Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

March 9, 2020

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Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Historic Resources, and
State Historic Preservation Officer
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Attn: Adrianne Daggett, Ph.D, Transportation Compliance Review Program

Re: Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Rowell's Marina LAP Project for Monroe County, Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida

Dear Dr. Parsons,

On behalf of Monroe County, S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) has completed a cultural resource assessment survey for the proposed Rowell's Marina trailhead project in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida. The project is using funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Local Agency Program (LAP), which requires a review of how the project will impact cultural resources. Work was conducted in accordance with Stipulation VII of the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the FDOT Regarding Implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Florida* (Section 106 Programmatic Agreement, effective March 2016, amended June 7, 2017), Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966* (Public Law 89-665, as amended), as implemented by 36 CFR 800 – *Protection of Historic Properties* (incorporating amendments effective August 5, 2004), the revised Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes (F.S.)*, and FDHR *Module 3: Guidelines for Use by Historic Preservation Professionals*.

This survey was completed to determine if cultural resources are within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project area, evaluate the resources for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) according to the criteria set forth in 36 CFR Section 60.4, and to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

The proposed project area is approximately ~~five~~ nine acres in size and is located west of US Highway 1. The parcel is undeveloped and surrounded by condominiums to the north, an undeveloped parcel and private property to the south, US Highway 1 to the east, and Blackwater Sound to the west. The current project will include a bike path trailhead that extends into the park, a paved parking area, and a one-story restroom facility for park patrons (Figure 3).

For this project, due to the nature of the proposed improvements, which are at ground level for the parking area and trailhead/bike bath and a single story for the restroom, and their usage, which will consist of parking for the proposed trailhead, the project is unlikely to impact cultural resources outside of the proposed project area. For the reasons stated above, the APE for both direct and indirect effects is limited to the footprint of the project area.

No archaeological resources were identified within the direct APE. Limited subsurface testing was possible due to exposed limestone on surface; the small area that contained a shallow layer of soil was likely the remains from the project areas use as a staging area for hurricane debris and equipment in late 2018 as can be seen in the aerial maps provided in the report.

There were no previously recorded above ground resources within the project area. The Rowell's Marina Seawall and Jetty (MO06617) were recorded and evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. Resource MO06617 dates to the mid-twentieth century, and although the seawall and jetty retains integrity of location and feeling; the setting has been altered by the significant growth to the area since their original construction, and the design, materials, and workmanship have been compromised by later alterations. Therefore, the resource is recommended as ineligible for the NRHP.

Although there are no known sites at the location, Monroe County under their Certified Local Government (CLG) status is requesting monitoring during ground disturbing activities within the project area. The monitoring will be conducted by a Secretary of Interior (SOI) qualified archaeologist.

We kindly request that the cover letter and attached report be reviewed and concurrence is provided by your office. This information is provided in accordance with the provisions contained in 36 CFR, Part 800, as well as the provisions contained in the revised F.S. Chapter 267. If you have any questions regarding the subject project, please contact me at Barbara.culhane@dot.state.fl.us or (305) 470-5231.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Culhane, M.S., A.I.C.P
District Cultural Resources Coordinator

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer finds the cover letter and attachments complete and sufficient and ☒ concurs/ ☐ does not concur with the recommendations and findings provided in this cover letter for SHPO/FDHR Project File Number 2020-1009.

Or, the SHPO finds the attached document contains _____ insufficient information.

In accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among the FHWA, ACHP, FDHR, SHPO, and FDOT Regarding Implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Florida, if providing concurrence with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for a project as a while, or to No Adverse Effect on a specific historic property, SHPO shall presume that FHWA will proceed with a de minimis Section 4(f) finding at is discretion for the us of land from the historic property.

SHPO Comments:

Please do send us a copy of the archaeological monitoring report requested by Monroe County.

Jason Aldridge DSHPO March 25, 2020

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Division of Historical Resources

[DATE]