



## FOREWORD

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**T**ransportation agencies have come a long way toward addressing environmental issues. In my 25 years with the Florida Department of Transportation, I witnessed a paradigm shift from reluctance to acceptance and finally, active stewardship.



Research continues to help transportation agencies better understand the environmental impacts of transportation networks. The relationship of transportation corridors to land use is becoming more evident. Now that we have a better understanding of the

potential consequences of transportation activities, we examine them in greater detail throughout the planning, design and construction process.

With better scientific understanding of the impacts on the environment of transportation and related development, there is an increasing urgency to get the answers right when planning and developing transportation facilities. This is a “quality of life” issue because the very resources that support life, air, water and the

land are at risk. Not only is it a quality of life issue for the human species, but also for all of the other species with which we share this planet.

For new transportation facilities, the responsibility to avoid environmental impacts has never been greater because of diminishing natural resources. For existing roadways, we can use our newfound knowledge to not only improve the facility, but also to improve the environment. With the right information, tools, policies and spirit, we have a chance to build a “second” nature, where the first has been adversely impacted. This will only happen if all of the interests involved in transportation planning and development work together toward this common goal.

Cooperation and education are essential for better decision making. *Second Nature: Improving Transportation Without Putting Nature Second* is a collaborative effort between two organizations; one transportation and one conservation. The authors have identified conflicts and provided solutions that advance and even improve both transportation and conservation. Hopefully, this information will inspire readers to develop a more environmentally sound transportation system.

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