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Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS MEMO 26-04
FHWA Approval: N/A

DATE: October 30, 2026

TO: District Directors of Transportation Development, District Directors of Operations, District Traffic Operations Engineers, District Safety Administrators/Engineers, District Design Engineers, District Project Development Administrators/Engineers, District Planning/Environmental Management Administrators/Managers, District Permitting/Access Management Administrators/Managers, District Consultant Project Management Engineers, District Program Management Administrators/Engineers

FROM: Will N. Watts, P.E., Chief Operations Officer, Assistant Secretary

COPIES: Rudy Powell, Jennifer Marshall, Alison Stettner, Brenda Young, Mark Mathes, Will Potter, Katasha Gruver, Scott Arnold, John Krane, Derwood Sheppard, Joshua Jester, Gina Bonyani, Andrew Gray, Daniel Holt (FHWA), Mark Parry (FHWA)

SUBJECT: **Discontinuing the Manual on Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE)**

This memo announces that, effective November 2, 2026, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is discontinuing the Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Program and retiring the ICE Manual, website, and associated tools and materials.

BACKGROUND

The ICE process was established to provide a consistent, data-driven methodology for evaluating and selecting intersection-control alternatives. On November 1, 2017, FDOT announced the release of its first statewide ICE Manual, with implementation beginning in 2018. The process was intended to ensure the systematic evaluation of alternative intersection designs when predefined triggers were met, including at locations meeting traffic signal warrants. After eight years of statewide implementation, these practices have become integrated into FDOT's planning, traffic operations, and design processes. As a result, the mandatory ICE requirement is no longer necessary to achieve its original objective. Removing the formal requirement will streamline project delivery, reduce administrative efforts, and provide flexibility for

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engineering staff to apply appropriate levels of analysis based on project complexity while continuing to evaluate intersection solutions using established engineering judgment, safety performance considerations, and operational needs.

REQUIREMENTS

Moving forward, intersection-control decisions will continue to be made in accordance with applicable traffic signal warrants, access classifications, and the FDOT Design Manual (FDM). Safety and operational performance shall be the primary considerations, supported by sound engineering judgment and project-specific conditions. Districts and offices shall continue to document the basis for intersection-control decisions in accordance with applicable FDOT requirements.

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective November 2, 2026, FDOT is discontinuing the ICE Program and retiring the ICE Manual, website, forms, procedures, tools, templates, training, and related materials. This direction applies to new projects beginning on or after that date. For ongoing projects, ICE studies nearing completion in Stage 1 or Stage 2 should be completed; however, if concept development has not begun, the ICE study should not be advanced. For permit applications, FDOT should communicate with applicants that ICE is no longer required as part of the permit submittal, regardless of whether the ICE evaluation has begun. In the near future, ICE references and requirements will be removed from the FDM, Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual, Preliminary Engineering Report guidance and QA/QC checklist, Traffic Engineering Manual (TEM), Manual on Uniform Traffic Studies (MUTS), Median Openings and Access Management Procedure, Multimodal Access Management Guidebook, Multimodal Transportation Site Impact Handbook and Application Guide, Traffic Analysis Handbook, FDOT Procedural Document Library, applicable permitting documents and language, applicable forms and procedures, FDOT websites, eTraffic, Learning Curve training, Scope of Services and staff-hour guidance, Project Management Guide, applicable Federal Highway Administration agreements, internal guidance, templates, and other FDOT documents, systems, and materials in which ICE is referenced.

In coordination with the State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office, each responsible office shall identify and remove ICE references from its applicable manuals, websites, systems, forms, training materials, guidance, and publications.

CONTACT

Mark Mathes, P.E.
Director, Office of Traffic Engineer and Operations
850-570-4614
Mark.Mathes@dot.state.fl.us