

(USCG). The proposed columns will be constructed in line with the existing columns behind the fender system and will not result in any permanent impacts to navigation.

1.2.6 Off-Ramp Changes

The New Concept's WB SR 836 configuration allows for SB I-95 traffic to access NW 12 Avenue without the need for the elevated WB collector distributor facility from the RFP Concept. The elimination of this collector distributor facility allows for the elimination of the RFP Concept's new ramp to NW N River Drive, and the associated ROW impacts to the Miami-Dade County Courthouse parking area.

1.2.7 Design Exceptions and Variations

The RFP concept resulted in 25 design exceptions and 63 design variations. The New Concept increased the total number of design exceptions to 33 and reduced the total number of design variations to 46.

1.2.8 Stormwater/ Drainage Improvements

The New Concept provides generally the same stormwater/drainage improvements as the RFP Concept. Only Basin 1 (which was combined with Basin 2 from the RFP Concept) involves major changes to the design of the proposed drainage system as compared to the RFP Concept. Basin 1: In addition to the existing infield pond within the NW 17 Avenue Interchange, a total of 100 linear feet of French drain are going to be installed within the infield pond (existing pond 6) to provide the basin recovery time and peak discharge reduction required for proposed improvements in the area.

1.3 Purpose and Need for Project

Need for improvements is based on a combination of substandard traffic conditions, highway planning objectives and the interaction with other planned facility improvements impacting the proposed project area. Project objectives included the study of the following issues: increase capacity to prevent existing and future traffic congestion, improve safety by alleviating existing deficiencies, explore access issues, establish continuity, etc.