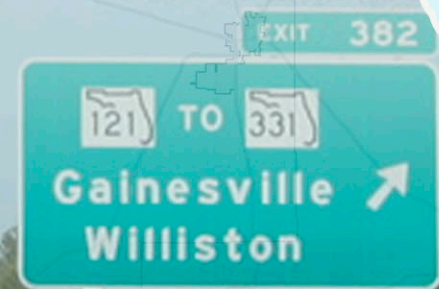


# **I-75 SKETCH INTERSTATE PLAN TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

November, 2010

**Florida Department of Transportation  
Systems Planning**

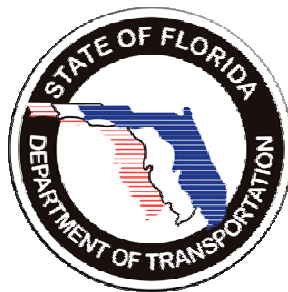


# I-75 Sketch Interstate Plan Environmental Documentation

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL OFFICE

November 2010



**Project Team**

Florida Department of Transportation, Central Office

- Systems Planning Office
- Transportation Statistics Office

Florida Department of Transportation, Districts Two and Five Representatives

Department Consultants

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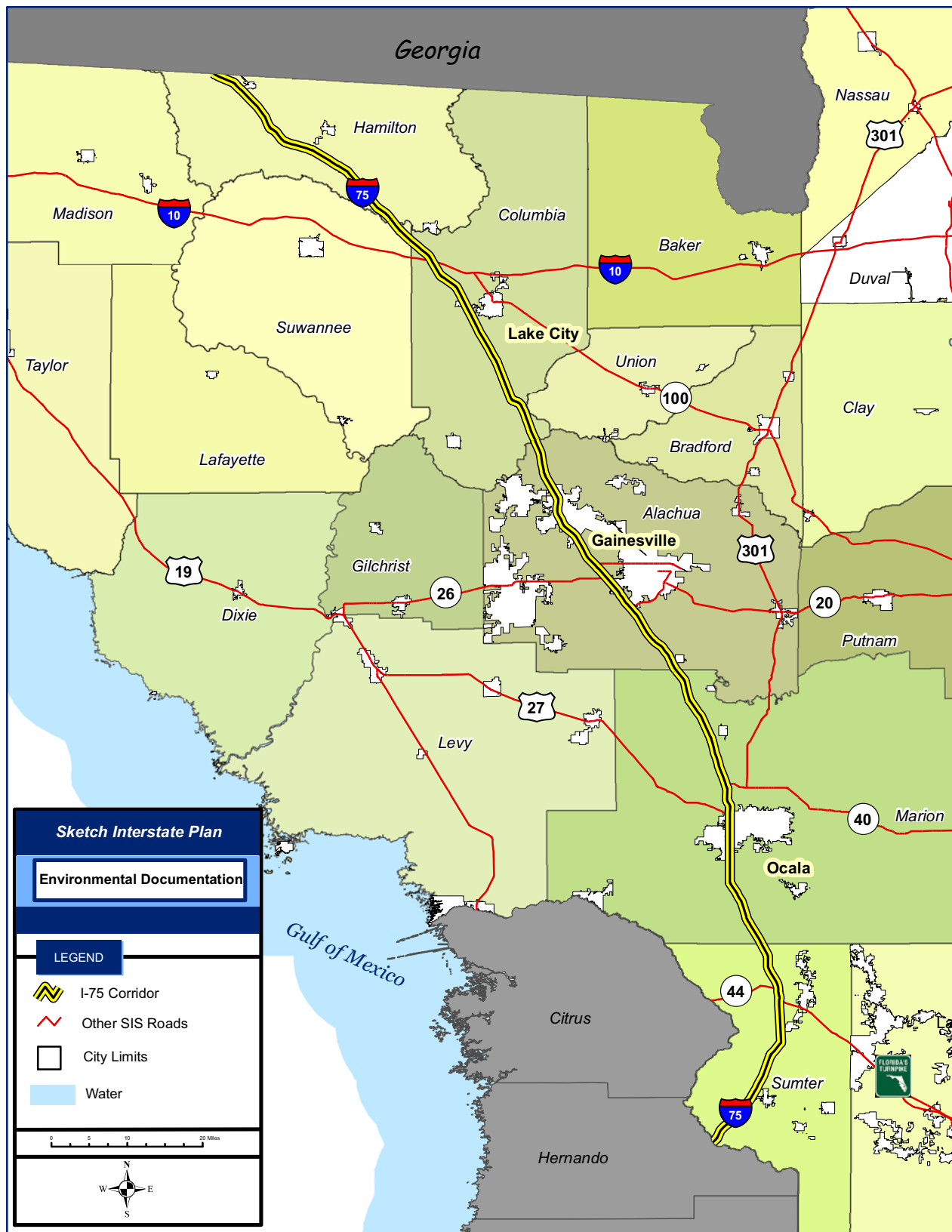
## Purpose

The Florida Department of Transportation Central Office in coordination with the District Offices has prepared a Sketch Interstate Plan for the I-75 corridor from the Florida-Georgia border south through Sumter County, Florida. **Exhibit 1** displays the I-75 Sketch Plan Corridor Area. The major purpose of this Sketch Interstate Plan is to improve the mobility of users of I-75 by examining the existing interstate system, with respect to planned improvements, and reveal general problem areas and trends that will be examined in more detail in a later phase. The preparation of a Sketch Plan is an integral part of the long range planning process for the development of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). As part of the Sketch Plan process, the Project Team, which included Department Staff and their consultant, developed multiple Technical Memorandums to analyze different concepts encompassing many focus areas. The I-75 Sketch Plan Technical Memorandums focus on:

- Safety
- Traffic
- Freight Mobility
- Environmental Analysis
- Planned Improvements and Conceptual Mobility Opportunities

The purpose of this Technical Memorandum is not to document the adjacent land composition in detail but to provide preliminary analysis and results. Further detail will be provided in subsequent planning and design stages. The Sketch Plan is designed to be a high-level preliminary planning study before a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment. However, environmental considerations are taken into account and documented and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) maps are attached. For the purposes of the Sketch Plan, wetlands, floodplains, drainage, and land use within one mile along I-75 were documented and mapped.





## I-75 Sketch Interstate Plan

### Exhibit 1: Study Area



State of Florida  
 Department of Transportation  
 Systems Planning

## Environmental Analysis

The Project Team reviewed environmental documentation along the Sketch Plan corridor. Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) screening was used as a preliminary assessment tool prior, as opposed to a detailed environmental assessment or impact statement consistent with the National Environmental Policy (NEPA).

### Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)

ETDM is a process for accomplishing transportation planning and project development for major capacity improvement projects. Early in the planning process, interest groups become involved by screening potential environmental effects. The public is able to become involved through workshops, emails, phone correspondence and the ETMD website.

ETDM provides an environmental screening process early in a capacity improvement project and provides for input through a partner agency review. However, the purpose of the Sketch Plan is not to analyze specific alternative capacity improvements along the I-75 corridor in detail but to provide conceptual capacity enhancements. For this reason, the Sketch Plan outlines a high-level course of action prior to a detailed ETDM screening using the Environmental Screening Tool.

### NEPA Process

The NEPA process is “an evaluation of the environmental effects of a federal undertaking including its alternatives.” There are three levels of analysis depending on whether or not an undertaking could significantly affect the environment. These three levels include categorical exclusion determination, preparation of an environmental assessment/finding of no significant impact (EA/FONSI), and preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). Since the NEPA process requires a detailed environmental analysis, the State of Florida developed the ETDM process to review environmental impacts of transportation projects. Since the Sketch Planning process does not identify, analyze, or determine a recommended alternative or alternatives, it does not require the NEPA process.

### Sketch Plan Environmental Analysis Approach

The Project Team, which included Departmental staff and their consultants, accessed ETDM to run the Sketch Plan project limits for I-75 through the Environmental Screening Tool (EST). The goal of entering the project into ETDM was to determine potential environmental implications and to link planning to project analysis. However, since a Sketch Plan is a preliminary needs assessment and a pre-NEPA document, the limits were analyzed through EST, but were not sent out for partner agency review at this point.

An objective of utilizing the ETDM Environmental Screening Tool in the Sketch Plan process was to establish a starting point, so when any projects moved forward in the NEPA process there was a



preliminary defined purpose and need. Since, the EST focuses on a project level for permitting future project, the study limits of the Sketch Plan were divided by county for analysis.

The preliminary environmental analysis consisted of Project Team collecting the ADHOC Reports from the Environmental Screening Tool. Below is the list of the ADHOC Reports collected.

**Table 1**  
**Environmental Report Categories**

General Category	Sub-Category Description
Air Quality	Air Quality Maintenance Area
Contaminated Sites	Drainage Basin
Economics	DRI
	Enterprise Zone
	PUD
Flood Plains	FEMA Flood Insurance Rates
	A & AE Zones
Historical and Archaeological Sites	American Indian Lands
	Florida Cemeteries
	Florida Historical Standing Structure
	Florida Archaeological
	Florida Historical Site
Infrastructure	Railways
Mobility	Existing Recreational Trails
Recreational Areas	FFWCC Management Areas
Special Designation	Other Outstanding Florida Waters
	Special or Outstanding Waters
Wetlands	National Wetland Inventory
	Palustine and Riverine Types
Wildlife and Habitat	

## GIS Analysis Results

10573 - I-75 Sketch Interstate Plan Alachua County

District	District2	Phase	Planning Screen
County	Alachua County	From	Marion/Alachua County Line
Planning Organization	FIHS Central Office	To	Alachua/Columbia County Line
Plan ID	0009990099	Financial Management No.	01234567891
Federal Involvement	No federal involvement has been identified.		
Contact Name	Michael Plagens	Contact Email	marcelo_bosio@uscorp.com
Current Project Data			

### Alternative #1

Alternative #1 Summary													
Analysis Type	Date Run	100 ft		200 ft		500 ft		1320 ft		2640 ft		5200 ft	
		Cnt	Acr	Cnt	Acr	Cnt	Acr	Cnt	Acr	Cnt	Acr	Cnt	Acr
Air Quality													
Air Quality Maintenance Area	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambient Air Monitoring Sites	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
US EPA POWER PLANTS	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Economic													
2000 Census Designated Places	10/14/2008	2	197.96	2	393.3	2	980.24	2	2382.01	3	4367.65	4	8038.31
Developments of Regional Impact (DRI)	10/14/2008	0	0.0	3	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enterprise Zones	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida Forever BOT Projects	10/14/2008	0	0.0	1	0.45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HUD EMPOWERMENT ZONES / ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES 2007	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nature Area State Lands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT	10/14/2008	0	0.0	4	7.31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
State-owned Lands Act	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Floodplains													
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (SERP) PROJECT BOUNDARIES	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coastal Barrier Resource System	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coastal Emergency Management Flood Data	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coastline	10/14/2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## ETMD Snapshots from Screening

2000 Census Designated Places <http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/place2000.htm>

2000 Census Designated Places - analysis run on 10/14/2008

Name	100 FL	200 FL	500 FL	1320 FL	2640 FL	5280 FL
Alachua	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gainesville						
High Springs						
Micanopy					✓	✓

Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) <http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/dri.htm>

Developments of Regional Impact - analysis run on 10/14/2008

Description	Acr	Pct
ALACHUA WEST [ADA NO: 2001-006]	2.2	0.15%
OAKS MALL [ADA NO: 1975-052]	1.2	0.08%
SPRINGHILLS [ADA NO: 1998-002]	3.1	0.21%

Florida Forever BOT Projects [http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/fl\\_forever.htm](http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/fl_forever.htm)

Florida Forever BOT Projects - analysis run on 10/14/2008

Description	100 FL	200 FL
CARR FARMPRICE'S SCRUB FLORIDA FOREVER BOT PROJECT		✓

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT <http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/pud.htm>

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT - analysis run on 10/14/2008

Description	100 FL	200 FL
PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)		✓
PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)		✓
PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)		✓
PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)		✓

DFIRM 100-Year Flood Plain [http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/dfirm\\_100a\\_gv.htm](http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/dfirm_100a_gv.htm)

DFIRM 100-Year Flood Plain - analysis run on 10/14/2008

Flood Zone	Acr	Pct	Acr	Pct
A	64.7	8.83%	146.5	9.88%
AE	7.7	1.06%	19.9	1.36%

Drainage Basins <http://www.fls-estat.org/esl/metadata/basins.htm>

Drainage basins from FDEP - analysis run on 10/14/2008

Name	100 FL	200 FL
UNNAMED DRAIN	✓	✓
HOGTOWN PRAIRIE REACH	✓	✓
PAINES PRAIRIE	✓	✓
WALBERG LAKE OUTLET	✓	✓
TUSCAWILLA LAKE	✓	✓
UNNAMED SLOUGH	✓	✓
MILL CREEK SINK	✓	✓
ALACHUA SLOUGH	✓	✓

The Project Team determined that given the scope and pre-NEPA nature of the Sketch Plan, it was not necessary to include a detailed assessment of all environmental, cultural, and historical conditions along the Sketch Plan corridor. Instead of focusing on the AdHOC reports, which are a typical analysis technique found within a Master Plan or PD&E corridor study, the Project Team decided that environmental documentation should fall within five primary categories. These categories are wetlands, drainage, floodplains, and existing and future land use characteristics confined within 1 mile around the corridor.

## Summary

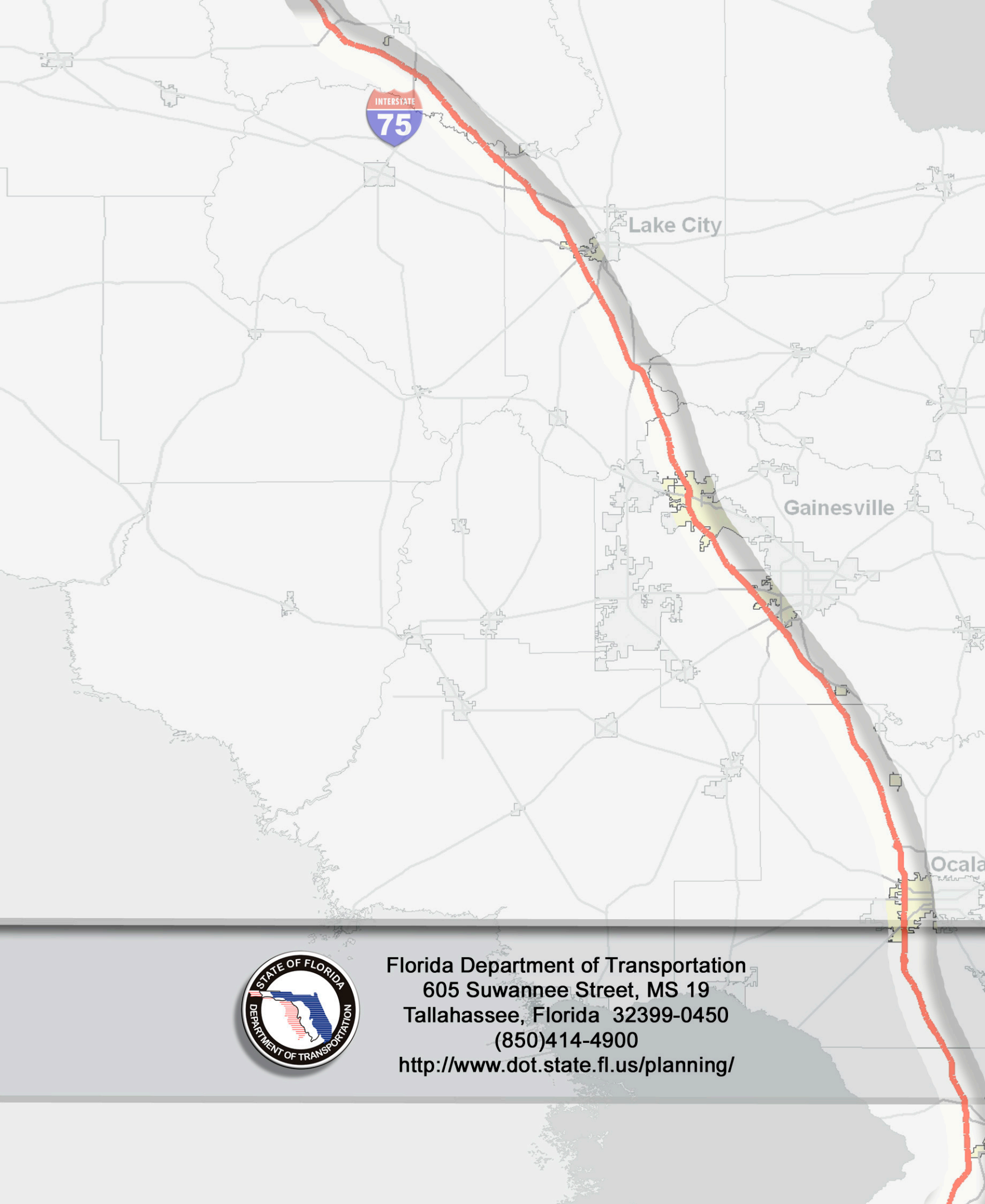
The purpose of this Technical Memorandum is to document the mainline environmental conditions within the corridor. Because the Sketch Plan is preliminary Needs assessment and does not address alternatives, the NEPA process does not apply; however, in order to establish a baseline for future planning and design studies, the ETDM screening tool process was utilized.

After analysis of this screening tool process by the Project Team, the decision was made to refine the process down to five categories: wetlands, drainage, floodplains, and existing and future land use characteristics. Maps detailing these environmental characteristics are included within the Appendix. Considering the length of the corridor and given the environmental and land use characteristics, multiple maps for each characteristic by District were required to provide the appropriate level of detail.

## Appendices

### **Appendix A:** Environmental Characteristics

Wetlands	A-1
Floodplains	A-2
Drainage Basins	A-3
Existing Land Use	A-4
Future Land Use	A-5



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