



FOREWORD

This Handbook provides guidance and assistance to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and all others involved in conducting Sociocultural Effects (SCE) Evaluations. The Handbook describes the process of analyzing the potential sociocultural effects of a transportation action on a community, assessing the degree of effect this action may have, and determining if mitigation and/or avoidance measures are warranted. As FDOT continues to adapt and implement the Sociocultural Effects (SCE) Evaluation process, project delivery and the quality of life of affected communities will be enhanced.

HANDBOOK ORGANIZATION

This Handbook is structured to identify the legal mandates supporting SCE Evaluation; enumerate the six sociocultural effects issues; and define the process of SCE evaluation. The Handbook explains the SCE Evaluation process and describes the process for study area identification within which to apply the SCE evaluations. Guidance is included to enable the community analyst to collect, organize and assess data relative to the SCE Evaluation process, and to prepare a Community Characteristics Inventory (CCI). Methods are described to analyze the SCE issues and assess the degree of effect of a proposed transportation action on the community. Finally, techniques are suggested to resolve consequences of the transportation action in cooperation with the affected community.

Throughout the Handbook, certain phrases, tables, figures and sections may be repeated. This repetition is purposeful and provides emphasis for the community analyst to complete the evaluation. SCE Evaluation is an iterative process in which certain steps will be revisited and refined based on the nature and scope of a transportation project and its potential effects.



This Handbook contains the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Glossary
- Appendix B: Legal Authority
- Appendix C: Title VI/Civil Rights
- Appendix D: SCE Considerations
- Appendix E: Resources
- Appendix F: District Presentations

Appendix A: Glossary

This appendix is a list of words, phrases, and acronyms to assist the community analyst in defining and explaining complex transportation jargon.

Appendix B: Legal Authority

This appendix features federal statutes, regulations, policies, technical advisories, and executive orders relevant to transportation planning and project development.

Appendix C: Title VI/Civil Rights

This appendix provides guidance to the community analyst while performing the SCE evaluation in order to understand the implications of Title VI/Civil Rights issues.

Appendix D: SCE Considerations

This appendix contains a list of 54 considerations developed to provide a basis for addressing social, economic, land use, mobility, aesthetic, and relocation issues.



Appendix E: Resources

This appendix lists applicable resources providing additional information for conducting thorough SCE evaluations. This section also includes guidance for suggested scope elements necessary to evaluate sociocultural effects in the planning and project development phases. Updates to this appendix will be posted on the FDOT website at www.dot.state.fl.us/emo.

Appendix F: District Presentations

This appendix includes case study presentations that exemplify the role of public involvement and SCE evaluation in the transportation process. These presentations are available on the FDOT website at www.dot.state.fl.us.

- *Indian Street Bridge PD&E Study.* Steve Braun, P.E., FDOT District 4.
- *Strings and Ribbons ~ A Public Involvement Success Story.* Karl Welzenbach, Volusia County MPO.
- *Highlands County Sociocultural Data Collection Effort ~ A Practical Application of SCE Data Collection Principles.* Gwen Pipkin, FDOT District 1.
- *Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project.* Bill Henderson, FDOT District 2.
- *Integrating Cultural Resources Into SCE Evaluation.* Ken Hardin, Janus Research.
- *Brickell Avenue Bridge Widening ~ Native American Consultation.* Cathy Owen, FDOT District 6.
- *Overtown ~ An Unfortunate Woman.* Cathy Owen, FDOT District 6.