

6.0 Coordination

An Advance Notification Package, as provided in the previously prepared *Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation*, was distributed to local, state and federal agencies, including the NPS and FDEP, and other interested parties on February 23, 2005. Since that time, numerous alternative concepts have been assessed and evaluated by the PD&E Study team for potential social, economic, and environmental impacts. Coordination activities with local, state and federal governmental agencies, as well as many other stakeholders, and various public involvement efforts have been extensive.

6.1 National Park Service Consultation and Coordination

A federally funded water resource project triggers NPS involvement in the permit review process; however, the NPS reviews and provides comments on projects during the planning phase to ensure that the planned project does not impair or degrade the free-flowing character, water quality, riparian zone plant communities, and Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) of a Wild and Scenic River. According to the NPS, the ORVs for the Wekiva River include scenic/aesthetic values, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic (cultural and archaeological), and otherwise scientific values.

As mentioned previously, several members of the Wekiva River System Advisory Management Committee, which assists the NPS on Wild and Scenic River issues, have been actively involved in the Wekiva Parkway (SR 429)/SR 46 Realignment PD&E Study as members of the Environmental Advisory Committee since commencement of the study. Since February 2007, the PD&E Study team has been coordinating with the consultant to the Wekiva River System Advisory Management Committee during their preparation of the *Wekiva National Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*. In August 2008, the Wekiva Parkway project roadway and right-of-way maps and GIS based shape files were provided at the request of the consultant for inclusion in the comprehensive management plan. Preliminary concept plans for the Wekiva River bridge, exhibits of the proposed wildlife structures through the Wekiva River Protection Area, and information on existing and proposed stormwater treatment were also provided to the Sarasota office of the NPS.

Additional detailed information was provided by the PD&E Study team to the NPS in a letter dated August 20, 2008. The purpose of the letter was to request an opinion on, or a summary of, the Wild and Scenic River Section 4(f) coordination/consultation efforts. The NPS provided a response letter dated October 3, 2008 to which the Environmental Administrator of FDOT District Five sent a reply letter on October 14, 2008. The NPS sent a response letter on November 26, 2008 requesting a site visit and FDOT sent a reply letter on December 22, 2008. FDOT conducted a site visit to the Wekiva River bridge with the NPS on February 5, 2009. The NPS sent a letter to FDOT on February 24, 2009 providing conclusions from the site visit. On May 5, 2009, FDOT sent correspondence to the NPS requesting a concurrence letter. The NPS responded in a letter dated June 9, 2009 which provided concurrence that the proposed project would not impair the use of the remaining

Section 4(f) resource; however, NPS indicated that concurrence on impacts and mitigation would require more extensive evaluation of potential visual and auditory intrusion. FDOT sent a reply letter to the NPS on June 15, 2009 with a commitment that specific bridge design features to address minimization of visual and noise intrusion would be coordinated with the NPS. Copies of each of the above referenced letters are provided in **Appendix A**.

6.2 Coordination with FDEP, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas

FDOT provided detailed information on the proposed Wekiva Parkway bridge over the Wekiva River in a letter to the FDEP, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas on September 12, 2008. No comments or questions were received by FDOT in response to the letter since, as mentioned previously, the FDEP's Manager of the Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve has been an active member of the PD&E Study Environmental Advisory Committee since commencement of the study and is well-informed on the proposed project. On May 11, 2009, FDOT sent correspondence to the FDEP, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas requesting a concurrence letter. A concurrence letter dated May 22, 2009 was provided which contained questions about minimizing potential visual intrusion. FDOT sent a reply letter to the FDEP, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas on May 27, 2009 committing to coordinate on bridge design features to minimize visual intrusion. Copies of each of the letters referenced above are included in **Appendix A**.