



Florida Department of Transportation

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Section of Buried Vessel believed to be from 19th Century found Under State Road A1A in Downtown St. Augustine during Drainage Improvement Project Work

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – During recent construction activities related to the King Street at State Road A1A drainage improvement project that began in spring 2023, crews encountered a timber section of a buried maritime vessel that archaeologists believe to be from the 19th century.

Prior to the start of construction, the Florida Department of Transportation sub-contracted with Southeastern Archaeological Research (SEARCH) as a part of the project due to the historic nature of the area. SEARCH is a global leader in archaeology and will provide the full spectrum of cultural heritage services to assist with this specific excavation.

“With every project we undertake, the Florida Department of Transportation is sensitive to the unique needs of the communities we serve, including the potential presence of historical sites and artifacts within construction sites,” said District 2 Secretary Greg Evans. “We are grateful to our partners at SEARCH Archeology for their careful efforts to preserve this vessel, and we look forward to learning more about its significance to the region.”

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The Florida Department of Transportation's mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the state's environment and communities. The department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida's residents and visitors, but also enhances mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid growth. The unique nature of the Sunshine State and its year-round warm climate provides numerous opportunities to achieve the department's mission through multiple transportation modes including highways/streets, air, rail, sea, spaceports, transit, and the ever-expanding deployment of bicycle & pedestrian facilities.