



Memorandum of Understanding Florida Department of Transportation



Efficient Transportation Decision Making While Protecting Florida's Environment

The State of Florida and the federal agencies listed below committed in February 2000 to support the Florida Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation (the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration) in their efforts to examine how transportation decisions are made and to develop a process that results in improvements to:

- ♦ Transportation decisions
- ♦ Protection of the natural and human environment
- ♦ Efficiency and cost savings
- ♦ Early input by the agencies in transportation planning

This process fulfills the spirit of Section 1309 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) passed by Congress in June 1998 and the National Memorandum of Understanding calling for "Environmental Streamlining." This Memorandum of Understanding is executed to affirm the work performed during the last year to develop an Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process, which protects state and national resources, and document the essential purpose of the process.

Whereas, the Florida Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation and the agencies listed below have worked collaboratively since February 3, 2000 to develop a more Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process,

Whereas, the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process described in the document "Florida's Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process" dated August 2001 will achieve more timely decisions through early agency involvement,

Whereas, the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process will help protect the resources of the State of Florida and the United States through consideration of community goals, land use plans, ecosystem preservation and management plans, and mobility plans,

Whereas, the participating agencies support the establishment of an "Environmental Technical Advisory Team" for communicating between natural resource managers, and land use and transportation planners,

Whereas, the participating agencies agree that more efficiency in transportation decision making may be gained by application of information-age technology,

Whereas, the participating agencies agree that early agency involvement supported by effective public involvement should reduce conflicts in transportation decision making and result in better transportation decisions,

Whereas, the participating agencies agree that efficient dispute resolution should be a part of the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process to resolve conflicts before projects are programmed,

Whereas, projects that result from the ETDM Process should be consistent with State of Florida goals,

Now therefore, the Agencies below agree to the extent feasible within existing legal authority and the availability of manpower and budgets to:

- ♦ Endorse the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process and commit to support, establish, and implement this process within each agency.
- ♦ Work cooperatively to create mutually agreeable agency-specific operating agreements to implement the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process.
- ♦ Work cooperatively on pilot applications to test and refine the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process.
- ♦ Integrate agency programs and processes with the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process to reduce duplication and establish efficient decision making.
- ♦ Nominate Environmental Technical Advisory Team members who are knowledgeable of their agencies' statutory responsibility and processes, and are able to develop creative solutions that meet both their agencies' statutory obligations and also address the natural, cultural, community, and mobility goals of the other signatory agencies.
- ♦ Communicate within each agency the significance of the Environmental Technical Advisory Team role and provide clear responsibility and authority for Environmental Technical Advisory Team members.
- ♦ Provide Internet connection for the agency's Environmental Technical Advisory Team representative to access digital data available through the Florida Geographic Data Library at the University of Florida to provide for more efficient review and standardized reports at each step in the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process.
- ♦ Work with the Florida Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation to obtain equipment, software, and staffing resources needed for Environmental Technical Advisory Team participants to work effectively in the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process and to provide training and computer facility support.
- ♦ Examine current decisions or reviews conducted by each agency and identify work that may be more effectively delegated to another federal or state agency to reduce duplication of effort.
- ♦ Discuss each agency's review and permit process with the Florida Department of Transportation with a goal of developing mutually agreeable improvements.
- ♦ Seek collaborative support for the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process within each agency, continuously seek process improvements, and communicate suggested improvements to the Florida Department of Transportation with a commitment to teamwork for the benefit of Florida and our environment.
- ♦ Implement effective dispute resolution with the goal of developing mutually agreeable solutions at meaningful points within the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process to avoid programming projects with significant unresolved issues.

The signatures below confirm the agreement of participating agencies to support, develop and implement the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process, as stated above. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding affects the statutorily prescribed duties and obligations of any party to the Memorandum of Understanding or any party's responsibility or ability to discharge fully such duties and obligations under all applicable laws and regulations. When conflicts arise, agency-wide national level Memoranda of Understanding and agreements will supercede this Memorandum of Understanding. Furthermore, the agencies below commend the people who have worked with the Florida Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process. This process will meet the State of Florida's mobility planning needs and will assist in protecting its environment.

Eugene W. Cleckley
Director of Field Services - South
Federal Highway Administration

James E. St. John
Florida Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Thomas F. Barry, Jr., P.E.
Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan
Chairman
Florida Metropolitan Planning
Organization Advisory Council

Peter T. Madsen
Brigadier General, U.S. Army Division
Engineer

A. Stanley Meiburg
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

David B. Struhs
Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection

Douglas E. Barr
Executive Director
Northwest Florida Water
Management District

Jerry Franklin
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Nick Mpras
Bridge Program Manager
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters

Steve Seibert
Secretary
Florida Department of Community
Affairs

Jerry A. Scarborough
Executive Director
Suwannee River Water Management
District

Joseph E. Powers, Ph.D.
Acting Regional Administrator
Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service

John Fowler
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation

Janet S. Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State

Kirby B. Green, III
Executive Director
St. Johns River Water Management
District

Jerry Belson
Regional Director
National Park Service

Robert T. Jacobs
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service

Charles H. Bronson
Commissioner
Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

E.D. Vergara
Executive Director
Southwest Florida Water
Management District

T. Niles Glasgow
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation
Service

Sam D. Hamilton
Regional Director, Region 4
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dr. Allan L. Egbert
Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission

Henry Dean
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management
District

Signed on December 14, 2001