

Draft Guiding Principles Summary

Natural Resources

1. Enhance natural resources by applying innovative planning and design strategies aimed at protecting, restoring and conserving habitats and natural ecosystems;
2. Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate, if required, impacts to conservation areas including:
 - a. public conservation lands (Florida Preservation 2000 Act lands and Florida Forever Program acquired lands and projects),
 - b. lands identified as priority 1 and 2 in the Florida Ecological Greenways Network,
 - c. managed lands, and
 - d. mitigation banks and easements;
3. Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate, if required, impacts to endangered or threatened species and their habitats, and wildlife corridors;
4. Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate, if required, impacts to important water resources including:
 - a. spring protection zones/springsheds,
 - b. outstanding Florida waters
 - c. groundwater recharge areas,
 - d. wetlands,
 - e. floodplains, and
 - f. other surface waters;
5. Enhance springs priority focus areas and impaired water bodies by capitalizing on opportunities to convert septic to sewer systems, and watershed-wide water quality improvements; and
6. Avoid, or Minimize impacts to sinkhole and karst areas.

Cultural Resources

1. Avoid or Minimize impacts to existing neighborhoods and residential communities by maintaining the surrounding character, while accommodating potential growth and development; and
2. Avoid or Minimize impacts to cultural resources including historical and archaeological resources, as well as lands owned by Native American tribal nations.

Social Resources

1. Enhance mobility and accessibility in areas with a high concentration of transportation-disadvantaged populations;
2. Enhance economic development opportunities by locating interchanges in a manner that considers the local land use vision and goals;
3. Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate, if required, impacts to farmland preservation areas, Florida Rural and Family Lands Protection Program lands, agricultural lands, and timber lands;
4. Consider transportation of agricultural products to distribution centers and markets and minimize impacts to productive agricultural lands; and
5. Enhance access to emergency shelters and other emergency facilities.

Physical Resources

1. Minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas by locating the corridor such that it follows existing transportation rights of way and utility corridors or easements where feasible; and
2. Enhance local and regional transportation network connectivity.