#3 T p-d w appr ach

C str cti meth ds satisfy e vir me tal se sitivities

By Mary Elle Sh p
A c a e Ed

PROJECT:
I-75 Caloosahatchee River Bridge Widening

LOCATION: Ft. Myers, Fla.

OWNER:
Florida Department of Transportation

DESIGNER: Stantec

CONTRACTOR:
de Moya/Leware joint venture

COST: $72 million

LENGTH: 3,904 ft

COMPLETION DATE: Nov. 5, 2015

The I-75 Caloo ha chee Ri er Bridge Widening projec a he la piece of a 10- ear p le for he Florida Depar - men of Trans or a ion (FDOT). Comple ed and open o raf c in he ee k of No em- ber 2015, he bridge a one of eigh bridges impre ed along I-75 in Collier Co n , Fla.

The $72 million bridge- idening projec anning e er he Caloo ha chee Ri er i par of a larger road projec , hich o o recon r c and iden I-75 from he e ing fo r-lane r c re o eigh lanes and adding an a iliar lane in each direc ion.

The Caloo ha chee Ri er Bridge a he main bridge, a oppo d o o her ones hich ere pre lo -le el bridges hich eren' a complica ed a he o her bridges FDOT Wik Bapna old Roads & Bridges.

The bridge i a imple-pan bridge on dri en pile fo nda ions and col mns i h T pe II, III and IV AASHTO girders on he approach of he pans and c e r c ral eel pla e girders a he main channel pans

Wha made he projec more complica ed han he pre io recon r c ion of e en bridges along I-75 a he en ironmen al en i i of he projec .

The Caloo ha chee Ri er i home o he cond-larges pop la ion of mana ees in he a e of Florida. FDOT recon r c- ion plans req ired e ra a en ion and coordina ion i h eigh differen permi ing agencies ha had o be in ol ed in he de gn, permi ing and con r c ion phases of he projec .

FDOT, along i h n mero ge ernmen agencies incl ding he Florida Fi h and Wildlife Commi on, U.S. Arm Corps of Engineers U.S Coas G ard, So h Florida Wa er Managemen Dis ric and he Florida Depar men of En ironmen al Pro ec ion, iden i ed 25 pro ec ed animals and 17 pro ec ed plan species po en iall loca ed i hin he bridge projec .

In addi ion, he Caloo ha chee Wildlife Ref ge i loca ed direc l bene a h he I-75 Caloo ha chee Ri er Bridge, making ildlife pre a ion a op priori . Permi ing condi- ions req ired a mana ee po er o be pre en hile ork a aking place. If a mana ee a po ed, con r c ion ork hal ed n il he endangered species lef he area.

Di en b en ironmen al concern rro nding he projec , FDOT cre ili ed op-do n con r c ion o comple e he bridge e pan on. The proce in ol ed b ild- ing prefabrica ed ec ions of he bridge near he Caloo ha chee ri er bank ing cranes on empora beams con rolled b GPS.

Con r c ing he bridge ng empora re le con r c ion and he e of o raddle cranes minimi ed raf c di p ion and en ironmen al impac o he endangered e land species R&B