i>	T	E
	Scrub Lupine	<i>Lupinus westianus</i> var. <i>aridorum</i>	E	E
	Britton's Beargrass	<i>Nolina brittoniana</i>	E	E

TABLE 1. PROTECTED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN THE WEKIVA PARKWAY STUDY CORRIDOR
Protected Wildlife Species known to occur, or have the potential to occur in the project area based on known ranges and habitat preferences. List is not all-inclusive.

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
			Federal	State
	Paper-like Nailwort	<i>Paronychia chartacea</i> ssp. <i>chartacea</i>	T	E
	Lewton's Polygala	<i>Polygala lewtonii</i>	E	E
	Small's Jointweed	<i>Polygonella myriophylla</i>	E	E
	Scrub Plum	<i>Prunus geniculata</i>	E	E
	Clasping Warea	<i>Warea amplexifolia</i>	E	E

Federal = US Fish and Wildlife Service
State = Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
E = Endangered
T = Threatened
T(S/A) = Threatened due to similarity of appearance
SSC = Species of Special Concern

Note: No known Wood Stork Colony within 18 miles of project.

e. Outstanding Florida Waters

The Wekiva River is an Outstanding Florida Water and is located in the project study area. Special precautions will be taken to avoid and/or minimize impacts to any areas within the special designations of the Outstanding Florida Water.

f. Aquatic Preserves

The Wekiva River is an Aquatic Preserve and is located in the project study area. Special precautions will be taken to avoid and/or minimize impacts to any areas within the special designations of the Aquatic Preserve.

g. Coastal Consistency Determination

This project is not located in or near a coastal barrier resource as defined by the Governor's Executive Order 81-105 and the Federal Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA).

h. Cultural Resources

As part of the study, a cultural resource survey will be conducted to identify all historic and archaeological sites that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. FDOT and the Expressway Authority will seek to minimize any impacts to cultural resources within the project vicinity.

A Section 4(f) evaluation will be conducted to identify any parks, public recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl areas located within the project study area. FDOT and the Expressway Authority will seek to minimize any impacts to Section 4(f) resources within the project vicinity.

There are numerous public and private schools, community centers, churches, and cemeteries in the study area. In addition, there are several parks and conservation areas located in or near the study area. The Wekiva River and its tributaries, along with the St. Johns River and associated lands in Central Florida, have been recognized as one of the state's most valuable assets. The Wekiva Basin ecosystem is an outstanding natural resource: the Wekiva River and its tributaries have been designated an Outstanding Florida Water, a National Wild and Scenic River, a Florida Wild and Scenic River and a Florida Aquatic Preserve. Other parks in the study area include the Lake Apopka Conservation Area, Kelly Park/Rock Springs Park, Roosevelt Nichols Park, and the Oklawaha Basin Recreation and Water Conservation area in Lake County.

i. Coastal Barrier Resources

There are no Coastal Barrier Resources in the study area.

j. Contamination

The proposed project improvements are not expected to significantly impact contaminated properties within the project study area. A Contamination Screening Evaluation Report (CSER) will be prepared for the project. The CSER will rank each site with regard to the risk of contamination per the methodology identified in Chapter 22 of the FDOT *PD&E Manual*.

k. Sole Source Aquifer

There are no sole source aquifers located within or near the project study area.

l. Noise

There are several potential noise sensitive receivers along the project. These include single-family residences and churches. A detailed Noise Analysis Report will be completed during the PD&E Study.

m. Other Comments

An air quality evaluation will be conducted during the project study. It is not anticipated that the project will have any significant impacts to the air quality.

The study area contains two regional watersheds, the Ocklawaha River Basin and the Wekiva River Hydrologic Basin, as defined by the SJRWMD. Approximately one-third of the study area is within the Ocklawaha River Basin. SJRWMD requires special standards and criteria be met before construction within these Basins.

4. **Navigable Waterway Crossing?** ___Y X N

5. **Permits Required (and associated Agency)**

Federal Dredge and Fill Permit (filed jointly with ERP)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Environmental Resource Permit (ERP)	St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
Incidental Take Permit (State)	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)
Incidental Take Permit (Federal)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Wekiva Parkway Project Development and Environment Study Advance Notification Mailing List

Orange, Lake and Seminole Counties

STATE:

- Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Community Planning
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Intergovernmental Programs
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida State Clearinghouse Coordinator
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Division of State Lands, Bureau of Submerged Lands and Preserves
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Office of Land Use Planning and Biological Services
- Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Resources
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Northeast Regional Office
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Environmental Services
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Marine Fisheries
- Florida Department of Transportation – Federal Aid Programs Coordinator
- Florida Department of Transportation – Environmental Management Office
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- Florida Marine Fisheries Commission

FEDERAL:

- Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator
- Federal Highway Administration, District Transportation Engineer
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Branch, District Engineer
- U.S. Coast Guard, Seventh District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Southern Region
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Disease Control
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Regional Environmental Officer
- U.S. Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Supervisor
- U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of the Interior - Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Affairs Program
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region IV, Regional Administrator
- U.S. Department of Commerce – National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Department of Interior – National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida

- Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise

REGIONAL:

- St. Johns River Water Management District
- East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Center for Urban Transportation Research
- Central Florida MPO Alliance
- METROPLAN ORLANDO
- Seminole County Expressway Authority

PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

- Governor Jeb Bush
- United States Senate
 - Senator Mel Martinez
 - Senator Bill Nelson
- United States House of Representatives
 - Congressman Corrine Brown District 3
 - Congressman John Mica District 7
 - Congressman Tom Feeney District 24
 - Congressman Ric Keller District 8
- Florida State Senate
 - Senator Daniel Webster District 9
 - Senator Gary Siplin District 19
 - Senator Carey Baker District 20
 - Senator Lee Constantine District 22
- Florida State House of Representatives:
 - Representative David Simmons District 37
 - Representative Fred Brummer District 38
 - Representative Bruce Antone District 39
 - Representative Randy Johnson District 41

LOCAL:

Orange County

- Community and Environmental Services, Environmental Protection Division
- Growth Management Department, Planning Division
- Public Works Director
- School Board
- Mayor Richard T. Crotty
- Commissioner Teresa Jacobs District 1
- Commissioner Robert B. “Bob” Sindler District 2
- Commissioner Mildred Fernandez District 3
- Commissioner Linda Stewart District 4
- Commissioner Bill Segal District 5
- Commissioner Homer L. Hartage District 6
- Ajit Lalchandani, County Administrator

Seminole County

- Public Works Director
- Planning and Development Director
- Jerry McCollum, P.E., County Engineer
- School Board
- Chairman Carlton D. Henley District 4
- Commissioner Bob Dallari District 1
- Commissioner Randall C. Morris District 2
- Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide District 3
- Commissioner Brenda Carey District 5
- J. Kevin Grace, County Manager

Lake County

- Public Works Director
- Planning and Development Services
- Engineer Division Director
- School Board
- Chairman Debbie Stivender District 3
- Commissioner Jennifer Hill District 1
- Commissioner Robert Pool District 2
- Commissioner Catherine Hansen District 4
- Commissioner Welton Cadwell District 5
- William Neron, County Manager

City of Apopka

- Public Services Department
- Community Development Director
- City Engineer
- Mayor John Land
- Commissioner Billie Dean
- Commissioner Marilyn Ustler-McQueen
- Commissioner Kathy Till
- Commissioner J.W. Arrowsmith
- City Administrator Jack Douglas
- City Administrator Richard Anderson

City of Sanford

- Public Works Department
- Department of Planning and Community Development
- Mayor Brady Lessard
- Commissioner Art Woodriff District 1
- Commissioner Velma Williams District 2
- Commissioner Randy Jones District 3
- Commissioner Kevin Hipes District 4
- Al Grieshaber, City Manager

City of Eustis

- Public Works Department
 - Mayor – Frank E. Royce
 - Vice Mayor Jonnie C. Hale
 - Commissioner Evelyn H. Smith
 - Commissioner Gwendolyn M. Manning
 - Commissioner James T. Rotella
 - Michael G. Stearman, City Manager
- Seat 1
Seat 5
Seat 3
Seat 2
Seat 4

City of Mt. Dora

- Public Services Department
 - Planning and Development Department
 - Mayor – James E. Yatsuk
 - Vice Mayor Ryan Donovan
 - Councilman Robert A. Maraio
 - Council Member Judy Smathers
 - Councilman Christopher Shipley
 - Councilman James Homich
 - Councilman Larry Baker
 - Bernice Brinson, City Manager
- District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
At Large
At Large

City of Lake Mary

- Public Works Department
 - Community Development Department
 - Mayor – Thomas C. Greene
 - Deputy Mayor Janet M. Jernigan
 - Commissioner Gary L. Brender
 - Commissioner George F. Duryea
 - Commissioner Michael J. McLean
 - John Litton, City Manager
- At Large
At Large
At Large
At Large

**APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED March 15, 2005	Applicant Identifier Financial ID: 238275 1 22 01
		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier
		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Legal Name: Florida Department of Transportation		Organizational Unit: Ofc. of Design State Trans. Planners Office	
Address (give city, county, State, and zip code): 605 Suwannee Street, Leon County Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450		Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) Anne Brewer, P.E., District PD&E Engineer (386) 943-5391	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 59-6001874		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> H. Independent School Dist. I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify) _____ </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: -20px;">A</div>	
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other(specify): _____		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: US Department of Transportation	
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 20-205 TITLE: Highway Planning and Construction		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Financial Project ID No: 238275 1 22 01 240200 1 22 01 Wekiva Parkway from US 441 in Orange County, west of CR 437, north into Lake County and east to I-4 in Seminole County.	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Orange, Lake and Seminole Counties, Florida			
13. PROPOSED PROJECT		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:	
Start Date 1/10/05	Ending Date 1/10/07	a. Applicant b. Project Congressional Districts 3, 7, 8 and 24	
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$ 510,000,000.00	a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE 03/07/05 b. No. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372 OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
b. Applicant	\$.00		
c. State	\$ 170,000,000.00		
d. Local	\$.00		
e. Other	\$.00		
f. Program Income	\$.00		
g. TOTAL -	Preliminary Construction Cost Est. \$680,000,000.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.			
a. Type Name of Authorized Representative Anne Brewer, P.E.		b. Title District PD&E Engineer	c. Telephone Number (386) 943-5391
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 3/15/05	

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Forestry

Memorandum

TO: Florida State Clearinghouse

FROM: Forrest Watson

DATE: April 28, 2005

SUBJECT: Department of Transportation – Advance Notification – Wekiva Parkway PD&E Study – Financial Project ID Nos. 238275-1-22-01 and 240200-1-22-01 – Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties, Florida.
SAI # FL200503210609C

The Florida Division of Forestry offers the following comments regarding the FDOT Wekiva Parkway Study:

Road design should not reduce the number or alter the location of access points to Seminole State Forest (SSF). Currently there are four access points along SR 46 and eight along CR 46A.

It is our understanding regarding the current road design that portions of SR 46 would be elevated adjacent to SSF to provide wildlife crossings. It is important that any road design increase the area for safe wildlife crossings.

We suggest that this project comply with the Florida Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund Linear Facilities Policy on natural resource lands, which addresses avoidance, minimization of impacts, and compensation for impacts to natural resources, natural resource lands, and related appurtenances. Road and construction area footprints should be minimized on SSF. Any impacts should be mitigated directly on SSF. The proposed parkway route appears to only affect the existing SR 46 right-of-way or areas immediately adjacent to the right-of-way.

The CR 46A realignment should tie the existing CR 46A to SR 46, west of the Design Homes Parcel of SSF. Limiting traffic on the existing CR 46A, east of the Design Homes Parcel, to local use would aid forest management and provide improved wildlife crossing areas.

POLICY

Use of Natural Resource Lands by Linear Facilities

As Approved By

Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund

on January 23, 1996

(A) Purpose and Scope.

(1) This policy applies only to linear facilities, including electric transmission and distribution facilities, telecommunications transmission and distribution facilities, pipeline transmission and distribution facilities, public transportation corridors, and related appurtenances.

(2) While it is appropriate to discourage and prohibit most kinds of intrusions on natural resource lands, the Trustees recognize that the expanding ownership of lands by the state and the need to provide services to a growing population through linear facilities and related appurtenances will from time to time require crossings and location on such lands. The goal of this policy is to avoid and minimize conflicts between the acquisition and management of natural resource lands for conservation, recreation, and preservation and activities necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of linear facilities and related appurtenances.

(B) Definitions.

(1) "Natural Resources" include but are not limited to wetlands, lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and other surface and ground water resources, flora, fauna, fish and wildlife, natural communities, historical and archaeological resources, scenic vistas and aesthetic values.

(3) "Natural Resource Lands" are those lands owned by the Trustees and which: were acquired with funds from the P2000 or Save Our Coast Bond Program; or were acquired with funds from the CARL or LATF Trust Fund; or are managed for natural resources by the Division of Recreation and Parks, Division of Marine Resources, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Division of Forestry, or Secretary of State.

(3) "Related Appurtenances" include those support facilities necessary to the operation of linear facilities. (Examples include but are not limited to substations and pump-stations.)

(4) "Trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

(C) Avoidance.

Owners and operators of linear facilities must avoid location on natural resource lands unless no other practical and prudent alternative is available and all steps to minimize impacts as set forth below are implemented. The test of practicality and prudence will compare the social, economic, and environmental effects of the alternatives.

(D) Minimizing Impacts.

Applicants must minimize adverse impacts to natural resource lands through reasonable measures where applicable: locating the project in areas where less adverse impacts are expected, such as areas which have already been impacted and are less sensitive than other areas; avoiding significant wildlife habitats, natural aquatic areas, wetlands, or other valuable natural resources; selecting areas to minimize damage to existing aesthetically-pleasing features of the lands; employing best management practices in construction and operation activities; designing access roads and site preparation to avoid interference with hydrologic conditions that benefit natural resources and reduce impacts on other natural resources and public use and enjoyment; and; generally selecting areas that will not increase undesirable human activities on the natural resource lands; and generally, not adversely impacting the management of such lands. However, human activities may be encouraged where linear facility corridors are designated as part of a greenway or trail.

(E) Compensation.

(1) The applicant will pay the Trustees an amount not to exceed the fair market value of the interest acquired in the parcel on which the linear facility and related appurtenances will be located.

(2) In addition to the amount in (E) (1) above, the applicant will provide to the managing agency that measure of additional money, land, or services necessary to offset the actual adverse impacts reasonably expected to be caused by the construction, operation and maintenance of the linear facility and related appurtenances. Such impact compensation will be calculated from the land managing agency's timely presentation of documented costs which will result from the impacts of the proposed project.



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

May 23, 2005

Ms. Anne Brewer, P.E.
District Project Development & Environment Engineer
Florida Dept. of Transportation, District V
719 Woodland Boulevard, MS 501
DeLand, Florida 32720-6834

Received

MAY 26 2005

FDOT
Environmental Management

RE: Department of Transportation – Advance Notification – Wekiva Parkway PD&E Study –
Financial Project ID Nos. 238275-1-22-01 and 240200-1-22-01 – Orange, Lake and
Seminole Counties, Florida

SAI # FL200503210609C

Dear Ms. Brewer:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced advance notification.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has determined that this project is not inconsistent with Florida Statutes or the goals, objectives and policies of the subject local government comprehensive plans. The DCA notes, however, that the project is not currently addressed in those local plans. Prior to consideration for future advancement in the Florida Department of Transportation's Five Year Work Program, the project should be included in each of the local governments' comprehensive plans. The DCA is currently working with the local governments to update their comprehensive plans to include the Wekiva Parkway on their respective Future Transportation Maps. Please refer to the enclosed DCA comments for additional information.

The Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry (DOF) has several recommendations regarding the PD&E Study. Please find those suggestions in the enclosed DOF comments.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) states that an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) will be required for any construction in surface water, wetlands, or state

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

D-3

Ms. Anne Brewer
May 23, 2005
Page 2 of 3

lands. In accordance with the operating agreement between the DEP and water management district, DEP will process and review the application in accordance with Chapters 373 and 403 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.), Chapters 18-20 and 18-21 of the *Florida Administrative Code* (F.A.C.), and the applicable district MSSW handbook. The DEP notes that the proposed alignment must be based upon avoidance and minimization criteria to reduce potential impacts to resources. The DEP recommends that all mitigation funding provided to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) be applied to mitigation activities located within the Wekiva basin.

Constructing the Wekiva Parkway will impact forested wetlands of the Wekiva River Riparian Habitat Protection Zone. The Wekiva River is an Aquatic Preserve and a National Wild and Scenic River. The information provided in the Advance Notification does not provide details regarding anticipated impacts on sovereign submerged lands. Additional details will be required regarding the types of wetlands being traversed, the type of construction, construction access, amount of dredging and filling proposed for wetlands and an explanation of how impacts to wetlands have been minimized or avoided. The applicant is advised to contact Mr. Aaron Watkins of the DEP Central District at (407) 893-7870 for further information.

The DEP notes that a public easement will be required for any portion of the roadway that crosses the Wekiva River. This proprietary authorization should be acquired from the SJRWMD. The applicant is advised to contact Mr. Wilbert Holliday of the DEP Central District at (407) 893-3997 for further information.

Any water main extension or modification will require a permit from the DEP, in accordance with Chapter 62-555, F.A.C. Additionally, any water mains crossing over or under surface water bodies (rivers) must meet the requirements found in Item 8.7 of the DEP's Recommended Standards for Water Works. The applicant is advised to contact Mr. Richard Lott of the DEP Central District at (407) 893-3325 for further information.

The DEP states that the Wekiva River is situated within the Middle St. Johns River, a Group 2 basin for purposes of establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for waters identified as being impaired (i.e. not meeting state water quality standards). Stormwater may require greater treatment in sub-basins where surface waters are impaired. Until TMDLs are developed and implemented, however, the ramifications of TMDLs on projects such as this cannot be better defined. The applicant is advised to contact Ms. Barbara Bess of the DEP Central District (407) 893-3984 for additional information.

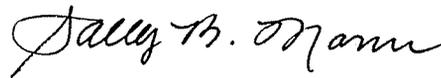
Based on the information contained in the advance notification and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the allocation of federal funds for the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The applicant must, however, address the concerns identified by the reviewing

Ms. Anne Brewer
May 23, 2005
Page 3 of 3

agencies prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of any issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Suzanne E. Ray at (850) 245-2172.

Yours sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/ser

Enclosures

cc: Geoffrey Sample, SJRWMD
Barb Bess, DEP Central District
Forrest Watson, DACS Div. of Forestry
Ray Eubanks, DCA



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

[DEP Home](#) | [OIP Home](#) | [Contact DEP](#) | [Search](#) | [DEP Site Map](#)

Project Information	
Project:	FL200503210609C
Comments Due:	04/20/2005
Letter Due:	05/20/2005
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - WEKIVA PARKWAY PD&E STUDY - FINANCIAL PROJECT ID NOS. 238275-1-22-01 AND 240200-1-22-01 - ORANGE, LAKE, AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	DOT - WEKIVA PARKWAY PD&E STUDY - ORANGE, LAKE, AND SEMINOLE CO.
CEQA #:	20.205
Agency Comments:	
E. CENTRAL FL RPC - EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
The proposed project, as presented for review and when considered in its entirety, is consistent with the adopted Goals, Policies and Objectives of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.	
LAKE - LAKE COUNTY	
ORANGE - ORANGE COUNTY	
SEMINOLE -	
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT - OFFICE OF POLICY AND BUDGET, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
No Comment	
AGRICULTURE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES	
Comments were e-mailed to Lauren Milligan. Among other comments included with e-mail, we suggest that this project comply with the Florida Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund Linear Facilities Policy on natural resource lands, which addresses avoidance, minimization of impacts, and compensation for impacts to natural resources, natural resource lands, and related appurtenances.	
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
Based on the information contained within the advance notification package, DCA has determined that this project is not inconsistent with Florida Statutes or the goals, objectives and policies of the plans. However, this project is not currently addressed in the local governments' comprehensive plan. For future advancement in the FDOT's Five Year Work Program, this project should be included in each of the local governments' comprehensive plans. DCA is currently working with the local governments to update their comprehensive plans to include the Wekiva Parkway on the Future Transportation Map.	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
No comment by Steve Lau 4-27-05	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No comment/Consistent	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) states that an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) will be required for any construction in surface water, wetlands, or state lands. In accordance with the operating agreement between the DEP and water management district, DEP will process and review the application in accordance with Chapters 373 and 403 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.), Chapters 18-20 and 18-21 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and the applicable district MSSW handbook. The DEP notes that the proposed alignment must be based upon avoidance and minimization criteria to reduce potential impacts to resources. The DEP recommends that all mitigation funding provided to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) be applied to mitigation activities located within the Wekiva basin. Constructing the Wekiva Parkway will impact forested wetlands of the Wekiva River Riparian Habitat Protection Zone. The Wekiva River is an Aquatic Preserve and a National Wild and Scenic River. The information provided in the Advance Notification does not provide details regarding anticipated impacts on sovereign submerged lands. Additional details will be	

required regarding the types of wetlands being traversed, the type of construction, construction access, amount of dredging and filling proposed for wetlands and an explanation of how impacts to wetlands have been minimized or avoided. The applicant is advised to contact Mr. Aaron Watkins of the DEP Central District at (407) 893-7870 for further information. The DEP notes that a public easement will be required for any portion of the roadway that crosses the Wekiva River. This proprietary authorization should be acquired from the SJRWMD. The applicant is advised to contact Mr. Wilbert Holliday of the DEP Central District at (407) 893-3997 for further information. Please refer to letter for additional comments.

ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD - ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The submittal indicates that an Environmental Resource Permit will be required from SJRWMD. However, it is our understanding that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will handle this permit review, not SJRWMD.

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the [Clearinghouse Home Page](#) to query other projects.

[Copyright and Disclaimer](#)
[Privacy Statement](#)