

APPENDIX A

Planning Consistency Documentation



PINELLAS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2040 Long Range Transportation Plan



DECEMBER 10, 2014

Cost Feasible Plan

The 2040 LRTP earmarks a total of more than \$3.4 billion over 20 years for roadway and transit projects. Additional funding in the LRTP for pedestrian and bicycling projects, highway maintenance and resurfacing, management and operations projects and studies, and bridge reconstruction also has been allocated for future preservation and expansion of the multimodal transportation system.

Highway Capacity Projects

As with many financial decisions, the projects selected for inclusion in the Cost Feasible Plan are the result of prioritizing the identified needs and balancing those against the revenue projected to be available. The roadway portion of the LRTP includes significant investment in construction and enhancement of roadways throughout Pinellas County. The major roadway projects included in the Cost Feasible LRTP support economic development, provide for a balanced and multimodal transportation system, and improve the safety of the transportation system, consistent with Goals 1, 2, and 3 of the LRTP.

A total of 28 roadway projects are included in the LRTP—10 State projects and 18 County/municipal projects—as cost feasible. At a total of \$1.5 billion, these projects represent capacity increases on nearly 60 miles of roadways and are projected to reduce delay by 10%. In addition to fully funding these 28 projects, partial funding for another 6 projects also is included in the Cost Feasible LRTP as shown in Map 5-6. Additionally, studies are anticipated on roadways such as 22nd Avenue South and 102nd Avenue to determine the type and scope of improvements identified in the LRTP.

Tables 5-8 and 5-9 include a complete listing of projects with anticipated timeframes for completion in the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan. In addition to funding the specific projects listed in these tables, the MPO has determined that \$1–\$5 million annually can be set aside to fund management and operational improvement projects. As future projects are identified, this source of funding will help address congestion problems without the addition of new lanes to the roadway network.

Maintenance, Operations, and Bridges

As part of the revenue analysis for the LRTP, FDOT maintains a reserve of funding for resurfacing state highways and maintaining state bridges. Appendix B documents the State of Florida’s commitment to maintaining the transportation system.

The Pinellas MPO has made a similar commitment through the LRTP. Not allocating all of the available revenues to capacity projects, the LRTP makes available future revenues for addressing major operational and maintenance projects. Revenues such as fuel taxes are applied to maintenance needs, and the 9th Cent Fuel Tax has been dedicated to fund ITS projects. In addition to designated funding for maintenance projects, the MPO has committed to setting aside \$1–\$5 million annually to fund management and operational improvements. These management and operations projects could include intersection or turn-lane projects as well as future technology projects that will ease congestion. Some proposed corridors where this might occur are listed below.

Table 5-7
Management and Operations and Bridge

Corridors for Management and Operational Improvements	Identified Bridge Replacement Needs
22nd Ave N	Beckett Bridge
54th Ave S	Dunedin Causeway Bridge
East Bay Dr	Gandy Bridge
Alt US 19	San Martin Bridge
East Lake Rd/ McMullen Booth Rd	SR 679 Bayway Bridge
US 19 (SR 55)	
Park Blvd	

Replacement Projects

As a coastal community, bridges provide a critical connection for residents and visitors between the beach communities and the mainland of Pinellas County. As part of the LRTP, the MPO has identified needed replacements for five bridges listed in the above table by 2040. While not identifying timeframes for completion, the MPO has identified initial costs for these replacements. Ultimately, the timing for replacing these bridges will be based on the safety and need for replacement.



Map 5-6: 2040 Cost Feasible Roadway Projects



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Fiscal Years 2015/16 through 2019/20

**Pinellas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

Adopted June 10, 2015

Prepared by the MPO for the Pinellas Area Transportation Study





TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**FISCAL YEARS
2015/16 - 2019/20**

Adopted June 10, 2015

***Pinellas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization
310 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
Phone: (727) 464-8250
Fax: (727) 464-8212***

MPO Web Site: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/mpo>

This project has been developed in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal and state nondiscrimination authorities. Neither FDOT nor this project will deny the benefits of, exclude from participation in, or subject anyone to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, or family status.

Funding for this report may have been financed in part through grant[s] from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, under the State Planning and Research Program, Section 505 [or Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(f)] of Title 23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

PINELLAS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Councilmember Jim Kennedy
Chairman

Commissioner John Morroni
Vice Chairman

Commissioner Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy
Secretary

Councilmember Doreen Hock-DiPolito
Treasurer

Mayor Sandra Bradbury
Commissioner Kevin Piccarreto
Commissioner Julie Ward Bujalski
Commissioner Michael Smith
Councilmember Darden Rice

Commissioner Dave Eggers
Commissioner John Tornega
Commissioner Karen Seel
Commissioner Cliff Merz

Sarah E. Ward
Interim MPO Executive Director

Paul Steinman
FDOT District Seven Secretary (Non-voting Advisor)

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Fiscal Year 2015/16 – 2019/20**

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PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEARS 2015/2016 THROUGH 2019/2020
ENDORSEMENT

This document was prepared by the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Pinellas County Public Works, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, local airport operators, and the twenty-four incorporated municipalities.

Preparation of this document was financed in part by the United States Department of Transportation under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act of 2012.

The Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization at its regular meeting of June 10, 2015 endorsed the FY 2015/2016 through FY 2019/2020 Pinellas Area Transportation Study Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including the Annual Element and supporting documentation, as contained on the pages which follow. This Transportation Improvement Program represents information from the Florida Department of Transportation's State Work Program covering Fiscal Years FY 2015/2016 through FY 2019/2020 together with existing FY 2014/2015 project funding from Pinellas County, and the municipalities and transportation providers within Pinellas County.

Further, it is hereby certified that the planning process of the Pinellas Area Transportation Study is being carried out in conformance with requirements listed under the following provisions: 23 CFR 450.332(b); 23 U.S.C 134; and F.S. 339.175.

This certification determination is being made on the basis of an in-depth review, utilizing a checklist provided by FDOT and covering all aspects of the transportation planning process in this urbanized area.



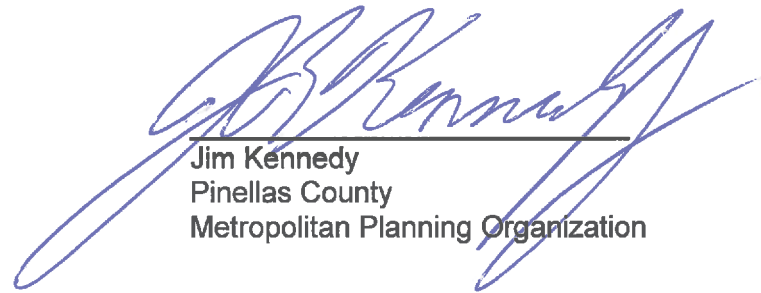
Jim Kennedy
Pinellas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), at its regular meeting of June 10, 2015, endorsed its FY 2015/2016 through FY 2019/2020 Pinellas Area Transportation Study Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including the Annual Element and supporting documentation, as contained on the pages within this document. This document now represents the FY 2015/2016 through FY 2019/2020 adopted Transportation Improvement Program.

Further, it is certified that the planning process of the Pinellas Area Transportation Study is being carried on in conformance with the provisions of 23 CFR 450.334 (b).

This certification determination is being made on the basis of an in-depth review, utilizing a checklist provided by FDOT and covering all aspects of the transportation planning process in this urbanized area.



Jim Kennedy
Pinellas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Pinellas County Capital Improvement Program
Project Budget Detail Report

Fund Type: Governmental

		Current Year Estimate	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Function: Transportation														
Activity: Road & Street Facilities														
Project: 001037A Beckett Bridge Replacement														
Fund: 3001	Capital Projects	Center: 414100	CIP-Transportation	Program: 3031		Bridges-Repair & Improvement								
020.1	Design-Penny	600,000	600,000	600,000	800,000	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,800,000
020.4	CEI-Grant	0	0	0	800,000	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000,000
030.1	Constr-Penny	0	0	0	8,000,000	2,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000,000
030.4	Constr-Grant	0	0	0	8,000,000	2,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000,000
Project Total for : Fund: 3001		<i>Capital Projects</i>	<i>Center: 414100</i>	<i>CIP-Transportation</i>	<i>Program: 3031</i>	<i>Bridges-Repair & Improvement</i>								
		600,000	600,000	600,000	17,600,000	4,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,800,000
Total for Project: 001037A		Beckett Bridge Replacement												
		600,000	600,000	600,000	17,600,000	4,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,800,000
Funding Source:														
Penny for Pinellas		600,000	600,000	600,000	8,800,000	2,200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,800,000
Grant - Federal		0	0	0	8,800,000	2,200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,000,000
Funding Total:		600,000	600,000	600,000	17,600,000	4,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,800,000
Project Description: Design and construction of Beckett Bridge replacement after PD&E is completed. This plan anticipates additional funding (i.e., grant) being available starting in FY19.														
Project Classifications:														
CIE Elements			Transportation/Transportation Systems											
Commission District, At-Large			District 2 - Pat Gerard											
Commission District, Single Member			District 4 - Dave Eggers											
Location			Tarpon Springs											
Originating Department			DEI Public Works											
Penny Program			Transportation and Traffic Flow											

10/22/15 NOTE: SUBSEQUENT TO THE ORIGINAL PUBLICATION, TASK 020.4 NAME CHANGED FROM DESIGN-GRANT TO CEI-GRANT, AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION REVISED ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING STARTING IN FY19 RATHER THAN FY16.

Pinellas County Capital Improvement Program
Project Budget Detail Report

Parameters: Project: 001037A Beckett Bridge Replacement Budget Type Code: Planning Fund Type: All

	Current Year Estimate 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Report Total:	600,000	600,000	600,000	17,600,000	4,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,800,000

APPENDIX B

SHPO and FHWA Concurrence Letters Section 106 MOA



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Ms. Linda Anderson
US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

February 2, 2015

Re: Memorandum of Agreement: Beckett Bridge (FDOT Bridge No. 154000), Pinellas County

Dear Ms. Anderson:

In accordance with the procedures contained in 36 CFR Part 800, this office reviewed and signed four copies of the referenced Memorandum of Agreement. We are returning three of the signed original copies of the Agreement, and retaining one for our files.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Alyssa McManus by email alyssa.mcmanus@dos.myflorida.com, or at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely

Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer



Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) flheritage.com
Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org



Beckett Bridge, FDOT Bridge No. 154000
Over Whitcomb Bayou, City of Tarpon Springs
Pinellas County, Florida

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND THE FLORIDA STATE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
REGARDING THE BECKETT BRIDGE (FDOT BRIDGE NO. 154000)
OVER WHITCOMB BAYOU, CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to provide financial assistance for replacement of Beckett Bridge over Whitcomb Bayou from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue, City of Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida (Florida Department of Transportation Financial Project Identification Number 424385-1 and Federal Aid Project Number S129-343) (the Project); and,

WHEREAS, the undertaking consists of replacing the existing Beckett Bridge (FDOT Bridge No. 154000) with a new bridge on approximately the existing alignment and will require removal of the existing historic Beckett Bridge; and,

WHEREAS, the FHWA and the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) have determined that the Beckett Bridge (FDOT Bridge No. 154000), recorded in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) as 8PI12017, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); and,

WHEREAS, the FHWA has consulted with the Florida SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. Section 470(f)], and has determined that the proposed project will have an adverse effect on the Beckett Bridge (FDOT Bridge No. 154000) and that the consultation efforts have been documented within the Cultural Resources *Section 106 Effects Consultation Case Study Report for the Beckett Bridge*, hereafter referred to as the Section 106 Report; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has participated in the consultation and has been invited to be a signatory to this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); and,

WHEREAS, Pinellas County has participated in the consultation as the owner of the Beckett Bridge and has been invited to be a signatory to this MOA; and,

WHEREAS, the public has been afforded the opportunity to express their opinion regarding mitigation options, as documented in the Section 106 Report; and,

NOW THEREFORE, FHWA, FDOT, Pinellas County and the Florida SHPO agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in consideration of the effects this undertaking will have on the referenced historic property:

Beckett Bridge, FDOT Bridge No. 154000
Over Whitcomb Bayou, City of Tarpon Springs
Pinellas County, Florida

STIPULATIONS

FHWA will ensure that the following stipulations are implemented.

I. Design and Construction of the Project

- A. Pinellas County will ensure that the new bridge will be constructed on approximately the existing alignment and there will be no changes to the proposed project as identified in the Section 106 Report (June 2014) for the project without consultation with the FHWA and the SHPO, pursuant to Stipulation VII.C.
- B. The design of the new bridge will be a single-leaf, rolling lift bridge type of similar design and scale to the historic Beckett Bridge.
- C. Pinellas County will create an aesthetics committee consisting of representatives from the adjacent community, City of Tarpon Springs, Tarpon Springs Historical Society, and FHWA, to serve in an advisory capacity regarding appropriate design elements for the replacement bridge that may be addressed during the development of the Project.
- D. Should there be any substantive alterations to the project design that could result in adverse effects to historic resources not addressed in this agreement, Pinellas County and FDOT shall notify FHWA, who will notify the SHPO of these alterations and provide the Florida SHPO with an opportunity to review and comment on the alterations.

II. Documentation of the Beckett Bridge

- A. Prior to the salvage of the engineering elements and demolition of the bridge, Pinellas County will perform the following documentation of the Beckett Bridge (FDOT Bridge No. 154000; FMSF No. 8PI12017) in accordance with Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) standards;
 - 1. Drawings – Select drawings of the existing bridge plans, as available, scanned and provided in an acceptable digital format (i.e. jpeg files).
 - 2. Photographs – Photographs with large-format negatives of context and views from all sides of the bridge and approaches, roadway and deck views, and noteworthy features and details. All negatives and prints will be processed to meet archival standards. One photograph of a principal elevation shall include a scale.

Beckett Bridge, FDOT Bridge No. 154000
Over Whitcomb Bayou, City of Tarpon Springs
Pinellas County, Florida

3. Written Data – Report with narrative description of the bridge, summary of significance, and historical context (primarily derived from the Cultural Resource Assessment Survey).
- B. Pinellas County will provide all copies of the documentation completed in accordance with Stipulation II.A to FDOT for review and distribution. FDOT will submit the documentation to the parties as follows:
1. An archival copy to the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service Southeast Regional Office for review and approval prior to demolition of the structure, per HAER guidelines; and
 2. A non-archival copy and electronic copy to the FDOT; and
 3. An electronic digital copy for FHWA; and
 4. An archival copy and an electronic digital copy to the Florida SHPO for inclusion in the Florida Archives and the Florida Master Site File (FMSF); and
 5. A non-archival copy to the Tarpon Springs Historical Society.

III. Salvage and Reuse of Existing Bridge Elements

- A. Pinellas County will ensure representative, significant engineering elements from the Beckett Bridge will be identified and salvaged. These elements may be incorporated into the design of the new bridge, or displayed in accordance with paragraph C of this Section. The reuse of these historic elements will be determined by Pinellas County in coordination with the aesthetics committee and will not require consultation with FDOT, FHWA or SHPO.
- B. Pinellas County will ensure that the bridge elements determined important for salvage are removed in a manner that minimizes damage and are stored in an area protected from human and natural damage until elements can be reused on the new bridge, or elsewhere displayed in accordance with paragraph C of this Section.
- C. If during construction it is determined that the existing bridge elements are not salvageable for reuse into the design of the new bridge, Pinellas County will salvage a few intact elements for display in a location identified by Pinellas County and within the vicinity of the new bridge.

Beckett Bridge, FDOT Bridge No. 154000
Over Whitcomb Bayou, City of Tarpon Springs
Pinellas County, Florida

- D. Pinellas County will ensure that the existing historic bridge plaque will be removed and stored in an area protected from human and natural damage until it can be incorporated into the new control house that will be constructed as part of the new bridge. The bridge plaque will be placed on the new control house so that it is visible to pedestrians.

IV. Public Education

Pinellas County will ensure that information regarding the Beckett Bridge, which is suitable for inclusion in a “public-facing website for project information and educational purposes” and/or suitable for use on a mobile device, such as “What Was There” or “Next Exit History”, is developed. This information will provide a historic account of the bridge to educate the public on its history.

V. Archeological Monitoring/Discoveries

Pinellas County, in consultation with the FHWA and the Florida SHPO, will ensure efforts to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to any discoveries of significant archaeological resources inadvertently discovered during the Project are addressed in accordance with 36 CFR 800.13(b). All records resulting from archaeological discoveries shall be handled in accordance with 36 CFR 79; and shall be submitted to the Florida SHPO.

VI. Professional Qualifications

All architectural history work carried out pursuant to this Agreement shall be conducted by, or under the direct supervision of, a person or persons meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards for Architectural History (48 FR 44738-9); and that all archaeological work carried out pursuant to this Agreement shall be conducted by, or under the direct supervision of, a person or persons meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology (48 FR 44738-9).

VII. Administrative Stipulations

- A. Should any signatory party to this Agreement object in writing to FHWA regarding any action carried out or proposed with respect to the undertaking or implementation of this Agreement, FHWA shall consult with the objecting party to resolve the objection. If after initiating such consultation FHWA determines that the objection cannot be resolved through consultation, FHWA shall forward all documentation relevant to the objection to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), including FHWA’s proposed response to the objection. Within 30 days

Beckett Bridge, FDOT Bridge No. 154000
Over Whitcomb Bayou, City of Tarpon Springs
Pinellas County, Florida

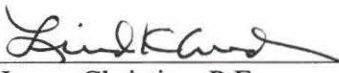
after receipt of all pertinent documentation, the ACHP shall exercise one of the following options:

1. Provide FHWA with written concurrence of the agency's proposed response to the objection, whereupon FHWA will respond to the objection accordingly;
 2. Provide FHWA with recommendations, which the agency will take into account in reaching a final decision regarding its response to the objection; or
 3. Notify FHWA that the objection will be referred for comment pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, and proceed to refer the objection and comment. FHWA shall take the resulting comment into account in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800 and Section 110 (1) of the NHPA.
- B. Should the ACHP not exercise one of the above options within 30 days after receipt of all pertinent documentation, FHWA will assume the ACHP's concurrence in its proposed response to the objection, and will respond to the objection accordingly. Any recommendation or comment provided by the ACHP will be understood to pertain only to the subject of the dispute.
- C. If the terms of this Agreement have not been implemented by December 31, 2030, this Agreement will be considered null and void. In such event FHWA will so notify the signatories to this MOA, and if they choose to continue with the undertaking, shall reinitiate review of the undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.
- D. Any signatory party to this MOA may request that it be amended, whereupon the signatory parties will consult in accordance with CFR Part 800.6 to consider such an amendment. All parties must signify their acceptance of the proposed changes to the MOA in writing within 30 days of their receipt. This MOA shall only be amended by a written instrument executed by all the parties. The amendment will be effective on the date of signature of the last party to sign the amendment. When no consensus can be reached, the Agreement will not be amended.
- E. The effective date of this MOA will be the date of the last signature. The signatory parties agree this MOA shall continue in full force until it is amended or terminated, as provided is Stipulations VI.D and VI.C, respectively.

Beckett Bridge, FDOT Bridge No. 154000
Over Whitcomb Bayou, City of Tarpon Springs
Pinellas County, Florida

Execution of this MOA by the FHWA, FDOT, Pinellas County, and Florida SHPO, and implementation of its terms, provides evidence that the FHWA has taken into account the effects of the Project on historic properties, and FHWA has satisfied the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 470 (f)].


Federal Highway Administration

By:  Date: 1/15/15
James Christian, P.E.
Division Administrator


Florida State Historic Preservation Officer

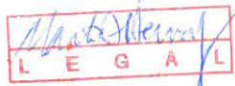
By:  Date: 1/29/15
Robert F. Bendus
State Historic Preservation Officer

Pinellas County


By:  Date: 12/5/14
Mark S. Woodard
~~Interim~~ County Administrator

Florida Department of Transportation

By:  Date: 01/10/15
Paul J. Steinman, P.E.
District Seven Secretary



Approved as to Form:

By: 
Office of County Attorney



RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

2014 JUL 21 P 2:34

Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY

June 9, 2014

Ms. Linda Anderson
Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Highway Administration
Florida Division
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

RE: Beckett Bridge from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
PD&E Study Cultural Resource Section 106 Effects Consultation Case Study Report
County Project ID: PID 2161
FDOT Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
Florida DHR Project File Nos: 2012-2526; 2012-4295; and 2013-1021
Pinellas County, Florida

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Pinellas County, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate removal, rehabilitation or replacement of the Beckett Bridge over Whitcomb Bayou in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. The limits of the study extend from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue, a distance of about 0.31 miles.

A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) was prepared in February 2013 as part of the study to comply with federal and state regulations. On February 20, 2013, FDOT, on behalf of Pinellas County, coordinated the CRAS with your office and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). As a result, it was determined that the Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000; FMSF No. 8PI12017) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A (for local and state development) and C (for engineering). It was constructed in 1924 and although rehabilitated in 1956, it retains its integrity as a Scherzer rolling lift single-leaf bascule bridge. FHWA and SHPO concurred on March 13, 2013 and April 11, 2013, respectively. Therefore, as per 36 CFR Part 800.5, the project must be evaluated to determine if it would have an adverse effect on this significant historic bridge.

Ms. Linda Anderson
Beckett Bridge from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
Financial Project ID No.: 424385-1-28-01; FAP No.: TBD
June 9, 2014
Page 2 of 3

The enclosed *Cultural Resource Section 106 Effects Consultation Case Study Report* (June 2014) has been prepared to evaluate effects to the Beckett Bridge. Two bound copies and two CDs with pdf files of the report, as well as one Survey Log Sheet, are enclosed for your review and coordination with the SHPO.

The Criteria of Adverse Effect found in 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1) were applied to the Beckett Bridge design project. The Pinellas County Recommended Alternative (replacement with a New Low-level Movable Bridge) will have an *Adverse Effect* on the NRHP-eligible Beckett Bridge as described in the enclosed Case Study Report. Minimization and mitigation options have been discussed with Pinellas County, FDOT, FHWA and SHPO and are described in the enclosed Case Study Report. Preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is underway.

This information is being provided in accordance with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), which are implemented by the procedures contained in 36 CFR, Part 800, as well as the provisions contained in the revised Chapter 267, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Provided you approve the findings in the enclosed Case Study Report, please coordinate with the SHPO for concurrence. One copy of the report, CD and the Survey Log Sheet are for the SHPO; the other copy of the report and CD are for your files. If you have any questions, please contact me at (813) 975-6456 or at todd.bogner@dot.state.fl.us or Rebecca Spain Schwarz at (813) 281- 8308 or at rebecca.spain-schwarz@atkinsglobal.com.

Sincerely,



Todd L. Bogner
Environmental Specialist III

RR/rss
Enclosure

cc:	Phillip Bello (FHWA)	Roy Jackson (FDOT CEMO)	Robin Rhinesmith (FDOT)
	Steve Love (FDOT)	Tony Hornik (Pinellas County)	David Talhouk (Pinellas County)
	Ann Venables (URS)	Amy Streelman (Janus Research)	
	Rebecca Spain Schwarz (Atkins/FDOT GEC)		

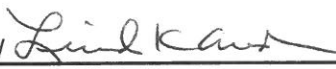
Ms. Linda Anderson
Beckett Bridge from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
Financial Project ID No.: 424385-1-28-01; FAP No.: TBD
June 9, 2014
Page 3 of 3

The FHWA finds the Cultural Resource Section 106 Effects Consultation Case Study Report provided with this letter to be complete and sufficient and ☒ approves / ☐ does not approve the above recommendations and findings.

The FHWA requests the SHPO's opinion on the sufficiency of the Case Study Report provided with the letter and the SHPO's opinion on the recommendations and findings contained in this letter and in the comment block below.

FHWA Comments:

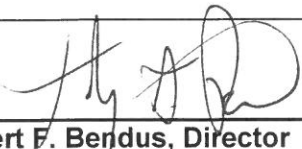
PLEASE ADDRESS COMMENTS / OPINION TO LINDA ANDERSON, FHWA. P: 850-553-2226 . E: linda.anderson@dot.gov. PLEASE CC: ROBIN RHINESMITH, D7; PHILIP BELLO, FHWA; AND ROY JACKSON, FDOT CEMO
--

/s/ 
James Christian
Division Administrator
Florida Division
Federal Highway Administration

7/17/14
Date

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer finds the attached Cultural Resource Section 106 Effects Consultation Case Study Report complete and sufficient and concurs with the recommendations and findings provided in this cover letter for SHPO/DHR Project File Number 2014-3051.

SHPO Comments:

/s/ 
Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

8/13/14
Date

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2012 OCT 15 AM 7:49



Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612-6456 Phone (813) 975-6000 1-800-226-7220

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY

August 24, 2012

Ms. Linda Anderson
Federal Highway Administration
Florida Division Office
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

RE: Beckett Bridge PD&E Study
Cultural Resource Assessment Survey
Determination of Eligibility for Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000)
County Project ID: PID 2161
FDOT Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
Florida DHR Project File No: 2012-2526
Pinellas County, Florida

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Pinellas County, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate removal, rehabilitation or replacement of the Beckett Bridge over Whitcomb Bayou in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. The limits of the study extend from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue, a distance of about 0.31 miles. A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey (CRAS) is being prepared as part of the study to comply with federal and state regulations. In March 2012, FDOT, on behalf of Pinellas County, coordinated the proposed project's area of potential effect (APE) and CRAS methodology with your office and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

The CRAS fieldwork has been started but since the Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000) has not previously been recorded in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) or evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), FDOT is requesting input from your office and SHPO early on concerning its eligibility for listing on the NRHP. For this reason, two copies of the NRHP Determination of Eligibility (DOE) forms are enclosed for preliminary review. After FHWA and SHPO make their eligibility determinations for the bridge, the CRAS will be completed and submitted for review. The CRAS will include a FMSF form (8PI12017) that is currently being prepared for Beckett Bridge, as well as the final DOE with all photos for the FMSF office.

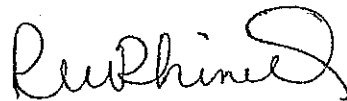
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BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2012 SEP 19 P 1:57

Ms. Linda Anderson
Beckett Bridge PD&E Study
County Project ID: *PID 2161*; Florida DHR Project File No: 2012-2526
FDOT Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
August 24, 2012
Page 2 of 3

Beckett Bridge was originally constructed in 1924 and carries Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard over Whitcomb Bayou in Tarpon Springs, Florida, providing the shortest route connecting the eastern and western sides of Tarpon Springs. The bascule span is a steel single-leaf bottom counterweight Scherzer rolling lift from 1924. The fixed timber approach spans were replaced with concrete approach spans in 1956. Major repairs, which included construction of crutch bents, repair of machinery, replacement of the electrical system and construction of a new control house, were performed in 1996. Additional repairs to the bridge machinery were needed in 1997 and 2011. Despite the rehabilitations and replacement of building materials, the bridge retains its historic integrity and is a rare example of a historic Scherzer rolling lift, single-leaf bascule bridge remaining in the State. Beckett Bridge is therefore considered potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Transportation and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering.

Provided you agree that the Beckett Bridge is NRHP eligible, please submit the enclosed DOE to the SHPO for review and concurrence. We are available to participate in a conference call with your office and SHPO to discuss the NRHP eligibility, if that would help. If you have any questions, or if I may be of further assistance, please contact me at (813) 975-6496 or via e-mail at robin.rhinesmith@dot.state.fl.us, or Rebecca Spain Schwarz at (813) 281-8308 or via e-mail at rebecca.spain-schwarz@atkinsglobal.com.

Sincerely,



Robin Rhinesmith
Environmental Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Theresa Farmer, FDOT
Roy Jackson, FDOT CEMO
Amy Streelman, Janus Research
Tony Hornik, Pinellas County
David Talhouk, Pinellas County
Ann Venables, EC Driver
Rebecca Spain Schwarz, Atkins

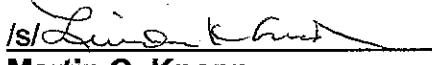
Ms. Linda Anderson
Beckett Bridge PD&E Study
County Project ID: PID 2161; Florida DHR Project File No: 2012-2526
FDOT Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
August 24, 2012
Page 3 of 3

The FHWA finds the attached Determination of Eligibility complete and sufficient and ☒ approves / ☐ does not approve the above recommendations and findings.

The FHWA requests the SHPO's opinion on the sufficiency of the attached Determination of Eligibility and the SHPO's opinion on the recommendations and findings contained in this cover letter and in the comment block below.


FHWA Comments:

PLEASE ADDRESS COMMENTS/OPINION TO LINDA ANDERSON, FHWA.
P: 850-553-2226. E: linda.anderson@dot.gov.
PLEASE CC: ROBIN RHINESMITH, FDOT D7; NATHIE DENZIO, FHWA; AND
ROY JACKSON, FDOT COMD.


Martin C. Knopp
Division Administrator
Florida Division
Federal Highway Administration

9-17-12
Date

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer finds the attached Determination of Eligibility complete and sufficient and concurs with the recommendations and findings provided in this cover letter for SHPO/DHR Project File Number 2012-4295.


for **Robert F. Bendus**
State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Florida Division of Historical Resources

10.8.12
Date



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612-6456
Phone (813) 975-6000 1-800-226-7220

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY

February 20, 2013

Ms. Linda Anderson
Federal Highway Administration
Florida Division Office
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

RE: Beckett Bridge from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
PD&E Study Cultural Resource Assessment Survey
County Project ID: PID 2161
FDOT Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
Florida DHR Project File No: 2012-2526
Pinellas County, Florida

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2013 MAR 15 P 2:58

0001101 07 1201

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Pinellas County, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate removal, rehabilitation or replacement of the Beckett Bridge over Whitcomb Bayou in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. The limits of the study extend from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue, a distance of about 0.31 miles. A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) has been prepared as part of the study to comply with federal and state regulations. In March 2012, FDOT, on behalf of Pinellas County, coordinated the proposed project's area of potential effect (APE) and CRAS methodology with your office and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and in August 2012, FDOT, on behalf of Pinellas County, coordinated the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Determination of Eligibility (DOE) with your office and SHPO.

This transmittal includes two bound copies of the CRAS dated February 2013; 16 Florida Master Site File (FMSF) forms (8PI12017, 8PI12043-8PI12055, 8PI12068, and 8PI12069); the DOE; a CD containing the FMSF and DOE photos and forms; and a Survey Log Sheet.

No previously recorded or newly recorded archaeological sites were located within the archaeological APE.

The historic resources survey identified 16 newly recorded historic resources within the APE: Beckett Bridge (8PI12017) and 15 buildings (8PI12043-8PI12055, 8PI12068, and 8PI12069). Beckett Bridge (8PI12017) has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP as an individual historic resource. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concurred that Beckett Bridge is individually eligible for listing in the National Register on September 17, 2012. SHPO also concurred with these findings on October 8, 2012. The 15 structures are considered ineligible for listing in the NRHP.

Ms. Linda Anderson
Beckett Bridge PD&E Study
County Project ID: *PID 2161*; Florida DHR Project File No: 2012-2526
FDOT Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
February 20, 2013
Page 2 of 3

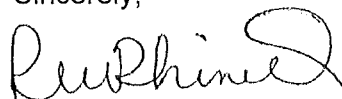
A historic resources reconnaissance survey was also undertaken in order to address historic resources along a proposed detour route which would be required for removal of the existing bridge, or during construction for the Beckett Bridge. If any of the build or rehabilitation alternatives are selected, it is anticipated that the existing Beckett Bridge route will be closed for approximately six months to two years; therefore, a detour route will be necessary. One NRHP-listed historic district and six previously recorded historic resources that are considered individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP were identified. The historic resources include the NRHP-listed Tarpon Springs Historic District (8PI1712), the Edward Newton Knapp House (8PI238), the William T. Fleming House (8PI1617), the George Clemson House (8PI1619), the George Clemson Auxiliary (8PI1620), the Marshall H. Alworth House (8PI1621), and the Bigelow Cottage (8PI1625). The six identified significant buildings are part of the 1990 NRHP-listed Tarpon Springs Historic District (8PI1712). As part of the reconnaissance survey, one newly identified resource appears to be individually eligible for the NRHP and is located at 115 North Park Avenue. As agreed in the methodology coordination, a FMSF form was not prepared for this resource.

This information is being provided in accordance with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), which are implemented by the procedures contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 800, as well as the provisions contained in the revised Chapter 267, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Provided you approve the recommendations and findings in the enclosed cultural resource document, please coordinate with SHPO that Beckett Bridge is NRHP-eligible but the other 15 historic structures are not. One copy of the document is for your files.

If you have any questions, or if I may be of assistance, please contact me at (813)975-6496 or robin.rhinesmith@dot.state.fl.us, or Rebecca Spain Schwarz at (813)281-8308 or rebecca.spain-schwarz@atkinsglobal.com.

Sincerely,



Robin Rhinesmith
Environmental Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Theresa Farmer, FDOT
Roy Jackson, FDOT CEMO
Tony Hornnik, Pinellas County
David Talhouk, Pinellas County
Ann Venables, EC Driver
Amy Streelman, Janus Research
Rebecca Spain Schwarz, Atkins

The FHWA finds the attached Cultural Resource Assessment Survey complete and sufficient and ☒ approves / ☐ does not approve the above recommendations and findings.

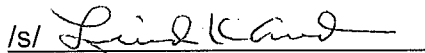
The FHWA requests the SHPO's opinion on the sufficiency of the attached Cultural Resource Assessment Survey and the SHPO's opinion on the recommendations and findings contained in this cover letter and in the comment block below.

FHWA Comments:

PLEASE ADDRESS COMMENTS / OPINION TO LINDA ANDERSON, FHWA:

P: 850-553-2226 E: linda.anderson@dot.gov.

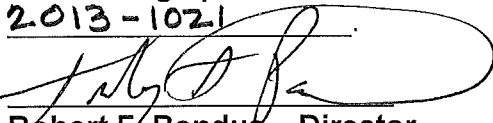
PLEASE CC: ROBIN RHODESMITH, FDOT D7; NAHIE DETZIO, FHWA;
AND BOY JACKSON, FDOT COMO.

/s/ 

David Hawk
Acting Division Administrator
Florida Division
Federal Highway Administration

3-13-13
Date

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer finds the attached Cultural Resource Assessment Survey complete and sufficient and concurs with the recommendations and findings provided in this cover letter for SHPO/DHR Project File Number 2013-1021



Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

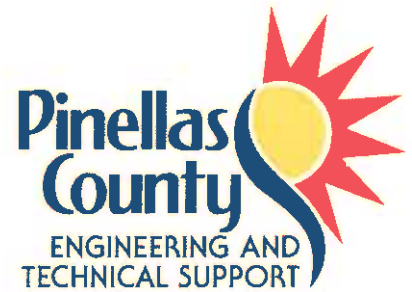
4/4/13
Date

APPENDIX C

Environmental Resource Agency Coordination Letters

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
Charlie Justice
Janet C. Long
John Morroni
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



June 18, 2015

David Rydene, Fisheries Biologist
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5005

Dear Mr. Rydene:

RE: Biological Assessment Technical Memorandum
Beckett Bridge Project Development and Environmental Study
from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
Pinellas County, Florida
Pinellas County Project ID: PID 002161
Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
ETDM No: 13040

Pinellas County, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate alternatives to remove, rehabilitate or replace the existing Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000) in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. Alternatives evaluated during the study would involve impacts to estuarine/inshore wetland and surface waters. A Wetlands Evaluation Report describing potential impacts to designated Essential Fish Habitat was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on March 29, 2013. In an email dated April 15, 2015, you responded with comments regarding appropriate wetland mitigation measures and a request for continued coordination.

The Biological Assessment (BA) prepared for this project was recently provided to you in electronic format. The BA describes existing habitat within the project corridor and discusses potential effects of the proposed bridge replacement to listed species. Since preparation of the BA, a Preferred Alternative has been selected by the County and FDOT. The Preferred Alternative consists of replacement of the existing two-lane bascule Beckett Bridge with a new two-lane single-leaf, rolling lift bridge of similar design. The proposed bridge would provide 7.8 feet of vertical clearance over the navigation channel at the fenders in the closed position. The new bridge would be constructed within

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Pinellas County Engineering and Technical Support
14 S. Fort Harrison Ave. • 6th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
Main Office: (727) 464-3588
FAX: (727) 464-3595
V/TDD: (727) 464-4062

www.pinellascounty.org

Mr. David Rydene

June 17, 2015

Page 2

existing right-of-way on approximately the same alignment as the existing bridge; however, the new bridge would be approximately 19 feet wider than the existing bridge.

It is our understanding that detailed construction information is required for you and your staff to analyze the effects of pile driving and other construction activities on protected species. At this time specific construction details, including construction schedule, the number of pilings proposed, pile-driving duration, pile driving methods and the number of hammer strikes per pile are unknown. However, the County will commit to prohibiting blasting for demolition of the existing bridge.

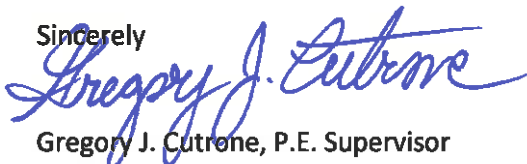
Pinellas County, in coordination with FDOT, intends to request that the Service reinstate "informal" consultation for the project's effects on the listed species during the final design phase of the project and in conjunction with the project's permitting process. It is understood that the Service's consultation on the project will be concluded before the project is advanced to the construction phase. In this case, Pinellas County, in compliance with 23 CFR 771.133 and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, agrees not to begin construction on the project, or otherwise make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative, or reasonable and prudent measures (which would not violate section 7(a)(2) of the Act), until consultation with the Service is completed. Pinellas County understands that final approval for the project will not be granted by the FHWA until this consultation process is concluded. This constitutes a commitment by the County of reasonable assurance, which is to be stipulated in the Commitment and Recommendations Section of the final NEPA document for the project which is subject to FHWA approval."

The FHWA is evaluating the final Environmental Document, a Type II Categorical Exclusion (CE), which was prepared during the PD&E study. In order to finalize their review and approve the CE, the FHWA has requested that the County and FDOT obtain a response from NMFS regarding the potential effects of the project on listed species under NMFS' jurisdiction.

On behalf of Pinellas County and FDOT, we appreciate your timely review of this information and subsequent response. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Ann Venables at 813-675-6725 or by email at ann.venables@aecom.com.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely



Gregory J. Cutrone, P.E. Supervisor
Civil & Structural Systems Unit

Enclosures

cc w/enclosures: Robin Rhinesmith, FDOT District 7
Ann Venables, URS
Nancy McKibben, Pinellas County
Tony Horrn timer, Pinellas County



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

June 24, 2015

F/SER46:DR

Mr. Gregory J. Cutrone
P.E. Supervisor
Civil & Structural Systems Unit
Pinellas County Engineering & Technical Support
14 South Fort Harrison Avenue, 6th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756-5105

Ms. Robin Rhinesmith
Environmental Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation District 7
11201 North Malcolm McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida 33612-6403

Ref.: Pinellas County Project ID PID 002161, Financial Project Number 424385-1-28-01,
Pinellas County & the Florida Department of Transportation District 7, Beckett Bridge
replacement (from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue), Pinellas County, Florida

Dear Sir and Madam:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the information you have provided regarding the Beckett Bridge replacement PD&E study. This letter responds to your conclusions regarding Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species under NMFS's purview and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). You have requested that NMFS review the Biological Assessment and Wetland Evaluation Report documents and provide support for moving the project forward toward determining a finding under the National Environmental Policy Act. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of Section 7 of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. NMFS believes that, to the extent practicable at this stage of the project, Pinellas County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have addressed NMFS's previous comments in relation to the project.

Pinellas County and FDOT propose the replacement of the existing 2-lane bascule Beckett Bridge with a new 2-lane single-leaf, rolling lift bridge crossing Whitcomb Bayou.

Pinellas County in coordination with FDOT District 7 and the Federal Highway Administration has determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), and swimming sea turtles including loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles. NMFS cannot provide concurrence or non-concurrence with these NLAA determinations at this time because sufficiently detailed project information is



not yet available for NMFS to conduct an analysis as part of the ESA Section 7 consultation. In addition, uncertainty remains regarding how construction impacts to ESA-listed species will be minimized. However, NMFS believes it can provide reasonable assurance that the Section 7 consultation can be completed as an informal consultation as the project moves forward and project details and commitments are finalized.

NMFS has reviewed the information regarding impacts to EFH due to the project. It appears that minor impacts to estuarine mangroves, oyster bars, and other NMFS trust resources comprising EFH may occur based on initial estimates. However, NMFS believes that when appropriate compensatory mitigation is provided for those unavoidable wetland impacts that do occur, the project will not have an adverse impact on EFH.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (727) 824-5379, or by email at David.Rydene@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rydene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large "D" and "R".

David Rydene, Ph.D.
Fishery Biologist

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
Charlie Justice
Janet C. Long
John Morroni
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



June 18, 2015

Jay Herrington, Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
North Florida Ecological Services Field Office
7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200
Jacksonville, FL 32256-7517

Dear Mr. Herrington:

RE: Biological Assessment Technical Memorandum
Beckett Bridge Project Development and Environmental Study
from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
Pinellas County, Florida
Pinellas County Project ID: PID 002161
Financial Project ID: 424385-1-28-01
ETDM No: 13040

Pinellas County, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate alternatives to remove, rehabilitate or replace the existing Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000) in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. Alternatives evaluated during the study would involve impacts to estuarine/inshore wetland and surface waters. The Wetlands Evaluation Report and Biological Assessment prepared for the project were coordinated with your staff via letters dated March 29, 2013 (attached).

Your staff provided comments by letter dated June 12, 2013 (attached). The letter stated that without additional information about the selected alternative and construction details, including timing and duration of the proposed work, and whether blasting would be required, the Service could not concur with the "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination for the Florida Manatee. Since preparation of the BA, a Preferred Alternative has been selected by the County and FDOT.

The Preferred Alternative consists of replacement of the existing two-lane bascule Beckett Bridge with a new two-lane single-leaf, rolling lift bridge of similar design. The proposed bridge would provide 7.8 feet of vertical clearance over the navigation channel at the fenders in the closed position. The new bridge would be constructed within existing right-of-way on approximately the same alignment as

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Pinellas County Engineering and Technical Support
14 S. Fort Harrison Ave. • 6th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
Main Office: (727) 464-3588
FAX: (727) 464-3595
V/TDD: (727) 464-4062

www.pinellascounty.org

the existing bridge; however, the new bridge would be approximately 19 feet wider than the existing bridge. At this time specific construction details such as the construction schedule, number of pilings, pile-driving duration, etc. are unknown. However, the County will commit to prohibiting blasting for demolition of the existing bridge.

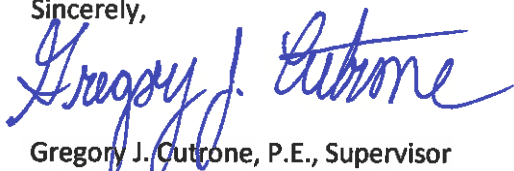
Pinellas County, in coordination with FDOT, intends to request that the Service reinstate "informal" consultation for the project's effects on the listed species during the final design phase of the project and in conjunction with the project's permitting process. It is understood that the Service's consultation on the project will be concluded before the project is advanced to the construction phase. In this case, Pinellas County, in compliance with 23 CFR 771.133 and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, agrees not to begin construction on the project, or otherwise make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative, or reasonable and prudent measures (which would not violate section 7(a)(2) of the Act), until consultation with the Service is completed. Pinellas County understands that final approval for the project will not be granted by the FHWA until this consultation process is concluded. This constitutes a commitment by the County of reasonable assurance, which is to be stipulated in the Commitment and Recommendations Section of the final NEPA document for the project which is subject to FHWA approval."

The FHWA is evaluating the final Environmental Document, a Type II Categorical Exclusion (CE), which was prepared during the PD&E study. In order to finalize their review and approve the CE, the FHWA has requested that the County and FDOT obtain a response from USFWS regarding the potential effects of the project on listed species under USFWS jurisdiction.

On behalf of Pinellas County and FDOT, we appreciate your timely review of this information and subsequent response. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Ann Venables at 813-675-6725 or by email at ann.venables@aec.com.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Cutrone, P.E., Supervisor
Civil & Structural Systems Unit

Enclosures

cc w/enclosures: Robin Rhinesmith, FDOT District 7
Ann Venables, URS
Nancy McKibben, Pinellas County
Tony Horrn timer, Pinellas County



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, SUITE 200
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256-7517

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS Log No. 41910-2013-I-0177

July 9, 2015

Gregory J. Cutrone
Pinellas County Engineering and Technical Support
14S. Fort Harrison Avenue - 6th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756
(Attn: Tom Hornnik)

RE: Beckett Bridge from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
Pinellas County Project ID: PID 002161
FDOT PFN: 424385-1-28-01
Pinellas County, Florida

Dear Mr. Cutrone:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your letter of June 18, 2015, regarding the project referenced above. Pinellas County (County), in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate the alternatives to remove, rehabilitate, or replace the existing Beckett Bridge, in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. In order to finalize their review and approval of a Type II Categorical Exclusion, the FHWA has requested that the County and FDOT obtain a response from the Service regard the potential effects of the project on listed species that are under Service jurisdiction. The Service provides the following comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Previously, in 2013, the Service reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the Wetlands Evaluation Report prepared by URS Corporation for the PD&E Study. In a letter dated June 13, 2013, we stated that we were unable to provide concurrence with listed species effects determinations at the existing stage of project planning, since a project alternative was yet to be selected and construction details were not available. We had particular concerns regarding the West Indian (Florida) manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*). Whitcomb Bayou is designated as an Important Manatee Area in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2013 "Effects Determination Key for the Manatee" and as a result dredging is restricted November 15 through March 31. Manatees use the Anclote River and its associated bayous for calving, mating, foraging, resting, and as travel corridors. Aerial surveys indicate that Whitcomb Bayou receives substantial use by manatees year-round. In our June 13, 2013, letter we did agree with the Biological Assessment's conclusions regarding the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*). We also cited the National

Marine Fisheries Service as having jurisdiction over listed sea turtle species in the marine environment and over the Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) in estuaries.

Since our 2013 review, a preferred alternative has been selected for the project. The preferred alternative consists of replacement of the existing two-lane bascule bridge with a new two-lane single-leaf, rolling lift bridge of similar design. The new bridge would be constructed within the existing right-of-way and on approximately the same alignment as the existing bridge, but would be 19 feet wider. Specific construction details have yet to be established; however, the County has committed to excluding blasting as a means of demolishing the existing bridge.

Coordination between the Service, the County, and CDOT has established that further consultation under the Act will be required in the project design phase. The County has provided the following commitment:

"Pinellas County, in coordination with FDOT, intends to request that the Service reinstitute "informal" consultation for the project's effects on the listed species during the final design phase of the project and in conjunction with the project's permitting process. It is understood that the Service's consultation on the project will be concluded before the project is advanced to the construction phase. In this case, Pinellas County in compliance with 23 CFR 771.133 and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, agrees not to begin construction on the project, or otherwise make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative, or reasonable and prudent measures (which would not violate section 7(a)(2) of the Act), until consultation with the Service is completed. Pinellas County understands that final approval for the project will not be granted by the FHWA until this consultation process is concluded. This constitutes a commitment by the County of reasonable assurance, which is to be stipulated in the Commitment and Recommendations Section of the final NEPA document for the project, which is subject to FHWA approval."

Given this commitment and based on the information available for the current planning phase of the proposed project we provide the following review of the project's potential to affect species listed under the ESA.


The March 2013 Biological Assessment concluded 'may affect, not likely to adversely affect' determinations for the manatee, piping plover, wood stork, and eastern indigo snake. For the manatee, in addition to the commitment that no blasting will occur as part of bridge demolition, the County has committed to implement Standard Manatee Conditions for In-water Work during all in-water construction. The County will also coordinate with the Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission during the design and permitting phase of the project to determine whether additional site-specific manatee protection measures may be necessary during construction. Based on these commitments and our review of the information available we agree that a 'may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect' determination is currently appropriate for the manatee.

In regard to other listed species, we also agree with the current evaluations of project effects on the piping plover, wood stork, and eastern indigo snake. The project area includes only residential neighborhoods and bridges a portion of the Whitcomb Bayou that is largely bulkheaded with minimal mangrove fringe. No habitat is present to support the piping plover or eastern indigo snake. While the wood stork could utilize the limited mangrove shoreline present, the site does not support foraging habitat. We agree that a determination of 'may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect' is currently appropriate for the piping plover, wood stork, and eastern indigo snake.

This letter this does not represent a biological opinion as described in section 7 of the Act nor a final concurrence with project effects on listed species as determined by the County. New information regarding species presence, changes to and refinement of the proposed project, and potential adverse effects not initially considered may increase the risk of adverse effects to a level at which take is reasonably certain to occur. All additional information available will be evaluated when consultation is reinitiated under the Act.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Plage at (904) 731-3085. Thank you for considering the effects of your proposal on fish and wildlife, and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Sincerely,


for Jay B. Herrington
Field Supervisor

cc: FDOT Tampa (Robin Rhinesmith)
AECOM, Tampa (Ann Venables)
FWC, Tallahassee (M. Duncan)

From: [Hornik, Tony](#)
To: [Venables, Ann](#)
Cc: [Bellhorn, Paul A](#)
Subject: FW: NMFS response to Beckett Bridge Wetland Evaluation/Essential Fish Habitat Technical Memorandum
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:32:01 AM

FYI

Tony Hornik, P.E., S.I.
Division Engineer
DEI - Eng & Tech Support Division
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All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.

From: David Rydene - NOAA Federal [mailto:david.rydene@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:14 PM
To: Hornik, Tony
Subject: NMFS response to Beckett Bridge Wetland Evaluation/Essential Fish Habitat Technical Memorandum

NMFS staff has reviewed the March 2013 Wetlands Evaluation/Essential Fish Habitat Technical Memorandum for the Beckett Bridge (Riverside Drive from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue in Pinellas County, Florida) PD&E Study. The essential fish habitat effect determinations appear to accurately reflect potential impacts to NMFS trust resources for the various bridge removal, rehabilitation, and replacement alternatives under consideration.

Given the relatively low quantity of impacts to fish habitats estimated for all the alternatives, the proposed conceptual mitigation plan seems reasonable. In terms of the options laid out in Section 4.3 (Mitigation Alternatives) of the document, NMFS is generally more inclined to accept appropriate off-site (but within the same drainage basin) "in-kind" mitigation, rather than "out-of-kind" mitigation for unavoidable project impacts.

NMFS requests continued coordination as the project moves further along in the process, a bridge alternative is selected, and detailed compensatory mitigation proposals are developed.

--

David Rydene, Ph.D.
Fish Biologist
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Office (727) 824-5379
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United States Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, SUITE 200
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256-7517

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS Log No. 41910-2013-1-0177

June 12, 2013

Tony Hornnik
Engineering and Technical Support Division
Pinellas County Environment and Infrastructure
14 S. Ft. Harrison Drive – 6th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Dear Mr. Hornnik:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your two letters dated March 29, 2013, regarding the Beckett Bridge Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E Study). Included were two URS Corporation technical memoranda (reports), “Biological Assessment” and “Wetlands Evaluation/Essential Fish Habitat.” You requested that the Service comment on the two reports, and specifically provide our concurrence with listed species effects determinations and proposed conceptual mitigation. We provide the following comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Beckett Bridge is located on Riverside Drive in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida (28.1499N and -82.7651W). It spans Whitcomb Bayou, part of the Anclote River and bayou complex. The PD&E Study, conducted in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, evaluates alternatives to remove, rehabilitate, or replace the existing bridge. The reports provide a fair representation of listed species, wetlands, and other habitats present that could be impacted by Beckett Bridge project alternatives. Appendix A of the Biological Assessment provides agency comments and concerns over potential project effects from reviews that occurred in 2010. Since a project alternative has not been selected and the details of potential work are not yet established, we find it premature to concur with many conclusions that the reports draw regarding listed species and impact mitigation.

For example, the Biological Assessment report provides effect determinations for federally listed species potentially present in the project area. Determinations include “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” for species including the Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), and five species of sea turtles. As noted in the Biological Assessment, Whitcomb Bayou is designated an Important Manatee Area (IMA) in the 2013 Corps of Engineers Effect Determination Key for the manatee and dredging is restricted from November 15 through March 31. Florida manatees utilize the Anclote River and associated bayous for calving, mating, foraging, resting and as travel corridors. Aerial surveys by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) indicate that Whitcomb Bayou receives substantial use by manatees year-round. In order to reduce the effects of the project on the manatee, Pinellas County has committed to implementing the “Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Activities” developed by the Service. Pinellas County has also committed to coordinating with the Service and

FWC to determine additional site-specific manatee protection measures to be implemented during construction. While we are encouraged by both of these commitments, until such time as site specific conditions to address potential impacts are developed and agreed to, we cannot concur with a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination for the manatee. Without knowing construction details, including timing and duration of the proposed work, and whether blasting will be utilized to remove existing bridge structures, appropriate conditions to safeguard manatees and other aquatic species are not determinable.

The Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share federal jurisdiction for Gulf sturgeon and sea turtles under the Act. By agreement, in estuarine environments NMFS has the lead on Gulf sturgeon where the lead federal reviewing agency is the Corps of Engineers, which is likely in this instance. The Service only has responsibility for sea turtles on nesting beaches and the NMFS has jurisdiction for sea turtles in the marine environment. In projects such as this, where any sea turtles would not be nesting, but may be present in the bayou, NOAA has jurisdiction.

We agree with the Biological Assessment’s conclusions on piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), and federally listed plants. Appropriate habitat is not present for the piping plover. While the project site is within the core foraging area of several active wood stork colony sites, little or no suitable foraging habitat is present in the project area. As the result of residential development, no undisturbed upland habitat occurs on or near the project site that might support the eastern indigo snake or listed plants. As a result, “Standard Construction Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake” will not be required.

Based on information provided in the Wetland Evaluation/Essential Fish Habitat report, alternatives being considered may impact up to 0.03 acre of wetland consisting of oyster bars and mangrove swamp; no seagrass beds would be impacted. Bridge pilings may be removed and replaced, but it is assumed that no net impacts to open water would occur. Since impacts are not yet known, mitigation to offset project impacts to wetlands, including essential fish habitat, is as of yet undetermined and could be either on-site or off-site. We encourage avoidance of impacts to wetlands and particularly to mangroves and oyster bars that support foraging and nesting for migratory birds.

We appreciate commitments by Pinellas County to conserve fish and wildlife and your plans to coordinate further with the Service and other agencies during the design and implementation phase of the project. If you have any questions regarding this letter or to further coordinate with the Service regarding this matter, please contact Peter Plage at (904)731-3085.

Sincerely,


Dawn Jennings
Acting Field Supervisor

cc:

Terry Gilbert-FFWCC

Brandon Howard- NMFS

Joseph Severson - FDOT



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April 22, 2013

Mr. Tony Hornik, Project Manager
Pinellas County Engineering and Technical Support Division
14 S. Ft. Harrison Avenue – 6th Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
thornik@co.pinellas.fl.us

Re: Beckett Bridge, Pinellas County, Wetlands Evaluation and Biological Assessment
(ETDM #13040)

Dear Mr. Hornik:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff has reviewed the Wetland Evaluation/Essential Fish Habitat Technical Memorandum (WETM) and the Biological Assessment Technical Memorandum (BATM) for the above-referenced project. These reports were prepared as part of the PD&E Study for the proposed project. We provide the following comments and recommendations for your consideration in accordance with Chapter 379, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

The project involves the potential repair or replacement of the Beckett Bridge over Whitcomb Bayou in Tarpon Springs. The Beckett Bridge is one of the few single-leaf, rolling-lift bascule bridges remaining in Florida. Alternatives under consideration include: no build – maintain existing bridge, no build – remove existing bridge, rehabilitate existing bridge, replace with a moveable bridge, and replace with a fixed bridge. Whitcomb Bayou connects to the Anclote River to the north.

Uplands adjacent to the bridge contain residential and marina development. The shoreline beneath the bridge is seawalled, although there are a few scattered mangroves in the vicinity. Surveys revealed no seagrasses near the bridge, but oysters have colonized the bridge pilings and other hard surfaces in the Bayou.

The WETM evaluated wetland impacts associated with the build alternatives, and found them to be minimal, resulting in only 0.003 to 0.005 units of wetland functional loss. Compensatory mitigation will be offered for all unavoidable wetland impacts during the state and federal permit process.

The BATM evaluated potential project impacts to 25 wildlife species classified under the Endangered Species Act as Federally Endangered (FE) or Threatened (FT), or by the State of Florida as Threatened (ST) or Species of Special Concern (SSC), plus the bald eagle. The bald eagle was delisted by state and federal agencies, but this species remains protected under state rule in Section 68A-16.002, F.A.C. and by the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d).

Listed species were evaluated based on range and potential appropriate habitat or because the project is within a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Consultation Area. The following listed species were evaluated in the BATM: Gulf sturgeon (FT), American alligator (FT), Eastern indigo snake (FT), loggerhead sea turtle (FT), green sea turtle (FE), leatherback sea turtle (FE), hawksbill sea turtle (FE), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (FE), Southeastern kestrel (ST), Florida sandhill crane (ST), piping plover (FT), snowy plover (ST), least tern (ST), wood stork (FE), limpkin (SSC), snowy egret (SSC), reddish egret (SSC), little blue heron (SSC), tri-colored heron (SSC), white ibis (SSC), roseate spoonbill (SSC), American oystercatcher (SSC), brown pelican (SSC), black skimmer (SSC), and Florida manatee (FE).

Project biologists made a finding of “no effect” for the Southeastern American kestrel and Florida sandhill crane, and a finding of “not likely to adversely affect” for the wood stork and Eastern indigo snake. For all the other evaluated species, a determination that the project “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” these species was concluded in the report. We agree with this determination and support the project commitments for protected species, which include the following:

1. Compliance with the USFWS “Standard Protection Protocols for the Eastern Indigo Snake” and paragraph E of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Eastern Indigo Snake Programmatic Key.
2. Compliance with the USFWS and FWC approved “Standard Manatee Construction Conditions” during all in-water construction phases of the project, and coordination with the USFWS and FWC during the design and permitting phases of the project for additional site-specific manatee protection measures to be implemented during construction.
3. Submission of a blasting plan (if blasting occurs), which includes the use of qualified observers and an aerial survey, to USFWS and FWC for review and approval prior to construction.
4. Coordination of wetland impacts with the appropriate resource agencies and propose mitigation to offset any adverse impacts to listed species habitat, if determined to be warranted.
5. If an active bald eagle nest is identified within the 660-foot buffer zone around the construction area, mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid disturbing the species, which may include control of the timing and location of construction activities and establishment of a buffer zone around active nesting sites.
6. Coordination with FWC for the removal of the osprey nests on a utility pole within the construction area during the design and permitting phase of the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the WETM and BATM for the Beckett Bridge project in Pinellas County. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Chabre either by phone at (850) 410-5367 or at FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com. If you have specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, contact Brian Barnett at (772) 579-9746 or email brian.barnett@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,



Scott Sanders, Director
Office of Conservation Planning Services

ss/bb

ENV 1-13-2

Beckett Bridge Replacement or Repair_17439_042213

cc: Theresa Farmer, FDOT District 7, theresa.farmer@dot.state.fl.us