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Wildlife Crossings Manual

Project Overview

Wildlife crossing structures are expensive to plan, design and build. As roadways continue to expand and traffic increases across south Florida, the demand for additional wildlife crossings also increases. There is a critical need for technical guidance and best management practices for the planning, design, and maintenance of wildlife crossing structures in Florida.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is contracting Dr. Daniel Smith to develop a wildlife crossing structure planning and design manual that can serve as a guiding resource for both local governments and agencies in decision-making on the future development of wildlife crossing structure projects. The proposed manual will be developed in cooperation with a technical advisory group (TAG) composed of representatives from FDOT, FWC and various NGOs. The TAG will be used to render decisions on applicable planning, design, construction and maintenance elements to include in the manual. This would include provisions regarding acceptable standards on materials used in wildlife crossing construction projects as well as acceptable post-construction maintenance practices.

Researchers will explore and review current methods and materials used on wildlife crossing projects for construction and maintenance in the US and abroad. This will not only include structures, but also fences and other diversionary devices used to limit exposure of animals to the roadway and associated traffic. The resulting product is envisioned to be a one-stop guidance manual for transportation planners, engineers and designers. Future updates would be needed to include new materials, technologies and practices as they are introduced and accepted.

While this Crossings Manual will be specific to Florida in terms of physical environment, animals and planning/design processes, below are examples to reference:

<https://www.conteches.com/knowledge-center/pdh-article-series/design-considerations-for-wildlife-crossings>

<https://www.azgfd.com/PortallImages/files/wildlife/planningFor/wildlifeFriendlyGuidelines/BridgeGuidelines.pdf>

https://roadecology.ucdavis.edu/files/content/projects/CA_Wildlife%20Crossings%20Guidance_Manual.pdf

https://roadecology.ucdavis.edu/files/content/projects/MA_DOT_Design_Bridges_Culverts_Wildlife_Passage_122710.pdf

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/08/23/Stream%20Crossings%20booklet%20Web.pdf>

<http://www.roadsandwildlife.org/Filter>

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01501/>