

## Memorandum

<b>To:</b>	File	Page	1 of 1
<b>CC:</b>	Gwen Pipkin (FDOT), Kimberly Warren (RK&K), Marty Peate (AECOM)		
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>SR 29 from SR 80A (Cowboy Way) to Whidden Road NRE Addendum – Roseate Spoonbill</b>		
<b>From:</b>	Tobi Richey (AECOM)		
<b>Date:</b>	December 6, 2017		

The FDOT submitted a Natural Resource Evaluation (NRE) for the above referenced project to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on October 2, 2017. The FWC responded in a letter dated October 20, 2017 in which they agreed with FDOT's effect determinations and commitments for the state-listed species included in the referenced NRE. In the same letter, the FWC noted that the proposed project could have similar effects on the roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) as other wading birds included in the NRE due to the presence of suitable habitat within the Recommended Alternative. Since the roseate spoonbill was not previously included in the NRE document, this Addendum was prepared to address the potential occurrence of this species within the Recommended Alternative.

The roseate spoonbill is state-listed as threatened by the FWC. Its preferred habitat types consist of a variety of natural and man-made wetlands, such as ditches, canals, freshwater marshes, shallow ponds, and forested wetlands. This wading bird primarily forages on minnows and aquatic invertebrates; occasionally feeding on plant material such as roots and stems. The roseate spoonbill population has declined primarily due to the filling and draining of wetlands for residential and commercial development, flood control, and agricultural activities. The primary concern for impacts to wading bird species is the loss of foraging habitat (i.e., wetlands and other surface waters). No roseate spoonbills were observed during any of the field inspections, and none have been documented by the FNAI within one mile of the Recommended Alternative.

While the Recommended Alternative would result in minor impacts to wetlands and surface waters potentially utilized by these species, the impacts will be fully mitigated pursuant to Section 373.4137, F.S., to satisfy all mitigation requirements of Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S. and 33 U.S.C. §1344 to prevent a net loss of functions and values to wetlands and other surface waters that may provide suitable habitat for this species. Compensatory mitigation for this project will be completed through the purchase of credits from mitigation banks and any other mitigation options that satisfy state and federal requirements. Based on the provision of compensatory mitigation to offset wetland habitat impacts, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse effects to the roseate spoonbill.