Planning, Permitting, and Mitigation for Port Facilities

Don Deis
Atkins
Jacksonville, FL
Environmental Assumptions

- Most Florida Ports are located within areas that contain sensitive resources.
- Growth of Ports 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 the expansion goals of Ports.
- The mitigation objective should be to plan, permit, construct, and achieve success of mitigation prior to initiating Port expansion (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

- Advance Mitigation
- Elevated Resource Services
- Basin-Level Gains Before And During Project Construction
- Project Phase Impacts
- Potential For Basin-Level Over-All Elevated Resources

Time

Resource Services
Tools Required

- Chapter 373.4137, Florida Statutes
  - “…environmental impact of transportation projects… can more effectively be achieved by regional, long-range mitigation planning rather than on a project-by-project basis.”

- 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 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)

● 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
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 Acquisition
Perico Bayou Seagrass Basin