A Florida Perspective on Native American Coordination
Recognizing a Need

• Lake Monroe Project
  ▪ No early communication
  ▪ Human remains found last day of project
  ▪ Last-minute consultation
  ▪ Sophisticated understanding of Section 106 and NEPA
Need for a Cooperative Approach

- Integrate FDOT and Tribal needs
- Recognize validity of different cultural perspectives
- Create an understanding that coordination occurs between representatives of two distinct governments
Consultation as a Critical Issue

- White Paper
- Annual Conference
- Section 106 Task Force

Critical Issues in CRM
Native American Consultation
Initial Challenges

- Opposing concepts of time
- Confusion regarding tribal representatives
- Difficulty in defining cultural affiliation
- Pan-Indian approach of some activist groups
- Different perspectives of the past and archaeological sites
- Disparate views regarding the role and importance of archaeology
- Lack of trust
Response

- Appoint FDOT liaison to develop, implement, and monitor coordination process
- Become familiar with pertinent laws
- Identify Native American tribes and representatives
- Develop protocol for dealing with tribal governments
- Hold training workshops for FDOT personnel
- Develop explicit guidelines for dealing with Native American cultural sites and human remains
- Allocate funds to meet objectives
Partnering Meetings

• Identify transportation-related issues of importance to tribes and agencies
• Build mutual trust
• Identify key issues
• Forge a workable protocol
Participants

- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Federal Highway Administration
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida State Historic Preservation Office
Tampa, Coral Gables, and Big Cypress Reservation Meetings

- Tribal and agency constraints & needs
- Cultural awareness
- Communication
Key Issues

- Treatment of human remains
- Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relationship
- Cultural and archaeological sites
- Confidentiality
Where Are We Today?

- Improved communication
- Developed a consultation process
- Increased mutual cultural awareness
- Established good working relationships
Integrating Consultation

• Sociocultural Effects Analysis
• Public Involvement
• Planning – ETDM

Draft ETDM Coordination Process Between the Florida Department of Transportation, District One and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
The Next Step

- Establish link between policy and implementation
- Train FDOT staff and consultants:
  Consultation protocol
  Cultural awareness
  Key issues
- Improve communication with Tribes living outside Florida
- Institutionalize consultation process:
  Move beyond personalities and individual trust relationships
Common Ground & Understanding

Agency Corporate Culture
FHWA
SHPO
FDOT
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Muscogee Creek Nation
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Mikcosukee Tribe of Florida
Tribal Culture and Organization