



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Eastern Federal Lands
Highway Division

22001 Loudoun County Parkway
Building E2, Suite 200
Ashburn, VA 20147

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

In Reply Refer To: HFPP-15

Mr. Jean-Pierre L. Oriol
Director of Coastal Zone Management
Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources
45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, VI 00840

Subject: FHWA Project#: VI 38(2) Contract 2, Raphune Hill Road Improvements
Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Determination

Dear Mr. Oriol:

The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virgin Islands Department of Public Works (VI DPW) propose to improve Raphune Hill Road in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. Proposed improvements include widening the existing two-lane road to four-lanes, flattening curves, constructing a vegetated strip and sidewalk on the westbound side of the road, relocating the Route 381 intersection, and other miscellaneous improvements.

In 2017, FHWA and VI DPW prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and its implementing regulations at the time (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§1500–1508). The draft EA was made available for public comment and a public meeting was held at the Auditorium of the Charlotte Amalie High School, on December 19, 2017. The EA was finalized with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on January 8, 2019 (enclosed).

The project was broken into three segments, or contracts, for design and construction (Figure 2). Contract 1 consists of improvements to the intersection of Centerline Road and Raphune Hill Road and was completed by VI DPW in 2013. Contract 2 consists of the relocation of the Route 381 intersection with Raphune Hill Road, including the realignment of approximately 650 feet of Route 381, and is the subject of this Federal Consistency Determination package (Figure 1). Contract 3 consists of the widening of Raphune Hill Road from two 9-foot travel lanes to four 11-foot travel lanes from the terminus of Contract 1 to the former Al Cohen's Plaza and will be submitted for Federal Consistency review in late 2027 to 2028. All three contracts are located outside the Tier 1 coastal zone.

FHWA has determined that Contract 2 is consistent with the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program. FHWA respectfully requests your review of the project and your concurrence with this determination. Enclosed you will find FHWA's Federal Consistency Determination, a copy of the signed FONSI, and a digital copy of the project plans (Contract 2). Hard copies of the plans will be mailed to your office.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Kim Campo-Allen, Environmental Protection Specialist, at Kim.Campo-Allen@dot.gov or (703) 404-6374.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin S. Rose
Environmental Team Leader

Enclosures:

1. VI 38(2) C2 Coastal Zone Consistency Determination
2. FHWA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
3. Figure 1. Project Location, Contract 2
4. Figure 2. Project Location, All Contracts
5. FHWA Engineering Plan Set, Contract 2