



*Florida Department of Transportation*

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SECRETARY

April 23, 2021

Patti McLauchlin  
Assistant City Manager  
City of Key West  
1300 White Street  
Key West, FL 33040

Subject: Bridle Path  
Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding  
FDOT Project ID and Description: 250548-8-52-01 SR A1A/South Roosevelt Boulevard  
from Bertha Street to the end of Smathers Beach in Key West, Monroe County, Florida

Dear Ms. McLauchlin,

As previously discussed, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 6 has proposed a Federally funded roadway milling, overbuild and resurfacing project along SR A1A/South Roosevelt Boulevard from Bertha Street to the end of Smathers Beach. A component of this project will require a permanent easement within the Bridle Path (the Path). The Path is a 1.2-mile intermittent path located along the north side of SR A1A/South Roosevelt Boulevard from just east of Bertha Street to just west of Faraldo Circle. The Path crosses several parcels owned by different entities (including the City of Key West, the Monroe County Land Authority, and the Florida Keys Land Trust), but is maintained by the City of Key West. The City of Key West is considered by the FDOT to be the Official with Jurisdiction for this Park. The FDOT has coordinated with the City of Key West for the permanent easement. The Path's existing activities, features and attributes include a sandy, unpaved path that is used by the public for walking, jogging, bicycling, and overflow parking for Smathers Beach. The Path is buffered by palm trees to the south and salt ponds to the north that provide a scenic setting and enhance the recreational use of the property. The Path measures approximately 3.58 acres and is accessible to the public at all times.

In order to install and maintain the proposed drainage system, the City will issue a permanent easement to the FDOT within the Bridle Path property. The work in this area includes the installation of drainage features under the ground, as well as the installation of two above-ground drainage features. During construction the portion of the path within the project limits will be closed temporarily. However, the path will be restored to its existing condition following the installation of the proposed drainage features and it will retain its current character as well as continue to serve its primary function as a recreational path. The majority of the drainage features will be installed below ground. The features that will be above ground will be outside the limits of the Path and outside the submerged lands on the northern portion of the property. This work is considered a transportation use of the Section 4(f) resource. However, it is considered a minor encroachment into the overall resource. FDOT has determined that this project is not anticipated to adversely affect the activities, features or attributes

qualifying the Path for protection under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303).

The proposed project design and resulting Path impacts were presented in a public meeting which was simultaneously held virtually (via Go To Webinar) and in-person at the City of Key West (1300 White Street, Key West, FL) on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This meeting offered the public an opportunity to comment on the potential impacts of the proposed project on the protected Path property. During the ten (10) day period between April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the public did not raise any comments or concerns related to impacts on the Path resulting from the project. FDOT District 6 has reviewed the proposed activities and the public involvement and determined that the project meets the conditions set forth at 23 CFR § 774 and qualifies for a Section 4(f) *de minimis*.

Based on the results of the opportunity for public comment, and the considerations contained in this letter, we request your concurrence as the Official with Jurisdiction that the project will not adversely affect the activities, features or attributes that make the Bridle Path property eligible for Section 4(f) protection. Based on this concurrence, FDOT may pursue a *de minimis* finding for this project per 23 CFR § 774.

Thank you for your continued support on this project. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (305) 470-5221 or via email at [steven.james@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:steven.james@dot.state.fl.us).

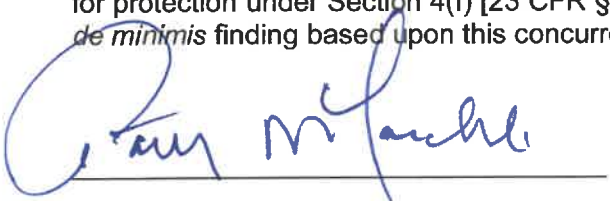
Sincerely,

Steven Craig James, RLA  
District Environmental Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation, District Six

DocuSigned by:  
*Steven James*  
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**CONCURRENCE:**

The City of Key West concurs that the impacts to the Bridle Path as a result of the FDOT ID: 250548-8-52-01 project as described in this document, including all measures to mitigate and minimize harm as described above, will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f) [23 CFR § 774] and understands that FDOT may pursue a Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding based upon this concurrence.



Ms. Patti McLauchlin  
Assistant City Manager  
City of Key West

5/14/2021

Date