

SECTION 6

Coordination

Prior to commencement of the Wekiva Parkway (SR 429)/SR 46 Realignment PD&E Study in early 2005, the deliberations of the Wekiva Basin Area Task Force in 2002 and 2003 and the Wekiva River Basin Coordinating Committee in 2003 and 2004 were held in open, public meetings. Representatives of the state agencies which own/manage the public lands addressed in this Section 4(f) evaluation participated in those meetings. The work efforts and recommendations of those public-private committees were previously summarized in Sections 1.1 and 2.1 of this document. After the *Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act* was enacted in 2004, the Wekiva River Basin Commission (WRBC) was appointed by the Governor to oversee implementation of the Act. The 18 member WRBC is composed of state and local elected officials and others, including Directors of those state agencies which own/manage the public lands addressed in this Section 4(f) evaluation. 15 meetings of the WRBC, which are duly advertised and open to the public, have been held from November 2004 to January 2010. Updates on the progress and recommendations of the PD&E Study have been presented as those meetings.

Coordination activities with local and state governmental agencies, as well as many other stakeholders, and various public involvement efforts have been extensive throughout the PD&E Study. Agency coordination was achieved through the Advance Notification process, numerous meetings, update presentations, and ongoing project advisory groups. Public participation was solicited during the PD&E Study through project newsletters, invitational letters, the project website, and public meetings. The Wekiva Parkway (SR 429)/SR 46 Realignment PD&E Study *Environmental Assessment* documents in detail the coordination that occurred throughout the study whereby the alignment alternatives for the proposed Wekiva Parkway and SR 46 Realignment were developed and analyzed by the project team. Agency coordination related to the Section 4(f) public lands and the alternatives analyses is summarized in Section 2 of this document. This section describes the public involvement activities undertaken to provide opportunities for citizen and agency input, and related coordination with officials having jurisdiction over the subject Section 4(f) public lands.

Advance Notification

To ensure open communication and to solicit agency and public input, an Advance Notification (AN) package was prepared and distributed to Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons at the onset of the project. The AN package defines the project and identifies potential issues and impacts. The Expressway Authority and FDOT initiated early project coordination on February 23, 2005 by distribution of the AN package to the Florida State Clearinghouse. The AN package and the mailing list for distribution are provided in **Appendix D**. Responses from FDEP and the Division of Forestry to the AN package are also included in **Appendix D**.

Advisory Group Meetings

Five meetings have been held to date with the Project Advisory Group (PAG) and the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) during the PD&E Study to ensure open

communication and to provide a forum for issue identification and resolution with federal, state and local agencies and environmental groups. Public agency representatives and representatives from environmental groups were invited to participate in the PAG and EAC meetings to keep consistent agency focus during alternatives development and evaluation. Agency representatives from FDEP and the Division of Forestry attended both the PAG and EAC meetings.

Public Information Meetings

A total of six Public Workshops (two each in Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties) were held during the initial and viable alternatives phases of the PD&E Study. The initial alternatives were presented at three Public Workshops held in Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties in November 2005. After the Initial Alternatives Public Workshops and several meetings with local and state governmental agencies and other stakeholders, the PD&E Study team began the process of alternatives evaluation and refinement. The concepts and impact assessments developed in the initial alternatives phase of the study served as the basis for identification of potential viable alternatives. The Viable Alternatives were presented at July/ August 2006 Public Workshops held in Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties.

Following the public workshops and public comment/response period, a proposed alignment alternative was identified by FDOT and the Expressway Authority. The recommendation was based on comparative assessment of the results of the engineering/environmental analysis and the evaluation of impacts/costs, and after extensive coordination with stakeholders. During 2007 and 2008, meetings were held with neighborhood groups, homeowners associations and elected officials to discuss and refine the proposed alternative in a few specific locations. In 2009, three meetings were held with residents and landowners in east Lake County to discuss the need for a toll-free roadway for local trips due to the elimination of SR 46. Subsequently, a revision of the proposed alternative within the east Lake County portion of the study area was made to incorporate the service road concept as described in prior sections of this document. As mentioned previously, a Public Workshop on that service road alternative was held in Lake County in December 2009. The proposed overall alignment alternative will be presented at three Public Hearings to be held in Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties.

Section 4(f) Coordination Meetings

Copies of correspondence with the public land owners of the Section 4(f) resources addressed in this document are provided in **Appendix C**. The following meetings were conducted early in the process specifically with the land managers of the impacted resources.

- 06/29/06 – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry Supervisor, Mr. Joe Bishop (Seminole State Forest)
- 06/05/06 – Wekiva River Basin State Parks Manager, Mr. John Fillyaw (Rock Springs Run State Reserve and Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park)

The FDEP, Division of Recreation and Parks approved a *Multi-Unit Management Plan* for the Wekiva River Basin State Parks on April 22, 2005. The management plan includes a directive for park staff to work with the coordination agencies involved in the planning of the Wekiva

Parkway to “determine, minimize, mitigate, and monitor any negative effects of Wekiva Parkway during its planning, construction, and maintenance.” Coordination with the FDEP Parks staff has been ongoing throughout the PD&E Study.

The following meetings were conducted with FDEP senior staff during the alternatives development and evaluation process (summaries of some meetings are provided in **Appendix C**):

- 04/20/2006 – FDEP District Director, Ms. Vivian Garfein, and District Staff
- 03/20/2007 – FDEP District Director, Ms. Vivian Garfein, and District/Tallahassee Staff*
- 07/17/2007 – FDEP Senior Tallahassee and District Staff on the Proposed Alternative in Lake and Seminole Counties
- 08/12/2009 – FDEP Senior Tallahassee and District Staff on Section 4(f) concurrence letter and potential mitigation approaches for impacts to state lands
- 11/03/2009 – FDEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Mr. Bob Ballard, in Tallahassee with District Staff on Section 4(f) mitigation approach and concurrence letter

**The Division of Forestry Supervisor for Seminole State Forest, Mr. Joe Bishop, also attended this meeting.*

Concurrence Coordination

As discussed in Sections 3, 4 and 5, the Section 4(f) concurrence letters concerning impact minimization and mitigation measures that were provided to FDOT by the FDEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Mr. Bob Ballard, on March 30, 2010 and by the Director of the Division of Forestry, Mr. James Karels, on April 9, 2010 are included in **Appendix C**.

Continuing Coordination

Coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, the PAG and EAC, the public, and other stakeholders is ongoing and will continue throughout the PD&E Study.