

FARMLAND MEMORANDUM

Florida Department of Transportation

District One

State Road (SR) 70 PD&E Study

Limits of Project: County Road (CR) 29 to Lonesome Island Road

Highlands County, Florida

Financial Management Number: 414506-5-22-01

ETDM Number: 14364

Date: August 2023

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 5/16/23	4. Sheet 1 of 1
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1. Name of Project SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Rd. FPA	5. Federal Agency Involved FDOT per 23 U.S.C. §327 and the FDOT/FPA
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2. Type of Project Transportation - Roadway Widening	6. County and State Highlands County, Florida
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PART II (To be completed by NRCS)	1. Date Request Received by NRCS 5/16/23	2. Person Completing Form Isabelle Giuliani
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3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size 61785 506
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5. Major Crop(s) citrus	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 145,792 % 22.15	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 85,417 % .15
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8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used none	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System soil potential rating	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 5/26/23
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PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A (Alt. 1)	Corridor B (Alt. 2)	Corridor C (Alt. 3)	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	131.68			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	199.80			

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information	
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	131.68
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.00090266
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	82.6

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)	
	42.7

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	15			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	4			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	69	0	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	42.7	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	69	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	111.7	0	0	0

1. Corridor Selected: Corridor A (Alt. 1)	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 131.68	3. Date Of Selection: 5/29/23	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:
Corridor A (Alt. 1) was selected due to minimal impacts and low level of significance (less than 160 points) for impacted farmlands within and adjacent to the proposed corridor.

Signature of Person Completing this Part:	DATE
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NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

Martin Horwitz

From: Giuliani, Isabelle - FPAC-NRCS, FL <isabelle.giuliani@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 7:40 AM
To: James, Jeffrey W
Subject: FW: [External Email]SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road PD&E Study / FPID No. 414506-5 / Farmlands Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106)
Attachments: 414506-5_Farmland Conversion impact rating form_NRCS_Completed.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good morning James,

See attached NRCS completed portion of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form.

Have a good day,

Isabelle Giuliani
State Soil Scientist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Florida State Office
4500 NW 27th Ave. Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32606
Cell: 941-889-9345

From: Giuliani, Isabelle - FPAC-NRCS, FL
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Peters, Lauren <Lauren.Peters@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: [External Email]SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road PD&E Study / FPID No. 414506-5 / Farmlands Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106)

Good afternoon,

Please see attached NRCS FPPA portion completed.

Thank you,

Isabelle Giuliani
State Soil Scientist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Florida State Office

4500 NW 27th Ave. Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32606
Cell: 941-889-9345

From: Peters, Lauren <Lauren.Peters@dot.state.fl.us>

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:31 AM

To: Giuliani, Isabelle - FPAC-NRCS, FL <isabelle.giuliani@usda.gov>

Cc: Turley, David <David.Turley@dot.state.fl.us>; James, Jeffrey W <Jeffrey.James@dot.state.fl.us>; Martin Horwitz <MHorwitz@kcaeng.com>

Subject: [External Email]SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road PD&E Study / FPID No. 414506-5 / Farmlands Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106)

[External Email]

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Ms. Giuliani,

Please see the attached Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106) completed Parts I and II for State Road (SR 70) from County Road (CR) 29 to Lonesome Island Road Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. Along with the attached form is a corresponding shapefile for your review. Also provided is some additional project information below:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is conducting a PD&E Study for SR 70 in Highlands County to determine alternative roadway improvements along the corridor. The proposed action involves widening SR 70 from the existing two-lane undivided arterial roadway to a divided four-lane arterial roadway to improve existing roadway deficiencies, operational conditions, emergency evacuation/response times, vehicle safety conditions, and regional transportation connectivity in the project study area. The SR 70 study limits extend from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road in Lake Placid, Highlands County, Florida. The total project length is approximately 4.3 miles.

The project was evaluated through FDOT's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process as project #14364. An ETDM *Programming Screen Summary Report* containing comments from the Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) was published on September 24, 2019. The ETAT evaluated the project's effects on various natural, physical, and social resources.

Soils designated as Farmland of Unique Importance are present within and adjacent to the project area; there are also areas currently used for agricultural production (citrus groves, field crops, and pastures).

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 863.519.2515 or Lauren.Peters@dot.state.fl.us.

Thank you,

Lauren Peters

Environmental Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation District One
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33830
Main – (863) 519-2515
lauren.peters@dot.state.fl.us



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DRAFT

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7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5				
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1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:	DATE
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NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

Martin Horwitz

From: Peters, Lauren <Lauren.Peters@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:40 AM
To: isabelle.giuliani@usda.gov
Cc: Turley, David; James, Jeffrey W; Martin Horwitz
Subject: RE: SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road PD&E Study / FPID No. 414506-5 / Farmlands Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106)
Attachments: Farmland.sbn; Farmland.sbx; Farmland.shp; Farmland.shp.xml; Farmland.shx; Farmland.cpg; Farmland.dbf; Farmland.prj

Caution: External email.

Ms. Guiliani,

Attached are the shapefiles that accompany the Farmlands Conversion Impact Rating Form for this project.

Lauren Peters

Environmental Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation District One
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33830
Main – (863) 519-2515
lauren.peters@dot.state.fl.us



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