Transportation Project Delivery, Endangered Species Act and Mitigation

Xavier Pagan
Natural & Community Resources Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation
State Environmental Management Office
July 2015
Outline

• How is FDOT setup?
• Transportation Project Delivery Process
  – Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)
  – Agency liaisons
  – Project Development & Environment Process
• Analysis
• Mitigation
FDOT Staffing

• State Environmental Management Office
  – Natural Sciences Section

• District Environmental Management
  – Seven Districts and Turnpike
  – Specialists in every District
Transportation Project Delivery

- **Planning**
- **Project Development & Environment**
- **PD&E Approval**
- **Design**
- **Right-of-Way**
- **Construction**
- **Maintenance**

**Public Involvement**

**ETDM**

**Environmental Considerations**
ETDM Participants

• Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT)
  – Composed of state, federal, local agencies and tribal governments
  – Represent regulatory and resource agency liaisons for FDOT projects
  – Wildlife and habitat agencies
    • US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
    • National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
    • Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Agency Liaisons

- Determined via interagency agreement
- NMFS – Currently two liaisons
- FWC – Currently two liaisons
- USFWS – Currently three liaisons
  - New agreement calls for five liaisons
What do the liaisons do?

• Review FDOT projects in Environmental Screening Tool
  – Provide comments on what FDOT has stated
  – Provide comments on what FDOT didn’t know
  – Identify species to analyze
  – Identify potential avoidance and minimization
  – Identify potential opportunities for mitigation

• Essentially help FDOT scope the project area and develop the PD&E study

• During the PD&E study continue to provide assistance and of course are available for consultation as required by ESA
USFWS Liaisons

• Liaisons in all three offices
  – Panama City
  – Jacksonville
  – Vero Beach

• NEW: one liaison dedicated to the development of Programmatic Agreements/approaches as well as training for FDOT

• NEW: one liaison dedicated to assist the other three with work load
Transportation Project Delivery

Public Involvement

Planning

Project Development & Environment

PD&E Approval

Design

Right-of-Way

Construction

Maintenance

ETDM

Environmental Considerations

Florida Department of Transportation
Project Development & Environment Process

- Follows FDOT PD&E Manual and is how FDOT prepares NEPA or State Funded Project Delivery documentation
- Environmental Document
- Technical reports
- How we analyze engineering and the environment
- How we seek public input
- How we determine impact(s) and look for mitigation opportunities where necessary
- Consider the human, natural and physical environment
- How we develop the concepts to advance to design
- Lay the groundwork for final design and permitting
Types of analysis

- Natural
- Wetlands
- Wildlife and Habitat
- Physical
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality
- Contamination
- Cultural and Historic
- Social
Species and habitat consultation currently occurs on a project-by-project basis

- Lots of documentation
- Lots of coordination and consultation
  - Particularly on mitigation
- Commitments

Programmatic agreements/approaches coming?
Mitigation...

- Creation
  - Wetlands
- Enhancement/Restoration
  - Wetlands
  - Critical Habitat
- Preservation
  - Listed species conservation
- Crossings...
- Sources
  - Use banks
  - Financial contributions
  - FDOT built
  - Partnerships
Wildlife Crossing Guidelines

• Considerations:
  – Capacity improvement, add travel lanes
  – Science based
  – Look for financial partnerships
  – Road kills in the area
  – Public lands or perpetual conservation easement on both sides
  – Private property access maintained

• Guidelines are currently under review
Where we’re headed

- Currently beginning discussions regarding programmatic approaches to species and habitat
- Modification of FDOT SOPs
- Development of consistent Modified Special Provisions
- Review of current Wildlife Crossing Guidelines
- Looking at species specific Programmatic Agreements
Questions?