

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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Seventh Coast Guard District

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16591/FL
Ser: 1524
October 6, 2006

Mr. Robert T. McMullen
c/o Gannett Fleming
Suite 701,
7300 Corporate Center Drive
Miami, FL 33126

Dear Mr. McMullin:

This is in response to your transmittal dated September 1, 2006, forwarding the Draft Programmatic EIS to our agency for review and comments about the proposed South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit project in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida.

Thank you for designating our agency as a cooperating agency on the cover sheet of this environmental document.

There are several waterway crossings along this FEC rail corridor. Bridge permits will be required for the waterway crossings at: the Loxahatchee River, Hillsboro Canal, Cypress Creek Canal, New River, and Dania Cut-Off Canal.

Waterway crossings that are not considered navigable waters of the United States for bridge permitting purposes in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2.36 are: the West Palm Beach Canal, Boynton Canal, Pompano Canal, and Royal Glades Canal.

Waterway crossings that are considered navigable waters of the United States but meet the criteria for Advance Approval in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 115.70 are: the North Fork Middle River, South Fork Middle River, Tarpon River, Oleta River, Arch Creek, Biscayne Canal, and Little River. Advance approved waterways do not require Coast Guard bridge permits.

Since there are five waterway crossings that do require Coast Guard bridge permits, we encourage the perspective applicant to initiate early consultation with navigation and all other interests using these waterways in order to collect necessary data so that the proposed bridge designs will provide for the reasonable needs of navigation.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above telephone number or by e-mail at Brodie.E.Rich@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

BRODIE E. Rich
Federal Permitting Agent
Bridge Branch
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

Copy: Mr. Scott Seeburger, FDOT Fort Lauderdale