Planning, Permitting, and Mitigation for Port Facilities and other Coastal Infrastructure

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Environmental Assumptions

- Most Ports and much of the coastal infrastructure in Florida is located within areas that contain sensitive resources.
- Growth of Ports and the need to expand and rehabilitate coastal resources may have unavoidable impact to environmental resources.
- Substantial mitigation may be needed to offset these projected impacts.
- As a part of long-term planning, a proactive mitigation strategy should be developed to effectively accomplish these expansion and rehabilitation goals.
- The mitigation objective should be to plan, permit, construct, and achieve success of mitigation prior to initiating projects (eliminate time-lag and risk).
- There are typically many basin-level opportunities to accomplish mitigation goals and basin-level restoration goals.
Reduced Resource Loss from Starting Mitigation Early in Project Planning Process
Tools Required

➢ **Chapter 373.4137, Florida Statutes**
  ➢ “…environmental mitigation impact for the impact of transportation projects…can be more effectively achieved by regional, long-range mitigation planning rather than on a project-by-project basis.”
  ➢ Currently only available to Chapter 248 and 349 transportation authorities
  ➢ This does not include Port authorities
Tools Required (cont.)

- **Regional Offsite Mitigation Areas (ROMA)**
  - Most Port Authorities are County agencies that could cooperate with County Environmental Departments to create restoration/mitigation programs

- **Basin restoration plans**
  - Basin Management Action Plans
  - Environmentally Sensitive Lands Programs
  - Comprehensive Conservation Plans (Wildlife Refuges, National Estuary Programs)
Tools Currently Available for Transportation Projects

- The Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (ETDM) – expedite project delivery times and facilitate a refined approach to mitigation, especially coastal habitats.
- Consistent with the streamlining objectives if the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)
Tools Currently Available for Transportation Projects

- **Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study phase**
  - Can include commitments to mitigate at selected mitigation site(s)
  - Involves early coordination with stakeholder, regulatory, and resource agencies
Current Examples
FDOT District 4
Mitigation Projects
- Fullerton Island
- Snook Island Phase II

Bridge Projects
Snook Islands Phase II
Palm Beach County ERM & FDOT

Creation of:
6.15 acres seagrass
0.36 acres mangroves
0.12 acres oyster reef

Mitigation for:
- U.S. Highway 1 Bridges
- Flagler Memorial Bridge
- Little Blue Heron Bridge
- Little Lake Worth Bridge
- Southern Boulevard Bridges
Fullerton Island
Palm Beach County ERM & FDOT

Creation of:
4.64 acres seagrass
0.54 acres mangroves

Mitigation for:
- SR-5/US-1 and SR-A1A Pedestrian Overpass Bridge over the Loxahatchee River
- SR-5/US-1/Federal Hwy Bridge from CR-A1A to Beach Road
Current Examples

Port Manatee
Perico Bayou Mitigation Site

Manatee County Port Authority & Manatee County EMD
Perico Bayou Mitigation Opportunity
Perico Bayou Conceptual Plan
Perico Bayou Seagrass Basin