



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Florida Division
September 14, 2015

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In Reply Refer To:
PER-FL

Secretary Jim Boxold
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Subject: Statement of Interest -Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program

Dear  Secretary Boxold:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Interest for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to assume Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) responsibility for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental responsibilities for highway projects in Florida. As you know, this program that began as the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program was converted into a permanent program with the passage of MAP-21. Any state may apply to assume FHWA's NEPA responsibilities by compiling and submitting information defined in 23 CFR 773, in order to apply for these responsibilities.

I agree, as mentioned in your letter, that FDOT and the FHWA have a very long and productive history of working together to deliver highway projects in Florida. I am confident we will continue this partnership as we work toward FDOT assuming these responsibilities.

FHWA has reviewed the draft schedule for completing NEPA Assumption prepared by your staff and find it ambitious compared with our recent experience in other states. Our experience indicates that from the time an initial draft application is developed, the process can take up to 18 months. We will certainly work with you to make this process progress as expeditiously as possible. The NEPA Workshop will be a good opportunity to discuss specific schedule details.

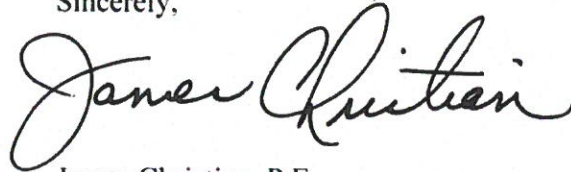
FHWA's point of contact will be Mr. Buddy Cunill. Buddy can be reached at:

Buddy Cunill
Environmental Program Team Leader
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32312
Phone: 850-553-2224
Email: benito.cunill@dot.gov

FDOT has requested the 2-day NEPA Workshop and this is currently scheduled for November 3-4, 2015.

I look forward to working with FDOT on this important and historical initiative for Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Christian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Christian, P.E.
Division Administrator

cc: Gloria Shepherd (FHWA)
Gerry Solomon (FHWA)
Owen Lindauer (FHWA)
David Hawk (FHWA)
Karen Brunelle (FHWA)
Buddy Cunill (FHWA)
Cathy Kendall (FHWA)
Brian Blanchard, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations
Richard Biter, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development
Rachel Cone, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration
Jim Wood, FDOT State Transportation Development Administrator
Ken Morefield, Manager, FDOT State Environmental Management Office