



Aesthetic Effects

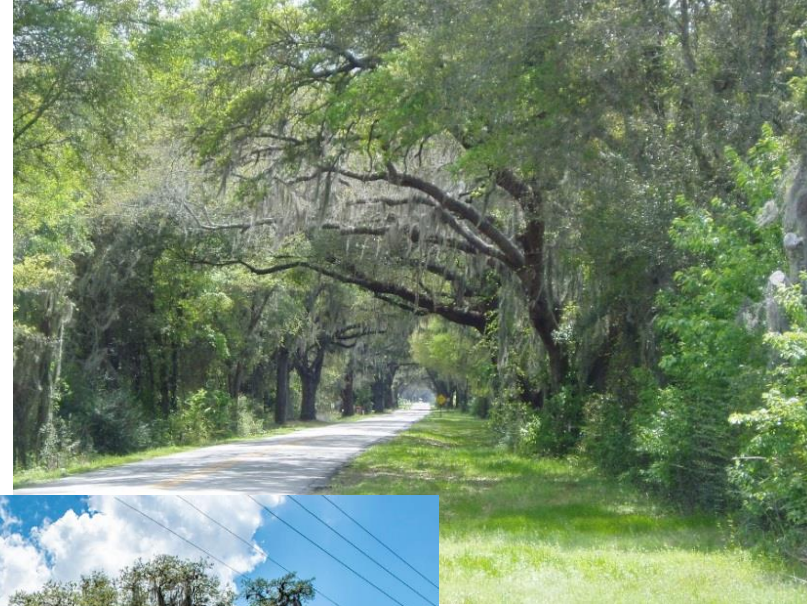


The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws described in this training are carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 executed by FHWA and FDOT.



What are Aesthetics?

The aesthetic qualities of a community or area are defined by a combination of resources and other qualities that **define the character of the community and site.**



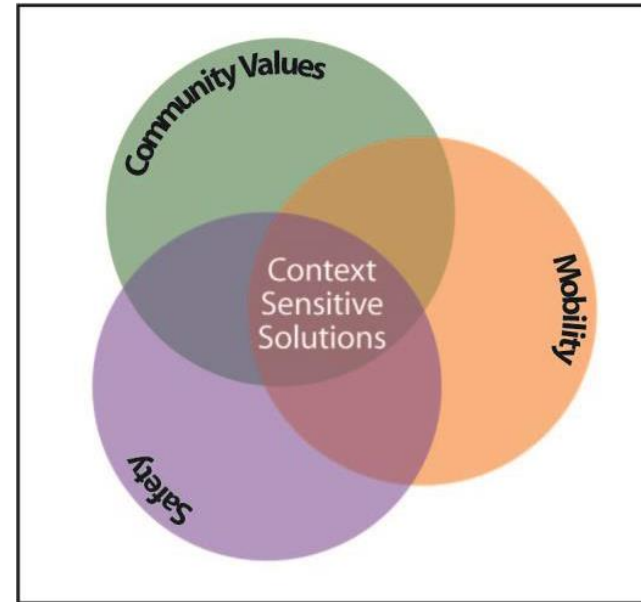
What are Aesthetic Effects?

- Based on context of the project area
- Can either be positive or negative
- Influence community cohesion and community values
- Can alter the travel experience



Community Aesthetics & Transportation

- Transportation actions can affect communities & influence aesthetic qualities
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) values the consideration of aesthetic effects (AE) in project delivery
- FDOT will consider AE while producing affordable, constructible and maintainable transportation projects



FDOT's AE Commitment

- Develop transportation facilities compatible with the surrounding natural/man-made community
- Balance transportation need with community vision
- Select appropriate design approaches that balance project engineering and community vision



Typical Aesthetic Effects Considerations

- Character
- Compatibility
- Community Values
- Sensitive Areas
- Visual Features



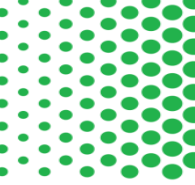
AE Evaluation Objectives

- Identify existing aesthetic resources
- Categorize/Analyze potentially affected aesthetic resources
- Assess the value of each aesthetic resources to the community
- Consider potential avoidance, minimization, mitigation and enhancement options



Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Phase



- **Planning Screen:** identify flaws and controversies that could prevent project advancement
- **Programming Screen:** Further understand the magnitude of potential AE impacts and possible methods of resolution



Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

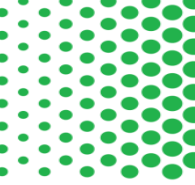
Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase

- The AE evaluation is tailored to the scope and context of the project
- Builds on previous analysis & findings
- Uses a Multi-Step Evaluation Process



Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase

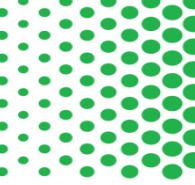


Step 1: Describe Existing Conditions

- Establish study area
- Document existing conditions
- Data collection (preexisting data/field review)

Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase



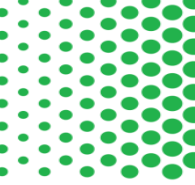
Step 1: Describe Existing Conditions (continued)

More detailed evaluation may be needed for projects that:

- Require large amounts of right of way (ROW)
- Conflict with local government comprehensive plans
- Impact aesthetic qualities of community facilities, historic resources or landmarks
- Affect aesthetic features such as specially designated roads or scenic vistas
- Disrupt or divide an established or cohesive neighborhood

Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase



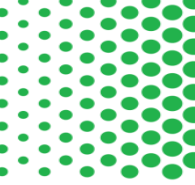
Step 2: Describe Effects

- Identify project effects on study area aesthetics
- Establish significance of impacts
- Community involvement
- Document findings



Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase



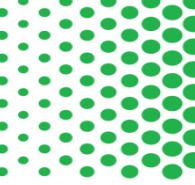
Step 3: Issue Resolution

- Make the project fit the community
- Identify solutions to address adverse effects or enhance the project's aesthetic experience
- Resolution may include avoidance, minimization, mitigation & enhancement
- Consider FDOT Policy for Context Sensitive Solution & Complete Streets
- Document commitments



Aesthetic Effects Evaluation Process

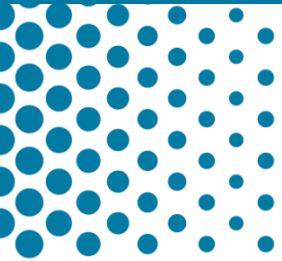
Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase



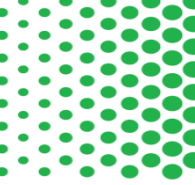
All AE commitments should be coordinated with pertinent FDOT offices for concurrence before being finalized.



Special AE Considerations



Specials AE Considerations



AE Evaluation process should pay special attention to the following programs:

- Outdoor Advertising
- Specially Designated Highways

Specials Considerations

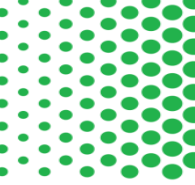
Outdoor Advertising Program

- Outdoor advertising signs should be considered during each project phase
- Coordinate closely during all project phases with FDOT/Outdoor Advertising Office (OAO)



Specials Considerations

Outdoor Advertising Program

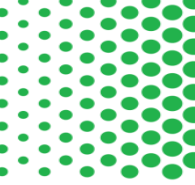


ETDM Screening Phase

- Work with OAO to identify current permitted signs locations
- Consider project related impacts (direct/indirect)
- Note community sign preferences (i.e. zoning, comp plans, local ordinances)

Specials Considerations

Outdoor Advertising Program

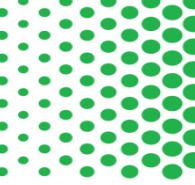


PD&E Phase

- Verify/confirm presence of existing signs
- Continued coordination with OAO and Right of Way Office
- Assess project related effects to each sign
- Consider mitigation measures/document commitments
- Approved commitments transmitted to Final Design

Specials Considerations

Outdoor Advertising Program



Final Design Phase

- Confirm existing/proposed signs and permit status
- Update related commitments
- Transmit commitment changes to PD&E
- Ensure project plans reflect approved commitments

Construction Phase

- Verify compliance consistent with bid documents and as part of Final Acceptance

Specials Considerations

Specially Designated Highways

Types of Possible Highway Designations

- Local
- Legislative
- **State & National (Florida Scenic Highways Program)**

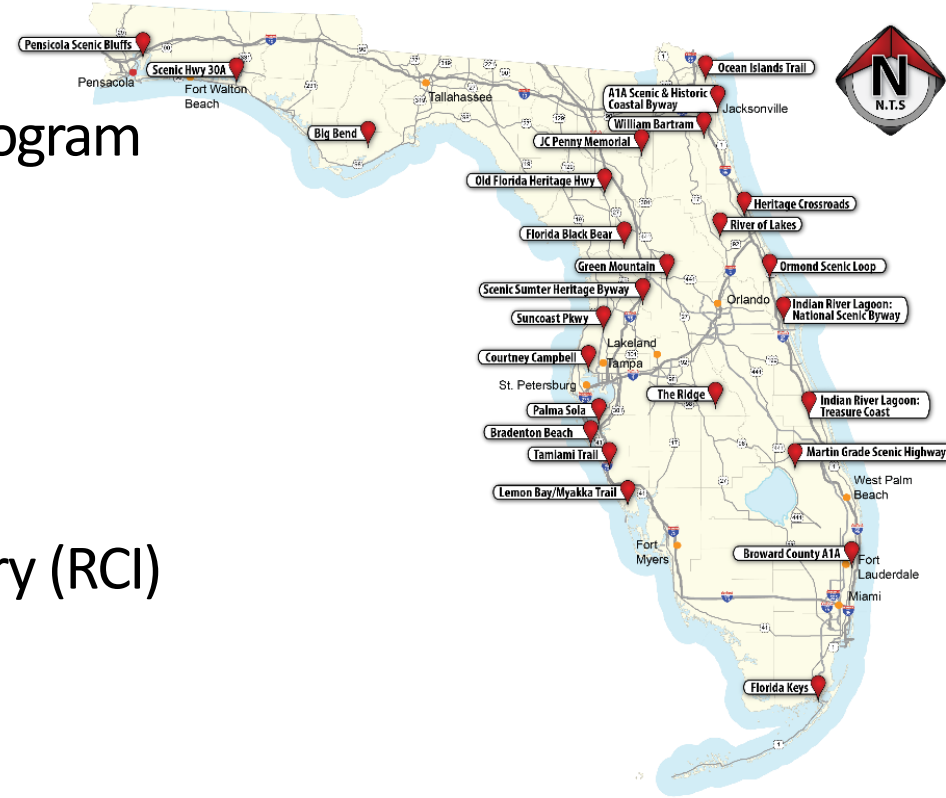


Specials Considerations

Specially Designated Highways

Focus on Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP)/ Byway Locating Tools

- FSHP Contact Points
- FSHP web site:
www.FloridaScenichighways.com/
- Roadway Characteristics Inventory (RCI)
- FSHP byway locating signs



Specials Considerations

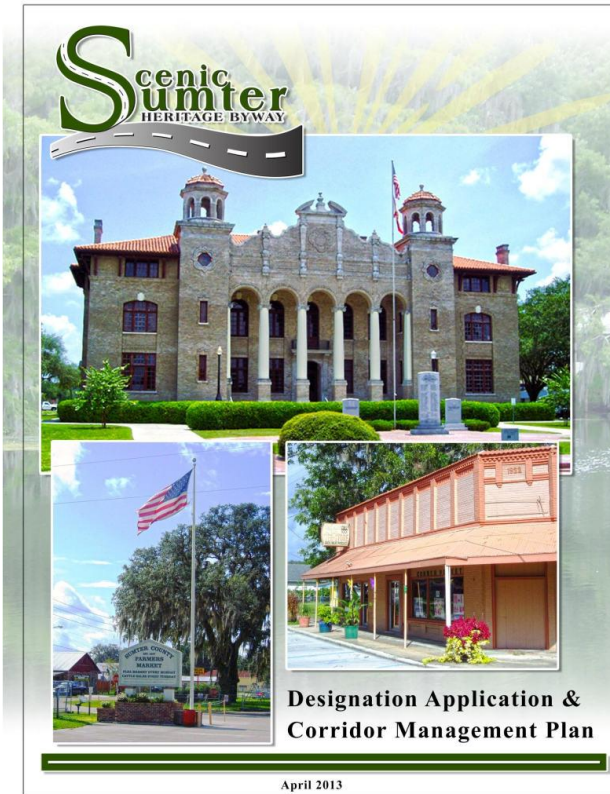
Specially Designated Highways

Focus on FSHP

Available Background Resources

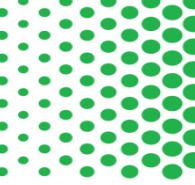
- Designation Documentation
- Byway Master Plan
- Byway Organization Contacts

* The District Scenic Highways Coordinator (DSHC) can help identify available resources and byway contacts



Specials Considerations

Specially Designated Highways

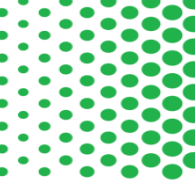


ETDM Screening Phase

- Identify designated scenic highways within study area
- Understand community values
- Consider project related impacts (direct/indirect)
- Note community preferences

Specials Considerations

Specially Designated Highways

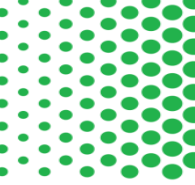


PD&E Phase

- Verify/confirm presence of designated scenic highways
- Assess project related effects
- Assess options to avoid, minimize, mitigate
- Ongoing coordination with byway organization thru DSHC
- Identify/document impacts
- Commitments transmitted to Final Design

Specials Considerations

Specially Designated Highways



Final Design

- Confirm existing/proposed byways
- Update related commitments
- Transmit commitment changes to PD&E
- Coordination with byways thru DSHC
- Ensure plans reflect approved commitments

Construction

- Verify compliance consistent with bid documents & resolution during Final Acceptance