



Florida Department of Transportation

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MIKE DEW
SECRETARY

April 30, 2018

FWC Commenting Coordinator
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Transmitted via e-mail to: fwcconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com

RE: LISTED SPECIES COORDINATION

FPID: 435518-2

Location: CR 30/SR 30 (Front Beach Road) Sidewalk from Lakeshore Drive to Portside Drive

County: Bay

Dear FWC:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 3, is performing a sidewalk installation along SR 30/Front Beach Road in Bay County, FL. The work being performed includes adding sidewalks on both sides of the road, removing some existing asphalt, and the construction of curb ramps. No right-of-way acquisition is required. No permanent lighting is proposed. FDOT District 3 is seeking your review and comment on our finding that the project is not likely to adversely affect State-protected resources. This project is also being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Data was reviewed through literature and database searches including information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). Based on information collected from these sources, the following federally protected species have historically been documented in the project area or are likely to occur adjacent to the project area:

Gulf sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*: **No effect**

Loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta caretta*: **May affect but not likely to adversely affect**

Leatherback sea turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*: **May affect but not likely to adversely affect**

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*: **May affect but not likely to adversely affect**

The project is located near designated critical habitat for the Gulf sturgeon based on information obtained from FWS databases. However, the project will not directly impact this critical habitat because the project is land based and no in-water work is proposed. As such, this project is expected to have **no effect on** the Gulf sturgeon.

Loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles are known to nest on the beaches of Florida and are likely to utilize the nearby beach during nesting season (May 1 – October 31). The project is

adjacent to the existing roadway but is not anticipated to impact the nearby dune and scrub habitat. Due to the project's proximity to potential sea turtle nesting habitat, the Department has made the following commitment for this project: *From May 1 to October 31, any night-time lighting used to illuminate the construction work area shall be in accordance with the Bay County ordinance 1138 (Beach Lighting) Section 7-112(c)1. This ordinance allows temporary construction lighting, mounted not more than 15 feet from the ground and used only during active construction periods. Lighting shall be used for the work area only and shall not illuminate the beach.* See Commitments and Plan Sheet 60, attached. With implementation of this commitment, the project **May affect but is not likely to adversely affect** the two aforementioned sea turtle species.

The least tern can be found throughout the coastal areas of Florida. The installation of the sidewalk will be within a primarily disturbed coastal area with significant development, therefore it is unlikely that this project will impact habitat for the least tern. The project **May affect but is not likely to adversely affect** the least tern and its habitat.

The project area borders FNAI identified scrub habitat adjacent to the project on the south side of Front Beach Road. Clearing within FDOT right-of-way is required to construct the sidewalk. To minimize impacts to the scrub/dune habitat, the Department has made the following commitment for this project: *No staging or storage of construction equipment or materials is allowed outside of the limits of construction on the south side of the roadway between Stations 295 – 311.* See Commitments, attached.

Your review and comment with the findings that this project is not likely to adversely affect state-protected resources will be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or comments concerning the proposed project, please contact Joy Swanson Pleas at 850/330-1505 or Joy.SwansonPleas@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,



Joy Swanson Pleas
District 3 Environmental Manager

Attachments: Commitments, Location Map, Photos, FNAI Data, Plan Sheet 60

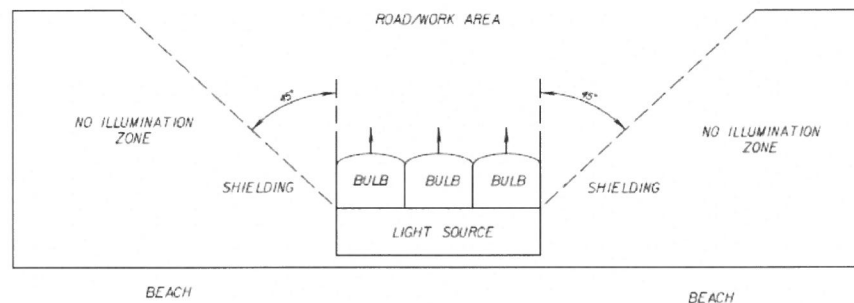
cc: Terry Gilbert, FWC
Dr. Sean Blomquist, FWS
Dr. Jeffrey Ackley, FWS

Commitments:
FPID 435518-2

CR 30/SR 30 (Front Beach Road) Sidewalk from Lakeshore Drive to Portside Drive
Bay County

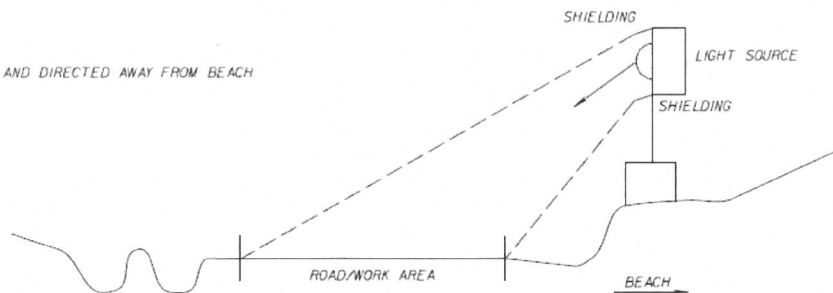
1. From May 1 to October 31, any night-time lighting used to illuminate the construction work area shall be in accordance with the Bay County ordinance 1138 (Beach Lighting) Section 7-112 (c)1. This ordinance allows temporary construction lighting, mounted not more than 15 feet from the ground and used only during active construction periods. Lighting shall be used for the work area only and shall not illuminate the beach. If a live, sick, injured, or dead sea turtle is encountered, found, or observed within the construction area or near or on the road, the FWC Wildlife Alert should be notified immediately at 1-800-404-FWCC (3922). The construction crew is to maintain a buffer of no less than 200 ft. and should not physically disturb or follow an adult or hatchling sea turtle. Turtle friendly lighting will only be required from May 1 – October 31 (The sea turtle nesting/hatchling season.) See schematic below:

LIGHT SOURCE SHIELDED AND DIRECTED AWAY FROM BEACH



NTS

LIGHT SOURCE SHIELDED AND DIRECTED AWAY FROM BEACH



CROSS SECTION

NTS

2. No staging or storage of construction equipment or materials is allowed outside of the limits of construction on the south side of the roadway between Stations 295-311.