



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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### **POLICY**

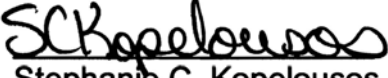
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### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

It is the policy of the Florida Department of Transportation to help preserve and enhance Florida's natural, physical, cultural and social environment as we develop, implement, and maintain transportation facilities and services. In carrying out this policy, the Department will:

- Balance quality engineering and aesthetic design principles with consideration of environmental and economic aspects of the transportation program.
- Utilize methods to preserve, enhance, and protect trees and other vegetation as valuable natural resources consistent with ecosystem management principles, local community values, and established safety practices.
- Take into account the effects of transportation improvements on prehistoric and historic cultural resources in all phases of Department activity and avoid, minimize, or mitigate for such impacts as applicable.
- Cooperate in the State's Greenways Program of land acquisition and management through identification and prioritization of important habitat connections. Where alternative mitigation strategies permit, the Department will support land acquisition activities to help achieve this ecological infrastructure. Consideration of habitat connectivity and wildlife crossings will be included on existing facilities as well as in the development of planned projects.
- Consider, in all functional activities, environmental factors such as noise, air quality, stormwater runoff, water quality, wetlands, wildlife and habitat, and hazardous materials in order to preserve and enhance the state's environmental quality.
- Maximize the use of recycled materials in highway construction.
- Cooperate in the State's program to control the spread of invasive exotic plants.

- Consider social consequences resulting from transportation actions to ensure that impacts to the human environment are identified and fully considered equally with impacts related to the natural and physical environments.
- Be sensitive to community values and needs utilizing an open decision-making process, which strives to accommodate community concerns, where feasible, and facilitate problem solving in a collaborative manner.
- Utilize proactive public involvement that is responsive to agencies, citizens and groups in addressing environmental issues and developing transportation plans, programs and policies.
- Communicate and coordinate with environmental resource agencies to preserve and protect environmental resources and expedite project delivery.

  
Stephanie C. Kopelousos  
Secretary