Project Development and Environment Study

AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

SR 826/Palmetto Expressway Express Lanes

From South of SR 836/Dolphin Expressway
to SR 932/NW 103rd Street

FM No. 418423-3-22-01
ETDM No. 11560
Miami-Dade County, Florida

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
District Six
1000 NW 111th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33172

November 2012

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 2012
To: Dat Huynh, P.E., District Project Development Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation, District Six
From: URS Corporation Southern
Subject: Air Quality Technical Memorandum
SR 826/Palmetto Expressway Express Lanes
From South of SR 836/Dolphin Expressway to SR 932/NW 103rd Street
Miami-Dade County, Florida
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The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for roadway improvements along State Road (SR) 826/Palmetto Expressway (SR 826) from south of SR 836/Dolphin Expressway (SR 836) to SR 932/NW 103rd Street in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

The objective of this PD&E study is to provide documented environmental and engineering analyses that will assist the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration in reaching a decision on the conceptual design for the roadway improvements to SR 826. This PD&E study complies with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires the evaluation of the potential impacts (both positive and negative) that a project has on its physical, natural, social, and cultural environment.

The purpose of this *Air Quality Technical Memorandum* is to present the findings of the air quality evaluation conducted for the SR 826 Express Lanes PD&E Study. The potential for air quality impacts in the areas surrounding the project corridor was assessed for the viable project alternatives, including the No-Build Alternative, in accordance with Volume 2, Chapter 16 of the FDOT *PD&E Manual* (dated April 27, 2010).

The project was evaluated to determine if an air quality analysis using the FDOT's screening model, CO Florida 2004 (released September 7, 2004) would be required to evaluate the air quality effects that would be caused by the proposed improvements to the project corridor and to determine whether project-related motor vehicle emissions would cause or contribute to an exceedance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide.

This project is included in the area's Transportation Improvement Program that has been approved by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization. As of June 2005, Miami-Dade County has been designated as in attainment for all of the NAAQS under the criteria provided in the Clean Air Act. Therefore, the Clean Air Act conformity requirements do not apply to this project and an analysis using the CO Florida 2004 model was not required.

Agency coordination to obtain air quality related information has occurred through the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Planning and Programming Screening (ETDM #11560) and the Advance Notification process. The Advance Notification for this project was published on December 21, 2012. The ETDM review occurred between December 21, 2011 and February 4, 2012, and the latest ETDM Programming Screening Summary Report was published on June 22, 2012. During the ETDM Programming Screening, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had no comments on air quality and listed the Degree of Effect for air quality as 'None.' No other agencies provided comments on air quality during the ETDM Programming Screening. The Summary Degree of Effect for air quality for the ETDM Programming Screening was 'None.' Additionally, the ETDM Programming Screen Summary Report indicated that this project is consistent with air quality conformity.

Construction activities for the proposed action may potentially have short-term air quality impacts within the immediate vicinity of the project. Construction activities may generate temporary increases in air pollutant emissions in the form of dust from earthwork and unpaved roads and smoke from open burning. Such emissions and potential impacts will be minimized by adherence to all applicable state and local regulations and to the latest edition of the FDOT *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*.