



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Florida Ecological Services Field Office



September 2, 2021

Jennifer Marshall, P.E.  
Director, Office of Environmental Management  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Subject: Concurrence with revisions to FDOT's Programmatic Approach for Minor Transportation Activities, v1.1

Dear Ms. Marshall:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) concurs with the proposed revisions to the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Programmatic Approach (PA) for Minor Transportation Activities. This PA addresses routine maintenance and modernization activities carried out by FDOT where there are either no effects or minor effects to specified federally threatened or endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

We agree that these edits and clarifications of the PA will improve its application and continue to provide consistent expectations and outcomes for FDOT's review of its routine activities that are not expected to adversely affect federally threatened or endangered species. As a result, this PA is anticipated to streamline consultation for those minor activities and allow for better allocation of staff resources towards complex projects thereby fulfilling both organizations' missions in a more effective manner.

As described in your letter dated July 28, 2021, this version 1.1 of the PA has some important refinements and clarifications:

- Changed date to July 2021 and added version number to track revisions;
- Added a sentence for clarity to the end of last paragraph on page 4 that reads "For non-federal actions when Section 7 is not applicable, the PA can be used to provide guidance for avoiding and minimizing adverse effects to federally protected species." This statement is consistent with the clarifying language included in the Freshwater Mussel Programmatic Approach;
- Appendix A – changed all marine turtle maps to FWC-generated range maps and added clarifying language concerning critical habitat designations;
- Clarified language for critical habitat designations for the piping plover, West Indian manatee, and Gulf sturgeon;

- Appendix B – replaced web link for gathering areas “A KMZ file to show this area is also available on the OEM species and habitat page at <https://www.fdot.gov/environment/protected-species-and-habitat;>”
- Appendix C – added blue-tailed mole skink to cover page and into the key text where appropriate on pages 41-42;
- Appendix D – changed the web link to the OEM species and habitat page in both places (#1 and #4); and
- Clarified that FDOT specification 8-4.1.1 which addresses the use of night-time construction work zone lighting should be applied “during sea turtle nesting season.”

Thank you for continued refinement of this approach for efficient review of routine transportation activities. We appreciate your support and partnership in conserving endangered species and their habitat in Florida. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Cantrell, Service liaison to FDOT, at [mark\\_a\\_cantrell@fws.gov](mailto:mark_a_cantrell@fws.gov) or 828-215-1739.

Sincerely,

Larry Williams  
State Supervisor

cc:

FDEP, Tallahassee, Florida (Heather Mason)  
FFWCC, Tallahassee, Florida (Jennifer Goff)  
USCG, Miami, Florida (Randall Overton)