



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: NR0841

For Release: June 23, 2008

P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Nanciann Regalado

Phone: (904) 232-3904 FAX: (904) 232-2237

Email: nanciann.e.regalado@usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps of Engineers moves Tamiami Trail Modifications Project along path to Congress

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—The commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has approved the recommended plan for the Tamiami Trail Modifications project, moving the project closer to congressional review. If Congress approves the plan, construction could begin in the fall.

District Commander Col. Paul L. Grosskruger signed the combined Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Environmental Assessment (EA) that outlines the recommended plan for modifying the Tamiami Trail to improve water flow into Everglades National Park.

“After careful review of various alternatives and public and stakeholder comments, we believe that we have developed a solution for a critical barrier to water flow to the Everglades,” said Grosskruger. “Many thanks to the leadership of the Department of Interior, Everglades National Park, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District for working with us to develop this plan.”

The LRR/EA reanalyzed the plan approved in the 2005 Revised General Reevaluation Report (RGRR) to determine additional, less costly alternatives for restored water flows to the eastern Everglades. The result is the recommended plan (referred to as Alternative 3.2.2.a).

The plan includes building a one-mile long bridge approximately two miles west of the intersection of Tamiami Trail and Krome Avenue and allowing water levels in the L-29 Canal to reach 8.5 foot and reinforcing the roadway to mitigate for possible impacts of the increased water levels.

"This plan represents a major step forward in improving water deliveries under the Tamiami Trail and into the Park, restoring more natural hydrologic conditions in Northeast Shark River Slough and benefitting a wide range of vegetation types and wildlife species in the Park," said Superintendent Dan Kimball, Everglades National Park.

more



The next steps for the plan are review by the Chief of Engineers and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works before its July 1 delivery to Congress.

The Tamiami Trail Modifications project is one of four components of the Modified Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project (Mod Waters), which was approved by Congress in 1989. Aimed at improving water flows to the northeastern portions of Everglades National Park, Mod Waters also includes the Conveyance and Seepage Control Features component, which will further improve flows to the park; the Combined Structural and Operation Plan (CSOP) for managing water flows in the vicinity of Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow habitat; and the 8.5 Square Mile Area Flood Mitigation Project, which must ensure that the additional water flows provided by Mod Waters do not negatively impact privately owned property.

The document is available at www.saj.usace.army.mil. For more information, contact Nanciann Regalado, Corps of Engineers, at 904-232-3904.

###