

CHAPTER 32 COMMITMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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32 COMMITMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

32.1 OVERVIEW

This section is included only in the State Environment Impact Report (SEIR), Type 2 Categorical Exclusion (CE), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) documents. It is not a part of the draft document format (*Part 2, Chapter 1*) but is exclusively a part of all final documents. It serves to document any commitments made by the Department over the course of the project study and the final alternative recommendation. This section is added to the FEIS, Type 2 CE and SEIR after the public hearing and is likewise added to the revised EA during the preparation of the FONSI.

32.2 PROCEDURE

32.2.1 Content of the Commitments and Recommendations Section

This section is divided into two distinct parts.

1. Commitments; and
2. Recommendations

32.2.1.1 Commitments

This portion of the section addresses all of the commitments, which the Department has entered into over the course of the study. All commitments are listed verbatim as found elsewhere in the document. Appropriate sections of the document are referenced to assist the reader in obtaining a full understanding of the context in which the commitment is made.

This section must provide the following information:

1. Verbatim documentation of the commitment;
2. Provide stipulations on how (if known) the commitment is to be executed;
3. Documentation for the administrative record the parties involved for the administrative record;
4. Establish the timing for fulfilling the commitment; and
5. Set out for the record any other pertinent facts about the commitment known to the analyst.

The Commitments section should only contain those specific commitments made by the Department, which are not already a part of the Department's "Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction." Include any commitments recorded in the Final **Programming Screen Summary Report**. These would be found in the General Project Commitments section of the report. (Refer to the **Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Planning and Programming Manual** for more information about the summary report.) Also include any commitments made through coordination that occurred with agencies during the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) phase after the ETDM screening events.

Provided below is an example of the type of discussion generally found in this section.

"In order to minimize the impacts of this project on the human environment, the Department is committed to the following measures:

1. Approximately 5.7 acres of mangroves and tidal creek wetlands will be filled by causeway widening. To mitigate this impact, the Department will create on a nearby spoil island (Goat Island), a wetland of approximately 6 acres. This has been coordinated with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), which owns the island. An additional area encompassing approximately 1 acre of wetlands will also be created on the causeway under the east approach to the high level Intracoastal Waterway bridge. Implementation of this mitigation measure will be carried out at the time of construction (section X).
2. The Department will ensure that the Contractor coordinates with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for any and all construction activities taking place in the channel or which could influence navigation. This will also include the placement of appropriate notifications in the Notice to Mariners (section X).
3. A service road will be provided to give access to wayside parks and adjoining businesses and residences. This is the result of requests by local citizens at the public hearing (section X).
4. Provisions will be made for pedestrians and bicyclists during construction by establishing a service road to serve the adjacent community.
5. The bridge will be designed to be as aesthetically pleasing to the community as possible.
6. The existing bridge will be documented prior to its replacement in accordance with the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record.

32.2.1.2 Recommendations

This section describes the alternative which the Department is recommending to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for location and concept acceptance. The alternative is described in sufficient detail so the reader totally understands the Department's decision. In addition to reiterating the recommended alternative, this section also references the alternative in the text.

Provided below is an example of the type of discussion generally found in this section.

"As a result of the public hearing, environmental studies, and interagency coordination, the alternative recommended for location and Concept Acceptance is Alternative 2, which is widening SR X from two to four lanes for a distance of 2 miles for SR XX to SR XXX, and the construction of a low-level bridge over Any River and a high-level bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway (see pages x and xx for specific details on the Alternative and bridge respectively and pages xxx and xxxx for the appropriate typical sections)."

32.2.2 Reevaluation Process

During the reevaluation of projects, the commitments listed in this section of the FONSI or FEIS must be listed in the reevaluation and its status regarding implementation provided (***Part 1, Chapter 13***).

32.3 REFERENCE

1. Council on Environmental Quality, 1978. Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 43 FR 55978-56007 and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.
2. Florida Department of Transportation, 2006. ETDM Planning and Programming Manual.