



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR


605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BULLETIN 22-01

DATE: January 5, 2022

TO: District Planning and Environmental Administrators District Environmental Managers, District Project Development Managers, District Communications Offices, District Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Consultant Project Management Engineers, District Roadway Design Engineers, District Traffic Operations Engineers, District ISD Managers

FROM: Jennifer Marshall, PE, Director FDOT Office of Environmental Management and Native American Coordinator 

COPIES: Courtney Drummond, Brad Thoburn, Will Watts, Huiwei Shen, Tim Lattner, Dan Hurtado, Trey Tillander, Alison Stettner, Beth Frady, Catherine Bradley, Katasha Cornwell, Thu-Huong Clark, Peter McGilvray, Rusty Ennemoser, Karen Burnelle (FHWA)

SUBJECT: **Tribal Coordination Update (Public Meetings/Hearings)**

This Bulletin introduces revisions to the Tribal coordination guidance collectively presented in FDOT OEM's PD&E Manual, Cultural Resource Handbook, and on the Tribal Protocol webpage ([Protocol \(fdot.gov\)](https://fdot.gov)).

REQUIREMENTS

Per request of the six Federally Recognized Native American Tribes (Tribes) that consult with FDOT (Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Seminole Tribe of Florida), do not send any communications relating to public notices, meetings, hearings, workshops, or other public involvement invitations to the Tribes unless they have specifically requested this additional level of involvement during project consultation. FDOT acknowledges that the Tribes are not members of the general public and that their participation in any given project is conducted through the Section 106 process. If a Tribe requests additional coordination through the planning, design, or construction phases, contact the District Environmental Management Office to develop an appropriate communication plan, in accordance with the Tribe's preferences and desired level of participation. This bulletin provides guidance for Districts to accommodate this request.

BACKGROUND

FDOT strives to foster efficient and effective Section 106 consultation with the six Tribes that consult with FDOT. To that end, the Office of Environmental Management (OEM) has been working individually with tribal representatives to confirm and update tribal contact information and preferences regarding the type of coordination and information that they desire from FDOT. During this outreach, OEM received feedback from Tribes requesting their removal from all public meetings, hearings, notices, or workshops unless they have expressly requested to be included in such activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

The requirements of this bulletin are effective immediately on all Federal-Aid Highway Program (Program) undertakings and state funded highway projects for which Tribal coordination is required. Coordinate within each District to meet this Tribal request to immediately stop sending public-related invitations, notices, or solicitations to any of the Tribes with land or cultural interest in Florida. If a Tribe has expressed interest in a project, it is appropriate to coordinate with them through the Section 106 process. For projects in the planning, design, or construction phases, contact the District Environmental Management office to develop an appropriate communication plan, in accordance with the Tribe's preferences and desired level of participation. Prior to sending any Tribal communication, verify all Tribal details on the FDOT OEM Tribal Contact webpage.

CONTACT

The FDOT OEM Tribal Contact webpage (<https://www.fdot.gov/environment/NA-Website-Files/Contacts.shtm>) provides up-to-date contact information for each Tribe in addition to submission preferences and areas of interest, where applicable.

Specific questions about the implementation of this bulletin should be directed to OEM Cultural Resource Specialists Lindsay Rothrock at Lindsay.Rothrock@dot.state.fl.us (primary contact), Deena Woodward at Deena.Woodward@dot.state.fl.us (back-up contact), or Director of OEM and Native American Coordinator, Jennifer Marshall, P.E. at Jennifer.Marshall@dot.state.fl.us.