



# 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 M. 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