

## SR 9 / I-95 Spanish River Interchange

### Services Provided:

NEPA Documentation & Environmental Studies

Client: FDOT District 4 / TranSystems Corporation

Location: Palm Beach County, FL

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

This project involved conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The project studied the widening of I-95 from south of Palmetto Park Road to just south of Linton Road and the addition of a new interchange in the vicinity of Spanish River Boulevard/Florida Atlantic University. Several alternatives for a new interchange at Spanish River Drive were developed and evaluated.

As the lead environmental consultant, CECOS was responsible for the preparation of the NEPA document and oversight of all environmental aspects and documentation. CECOS prepared the Wetlands Evaluation Report, Endangered Species Biological Assessment, and

the Section 4(f) Evaluation. The key issues included impacts to scrub habitat, listed species and their habitat (gopher tortoise and burrowing owl), and potential impacts to Section 4(f) resources. GIS habitat maps were developed and a habitat impact analysis using GIS was completed. Protected species surveys were conducted to identify presence of federal and state listed plant and animal species. Two Determinations of Applicability (DOA) under Section 4(f) were prepared due to potential impacts to City of Boca Raton linear parks/trails. Coordination with FHWA and City of Boca Raton were critical in obtaining quick concurrence from FHWA. CECOS participated in a Value Engineering Study on alternatives to extend the El Rio Trail north of Yamato Road (i.e., over Yamato Road), including extensive coordination with the City.

