

SR 700 (US 98) (PEACE RIVER - FORT MEADE) AT BRIDGE NUMBER 160064 (JOHN SINGLETARY BRIDGE)

FINANCIAL PROJECT ID NO. 434886-2-52-01 | FAP NO. D118-090-B
POLK COUNTY, FL



Newsletter #2 www.swflroads.com/us98/johnsingletarybridge **July 2020**

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The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, completed a Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) for the US 98/John Singletary Bridge in 2018. Final design of the bridge began in June 2018. There have been minor design changes since the study was completed which include increasing the bicycle lane widths from 5 feet to 7 feet, adding wildlife crossings underneath the new bridge, and shifting the bridge south of the location identified in the original study. This revised alignment allows for traffic to utilize the existing bridge while the new bridge is being constructed, and does not require long-term bridge closures and traffic detours. These changes will include minor impacts to the Fort Meade Recreation Area, a Section 4(f) resource, and will require a reevaluation of the project impacts.

SECTION 4(F) OVERVIEW

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C., Section 303) governs the use of publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public and private historic sites for U.S. Department of Transportation projects. The Fort Meade Recreation Area qualifies as a “Section 4(f) protected property.” The recreation area is owned and maintained by the City of Fort Meade. FDOT is evaluating the applicability of Section 4(f) in relation to the proposed project activities within the limits of the Fort Meade Recreation Area. The Fort Meade Recreation Area is a 104.24-acre public park with recreation facilities within the City of Fort Meade. The park provides picnic tables and pavilions with restrooms, trails such as the Peace River Trail, unstaffed canoe/kayak launch, and multi-use athletic stations, all of which are spread throughout the property. The park is located at 1639 Frostproof Highway, Fort Meade, FL, 33841.

PROPOSED SECTION 4(F) IMPACTS

A section of the northwest corner of the Fort Meade Recreation Area (shown in red below) will be used to accommodate a portion of the construction of the replacement bridge, shared-use path, and wildlife crossing shelves. The impact to the property will be 0.17 acres, or 0.16% of the total acreage of the recreation area.



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT ONE
801 N BROADWAY AVENUE
BARTOW, FL 33830**



***DE MINIMIS* DETERMINATION**

Based on the minimal right-of-way acquisition from the Fort Meade Recreation Area, it is the opinion of FDOT District One that the impacts will be *de minimis*. Per 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 774.17, a *de minimis* impact for parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges is defined as a minor use of a protected property that will have no adverse effect on the attributes, features, or activities of the Section 4(f) property. The acquisition area consists of forested uplands and wetlands just south of the existing US 98 right-of-way. Wetland impacts are being addressed through federal and state permitting. There are no proposed impacts to the facilities within the recreation area such as the Peace River Trail or boat launch area. The proposed area of acquisition is not accessible from the trails located within the recreation area and is not part of the active or passive use of the park.

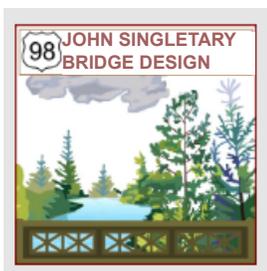
The proposed shared use path on the south side of US 98 will provide an opportunity for connection to the Peace River Trail which runs through the recreation area. This connection will provide enhanced mobility and access for pedestrians and cyclists to the Fort Meade Recreation Area. There will also be a sidewalk on the north side of US 98 and bike lanes in both directions of the roadway.

FDOT is requesting public comment on these changes. Comments can be made by contacting the FDOT Project Manager, Ryan Weeks. See the contact information below for the ways you can comment on these changes. The comment period will close on July 31, 2020.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Project Website
www.swflroads.com/us98/johnsingletarybridge
Comments can be submitted by contacting the project manager by US mail, e-mail, or by visiting the project website. Comments can be made on the website by clicking on the link "Email Updates" on the left side of the webpage.



FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. People who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cynthia Sykes, District One Title VI Coordinator, at (863) 519-2287, or e-mail at cynthia.sykes@dot.state.fl.us.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016, and executed by FHWA and FDOT.

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