

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

FILE PI# 0010751 **OFFICE** Environmental Services
FROM Jason Morrell, Ecologist  **DATE** December 1, 2011
TO File
SUBJECT PI No. 0010751, Signing and Marking Improvements at Various Locations in District 3

GDOT Project P.I. No. 0010751 consists of signing and marking improvements at approximately 473 intersections in District 3. No change to current right-of-way (ROW), easements or typical sections would occur as a result of the project. The proposed scope of work for the project consists of the following:

1. restriping the entire intersection;
2. restriping between the intersections where intersections are less than 1,000 feet apart;
3. installing raised pavement markers as required;
4. replacing all existing signs (stop signs, yield signs, etc.) with the exception of overhead signs;
5. installing additional signs as required per standard details; and
6. replacing and installing rumble strips where required.

This project consists of the installation of signage and pavement markings. These activities are listed (as #5 and 9) in Appendix A of the June 24, 2003 Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Joint Coordination Procedures (JCP), amended January 2007, and will have no effect on federally listed species or habitat. However, obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) a new species is listed or habitat is determined that may be affected by the identified action; or, (3) the project is modified in a manner not previously considered.

According to the March 5, 2009, Abbreviated Erosion Control Plan for Maintenance Activities and Resurfacing Projects letter between GDOT and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division, "by limiting our disturbed area to less than one acre at any given time and providing daily stabilization that this proposed work will meet the exemption provided in the NPDES permit, GAR 100002, and the requirements of GESA."

This project will not result in impact to any migratory bird habitat. Therefore, there is no potential for conflict under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Essential fish habitat occurs in the coastal counties of Georgia and is protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. District 3 is comprised entirely of inland counties; therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on essential fish habitat.

These projects will not result in impact to bald eagle nests, as the proposed activities will be limited to signing and marking improvements within existing ROW. The project would not result in "take", as defined under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Therefore, the proposed project would have "no effect" to the bald eagle.

During the construction process, the Department will take measures to prevent or minimize the spread of invasive species as appropriate for the time of year. These measures will include removal and disposal of vegetative parts in the soil that may reproduce by root raking prior to moving the soil, burning on site any such parts and aboveground parts that bear fruit, controlling or eradicating infestations prior to construction, and cleaning of vehicles and other equipment prior to leaving the infested site. The measures used will be those that are appropriate for the specific site conditions which exist on the project, as described in the Georgia Standard Specifications Section 201, Clearing and Grubbing of Right-of-Way.

JM

cc: Jonathan Cox, GDOT NEPA
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