

Draft Guiding Principles Worksheet

All the topics discussed at the Task Force Meetings were used in the development of the overall guiding principles. This table demonstrates how each discussed topic is incorporated into the Guiding Principles.

Natural		
Conservation Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
	Topics Discussed at Task Force Discussion by Type	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Avoid/Minimize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider impacts to Florida Forever Prospective lands as they are already prioritized for purchase and be mindful that not all Florida Forever lands projects are “active” as the owners may choose to remove them. • Consider areas where there are prescribed fires or controlled burning/ smoke sheds. • Consider Critical Lands Identification Project (CLIP) priority 1 and priority 2 areas. • Consider state public lands have management plans with optimal boundaries. • Avoid Mitigation banks and easements. • Consider impact to priority 1 and 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN)—these may have different weights in the avoidance process. • Avoid regionally significant resources identified in the Regional Planning Council’s Strategic Regional Policy Plans. • Consider dark sky conservation and adopt dark sky friendly lighting to prevent or minimize light pollution. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Mitigate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, to the extent feasible, lands proposed for management for conservation purposes; where avoidance is not feasible, minimize and mitigate impacts to lands identified as priorities through statewide or regional landscape scale conservation initiatives. • Where minimization has achieved look at offsetting compensation where the result is a net positive benefit like it was applied on Osceola Parkway Project by Central Florida Expressway Authority.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Enhance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance environmental sensitive areas. • Consider innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate environmental mitigation or ecosystem, wildlife habitat protection or restoration. • Recognize the existing network of conservation lands, and habitats for fish and wildlife and look for opportunities to enhance the existing network. 	

Natural

Wildlife and Habitat

3. Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate, if required, impacts to endangered or threatened species and their habitats, and wildlife corridors.

Topics Discussed at Task Force Discussion by Type

Avoid/Minimize

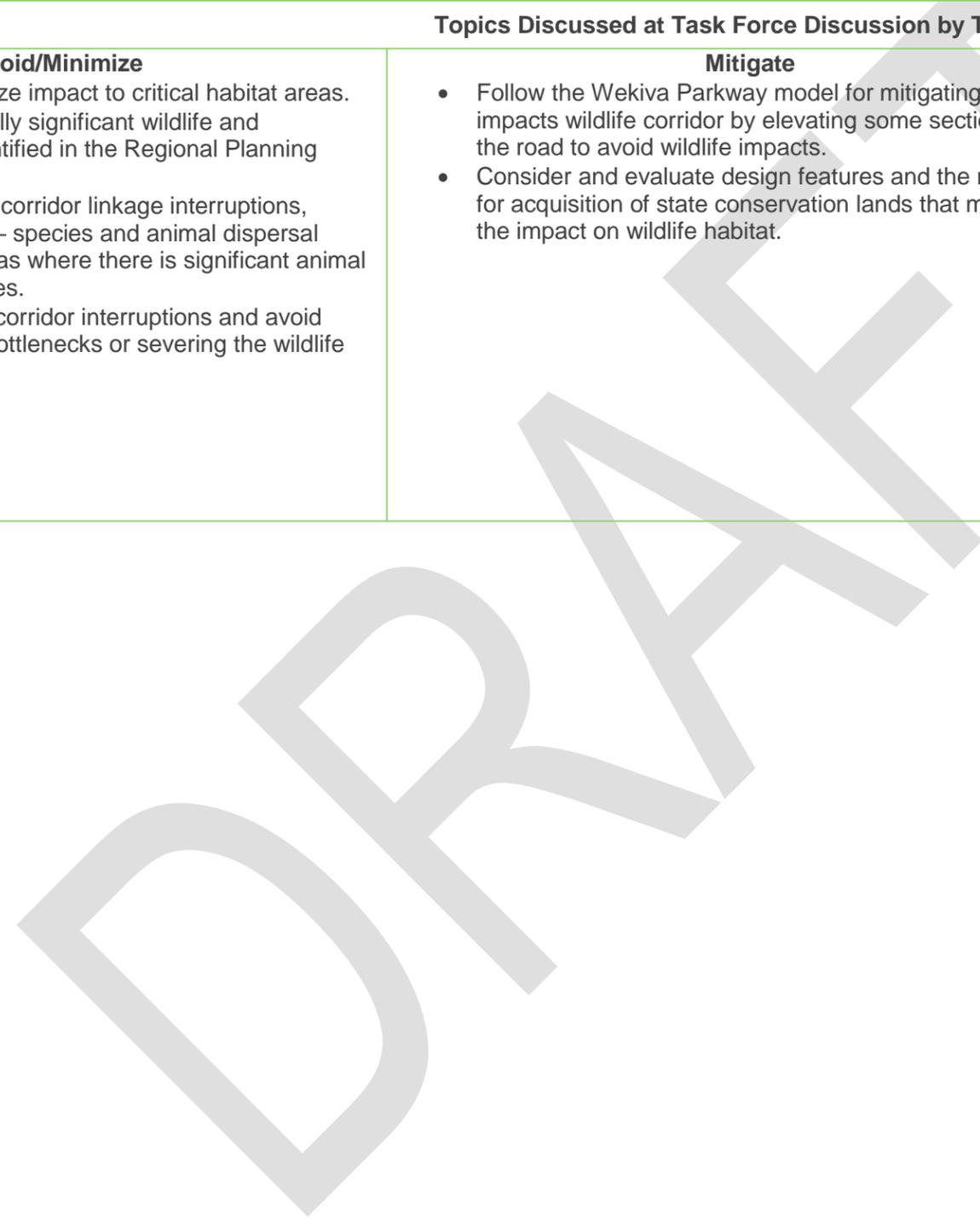
- Avoid and minimize impact to critical habitat areas.
- Focus on regionally significant wildlife and conservation identified in the Regional Planning Council's Plans.
- Consider Wildlife corridor linkage interruptions, wildlife corridors – species and animal dispersal patterns, and areas where there is significant animal fatalities/mortalities.
- Minimize wildlife corridor interruptions and avoid creating further bottlenecks or severing the wildlife corridors.

Mitigate

- Follow the Wekiva Parkway model for mitigating impacts wildlife corridor by elevating some sections of the road to avoid wildlife impacts.
- Consider and evaluate design features and the need for acquisition of state conservation lands that mitigate the impact on wildlife habitat.

Enhance

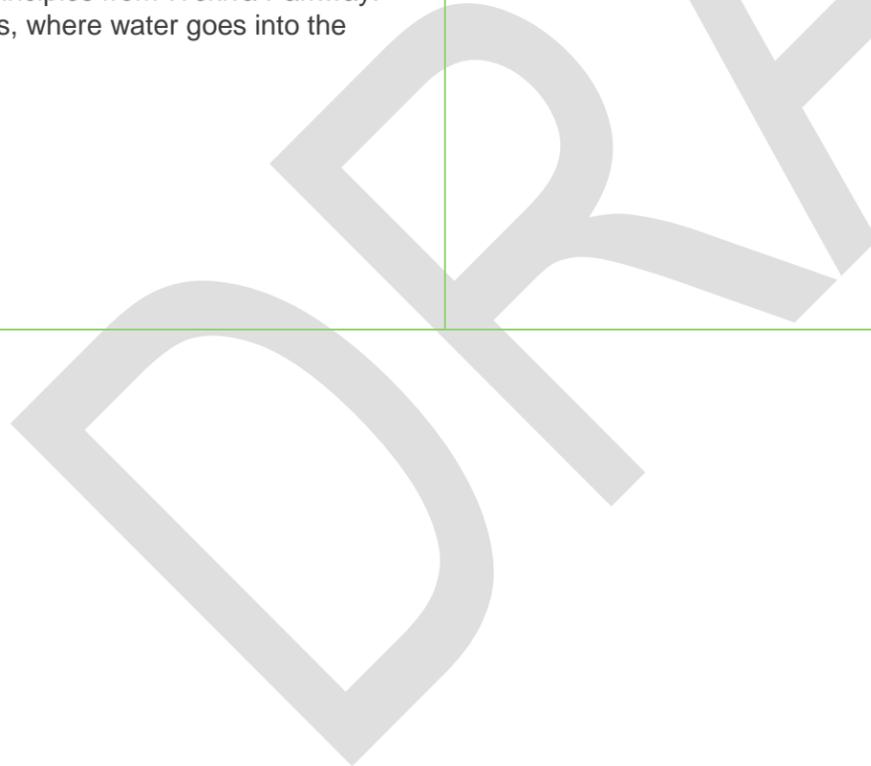
- Protect and enhance wildlife corridors.
- Consider innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate environmental mitigation or ecosystem, wildlife habitat protection or restoration.
- Recognize the existing network of conservation lands, and habitats for fish and wildlife and look for opportunities to enhance the existing network through restoration of water quality and habitats in order to allow for natural functions to continue.
- Look for opportunities to improve the road environmentally and also enhancement opportunities within the green swamp wildlife corridor by looking at connectivity to the ecological greenway to the north of the study area up to the Withlacoochee area.



Natural

Water Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate, if required, impacts to important water resources including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 6. Avoid, or Minimize impacts to sinkhole and karst areas.
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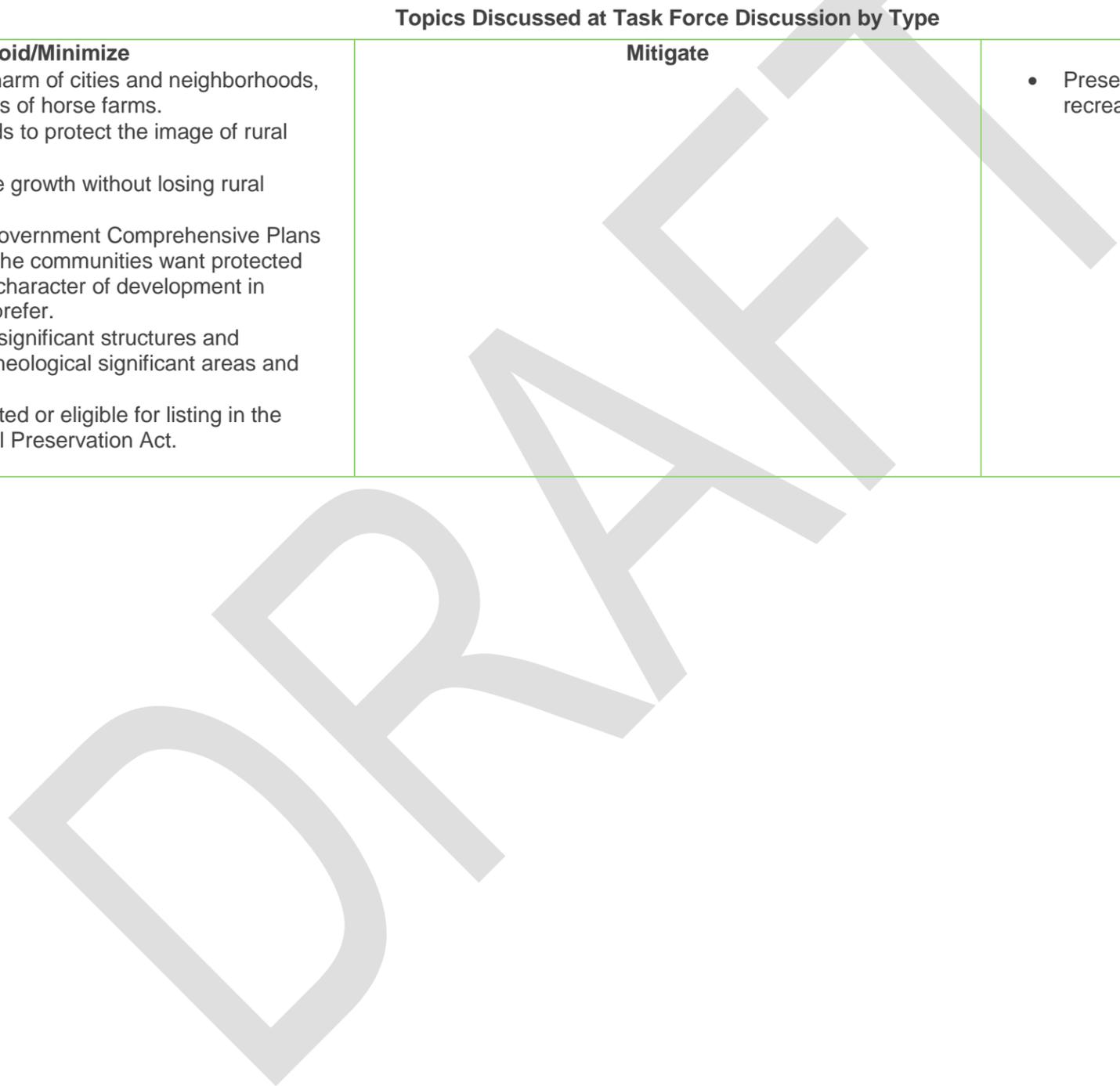
Topics Discussed at Task Force Discussion by Type		
<p style="text-align: center;">Avoid/Minimize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize impact to spring protection areas, groundwater and surface water resources. • Pay closer attention to very scarce wetland with higher ecological values such as hydric pine flatwoods. • Include second and third magnitude springs. • When feasible (or practical) avoid watershed impacts and not further impairing wetlands. • Use the guiding principles from Wekiva Parkway. • Sink holes swallets, where water goes into the aquifer. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Mitigate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose stormwater management sites—For instance utilize empty ponds for future water needs. • Find ways to leverage offsetting compensation when impacts are unavoidable. • Consider and evaluate design features and the need for acquisition of state conservation lands that mitigate the impact on water quality and quantity of springs, rivers, and aquifer recharge areas. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Enhance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect or enhance primary spring protection zones. • Consider innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate water quality protection or restoration. • Provide centralized sewer to unincorporated areas and consider rural economic development with regard to septic impacts and counties which may have limited resources to support the sewer systems. • Use multimodal/ multiuse corridor to turn challenges into opportunities—for example finding ways to improve water quality standards within impaired water bodies. • Include a regional approach to stormwater management as there are opportunities for multifunctional stormwater systems to provide more recharge, more reduction of nutrients, alternatives water supplies through partnership with local communities to address alternative water supply needs. • Map impaired water bodies and consider them as opportunities.



Cultural

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

Topics Discussed at Task Force Discussion by Type		
	Avoid/Minimize	Mitigate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the small charm of cities and neighborhoods, and characteristics of horse farms. • Minimize billboards to protect the image of rural countryside. • Accommodate the growth without losing rural County's identity. • Consider Local Government Comprehensive Plans and look at what the communities want protected and what type of character of development in downtowns they prefer. • Avoid historically significant structures and communities, archeological significant areas and graveyards. • Avoid anything listed or eligible for listing in the National Historical Preservation Act. 	Enhance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and provide access to outdoor, hunting and other recreational activities.



Social

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.
5. Enhance access to emergency shelters and other emergency facilities.

Topics Discussed at Task Force Discussion by Type		
Avoid/Minimize	Mitigate	Enhance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider land use planning priorities from Comprehensive Plan when locating interchanges. • Consider growth pattern included in the future land use maps. • Avoid Rural and Family Lands Protection Program lands and farmland preservation areas. • Be mindful of the complexity associated with agriculture, farmland and conservation properties. Consider dividing these areas by the type of use for minimization and avoidance purpose. • Consider the differences between livestock and timber properties, also the difference between farmland and timber land. • Be mindful that major land owners may impact the corridor alignment and that not all land owners are the same as they have different values and perspectives on what to do with their land in regard to agriculture conversation. • Avoid preventing any type of travel for distributors getting products to where they need to go. • Avoid splitting farms—don't split the land tracts, large agricultural tracts, cattle farms, and forestry tracts with wildlife crossings. • Consider agricultural areas by irrigated/non-irrigated lands and crop type to understanding potential social impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider tractor corridor accessibility (via underpass or side roads) to agriculture lands when there are impacts. • Work with local governments to obtain public input on rural agricultural landscape with regard to protection or inclusion in planning documents. • Consider and evaluate design features and the need for acquisition of state conservation lands that mitigate the impact on agricultural land uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect or enhance farmland preservation areas. • Consider low income population and provide travel options by preventing making a toll road the sole option for people to move from point one point to another. • Look for opportunity to work with smaller communities visioning and planning to help them when corridor comes through their area. • Coordinate with existing plans and whether they can be dual purpose, for instance the new interchange with Turnpike and any physical enhancement considerations. • Support for programs that encourage voluntarily acquisition of agriculturally based conservation easements in order to strategically guide growth or future land use. • Consider integration with forestry tracks with wildlife crossings—Use Wekiva Parkway as an example for integration techniques. • Work with local governments to realize better understanding of agriculture opportunities. • Consider sheltering in the areas with vulnerable populations and assist people with disabilities during emergency evacuations by providing mobility options. • Look for accessibility of the corridor during hurricane evacuation and fuel availability as well. • Consider what the ultimate future (vision for the future) of Florida looks like in terms of the green space and the location of the corridor.

Physical

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.
2. Enhance local and regional transportation network connectivity.

Topics Discussed at Task Force Discussion by Type		
<p style="text-align: center;">Avoid/Minimize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When it is impossible to avoid sensitive environmental areas consider avoidance using bridges and co-location with existing infrastructure. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Mitigate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Wekiva co-location model by integrating highway and wildlife corridors. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Enhance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision for interchange plans should be guided by land use planning priorities that have been established by the Comprehensive Plans.

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