



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Florida Ecological Services Field Office



May 5, 2026

Katasha Gruver
Director, Office of Environmental Management
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Subject: Concurrence with Florida Department of Transportation Phased Consultation

Dear Ms. Gruver:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) supports and appreciates the Florida Department of Transportation's efforts to develop and implement processes that improve efficiency for consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

The Phased ESA Approach will include three sequential phases of consideration, including field surveys at appropriate times to inform designs, routes, and decisions for consultation.

We agree that this phased approach will improve coordination and provide consistent expectations and outcomes for our review of FDOT's activities. As a result, we anticipate Section 7(a)(2) consultations will be streamlined with scheduling of surveys for endangered and threatened species at the right time during development of transportation projects.

Thank you for collaborating to develop this approach for surveys and consideration of your 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 or 850-328-2307.

Sincerely,

JOSE RIVERA

Jose Rivera
Manager, Division Environmental Review
Florida Ecological Services Field Office

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cc:
FDEP, Tallahassee, Florida (Heather Mason)
FFWCC, Tallahassee, Florida (Jennifer Goff)

7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, #200
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
(352) 448-9151

1601 BALBOA AVENUE
PANAMA CITY, FL 32405
(352) 448-9151

777 37TH ST SUITE D-101
VERO BEACH, FL 32960
(352) 448-9151