

Approved on April 7th, 2011

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Governing Board Meeting
January 27, 2011**

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, Chair
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO
School Board Member Kathryn Hensley, St. Lucie County TPO
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO
Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia TPO
Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, Polk TPO
Councilmember Delores Madison, Capital Region TPA
Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Commissioner Jennifer Hill, Lake-Sumter MPO
Commissioner Bob Dallari, METROPLAN Orlando
Mayor Joe Affronti Sr., Hillsborough County MPO
Councilmember Tom Leonardo, Lee County MPO
Commissioner Paula Delaney, Gainesville MTPO

Others in Attendance:

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC Assistant
Denis Eirikis, Florida Public Transit Association
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO
Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando
T. J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO
Mike Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO
Diane Quigley, FDOT Transit Office
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Jennifer Stults, FDOT District 1
Susan Sadighi, FDOT District 5
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO
Alex Bond, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Keith Melton, Federal Transit Administration
Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration
Debbie Hunt, Florida Department of Transportation
Bob Romig, Florida Department of Transportation

Others in Attendance continued:

Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, to approve the October 28, 2011 minutes. A second was offered by Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, gave his report. He explained several items on the budget, and added that the budget is on target. Dues to national organizations were paid this quarter. Revenue Study costs will begin to appear in the next quarter. He discussed an audit report from FDOT certifying the MPOAC's purchasing card activity was in full compliance with FDOT procedures.

He noted that the legislative policy statements were almost finalized, and copies will be sent out upon completion. Mr. Glassman explained a Regional Transportation System Surtax expansion that is being proposed by the MPOAC. A Senate sponsor has been found, but the House has expressed opposition. The Florida Association of Counties has picked up this idea as a priority. The MPOAC will continue to proceed with it, but the probability of passage is not favorable.

Four other items are being monitored at state level. Revenue reductions could force reductions on several budget streams. Medicaid reform may impact Medicaid transportation. There will be bills on concurrency, and the MPOAC will address those as they occur. The MPOAC will also continue to push transportation safety legislation.

A compendium of basic information on MPOs has been finalized and is being distributed. A study of the Charter County Surtax referenda is under way. The study will also look at Duval, Miami-Dade, Georgia and in Charlotte, NC to see how those initiatives have been successful. Both of these items were requested by the Governing Board. Mr. Glassman reminded the group of the MPOAC Institute dates and registration.

Chairman Kaplan asked Mr. Glassman to introduce and discuss the model staff services agreement. The Chair asked for a motion to accept the agreement as a final copy. Such a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie. A second was received from Mayor Joe Affronti, Hillsborough County MPO. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair introduced the idea of moving the October MPOAC meeting date due to conflicts with the Annual Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Conference. Mr. Glassman said that the Staff Directors Committee agreed that the meeting date should be moved. Discussion ensued on a date change for the fall MPOAC meeting. The new date of November 4th was agreed to by acclamation.

The Chair made comments about fare card interoperability. He said that there has been discussion at the Southeast Florida Transportation Council of using Sunpass technology to collect transit fares. He also discussed green highways and asked Mr. Glassman to consider MPOAC efforts and speakers on these topics in the future.

4. Election of Officers

The Chair assigned the election of officers to Mr. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel. The floor was opened for nominations. Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie offered Mayor Richard Kaplan for the office of Chair. A motion was made to close the floor for nominations by Mayor Walter Kelley, Bay County TPO. A second was offered by Commissioner Paula Delaney, Gainesville MTPO. The motion to close the floor passed unanimously. Mayor Richard J. Kaplan was elected Chair by acclamation.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Mayor Rocky Randels nominated Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie. A motion to close the floor for nominations was made by Commissioner David Garofalo, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. A second was received from Commissioner Paula Delaney. The motion to close the floor passed unanimously. Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

5a. FDOT Report

The FDOT report was given by Ms. Debbie Hunt, Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development. She started with a discussion of the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). Over 1,200 comments were received. She gave an overview of the document structure, including the goals and areas of emphasis. Based on comments, a set of goals relating to the transportation disadvantaged were added. FDOT is beginning to implement the plan. Mr. Glassman discussed how the MPOAC might work toward implementation of the FTP. He discussed the action plan that was adopted after the last FTP. He said the Policy Committee would gather to discuss the scope of the MPOAC's involvement in implementation.

Next Ms. Hunt discussed a Florida Trade and Logistics Study. There were three major findings from this study. The first was to use more of the freight brought into Florida's ports within the state. Second, Florida should increase the amount of goods being exported from the state. Last, the state should use freight infrastructure to create jobs and build wealth. Other findings include expanding at least one port to accommodate post-Panamax ships and have a direct-to-rail connection. Currently the Port of Miami has federal approval for dredging. The Port of Jacksonville and Port Everglades have both applied for permits for a deeper channel although no ports have funding to actually perform this dredging. FDOT also found that Miami International Airport should continue to expand its capacity as a freight hub. A statewide network of distribution hubs related to the SIS should be identified and targeted for investments.

Ms. Hunt discussed changes to the SIS designation criteria. Several thresholds for inclusion have changed. All Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS) facilities were absorbed into the SIS, and all new designations must meet the SIS criteria. The Emerging SIS has been retained. A new process for un-designating facilities from the SIS was discussed.

Ms. Hunt discussed the results of the 2010 Census. Urbanized areas will be identified by 2012, and subsequent to that discussions will begin on MPO boundaries. The PL and 5303 formulas will be reopened at that time as well. A training program will be offered on PL funding sometime this year.

Councilmember Thomas Leonardo, Lee County MPO, made comments about the possibility of SW Florida Airport being a freight hub. Ms. Hunt said she would discuss the topic with him one on one.

5b. FHWA Report

Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA, Director, Office of Project Development, gave the FHWA report. She discussed Federal legislation and a SAFETEA-LU extension is in place through March 4th. She stated that FHWA is hoping for an extension through the end of the fiscal year. An air quality standards announcement has been pushed back to July. She announced several TMA certification report site visits.

Next, Ms. Brunelle announced a new FHWA initiative called Every Day Counts. The purpose of the initiative is to improve performance, innovation, and speed of project delivery. FHWA Florida Division will be setting up an implementation team to look at how Florida is instituting the efforts described in the report. For 2011, Florida is doing well, and has implemented 7 of 10 recommended initiatives.

Mr. Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, asked if the state will send letters requesting newly urbanized areas be absorbed rather than a new MPO established. Ms. Hunt responded that no information was available on that yet.

5c. FTA Report

Mr. Keith Melton, Office of Planning and Program Development, presented the Federal Transit Administration report. He described the FL-GA joint office, that each team has a planner, a grants manager, and an engineering/program manager. Their duties are to focus on target cities and build better rapport with transit providers and MPOs. A near-term goal is to assist Florida planners with new/small starts grant applications and corridor plans. The teams will also be more responsive on UPWPs, L RTPs, and Certification reviews. He pointed out that 5307 funds can be flexed into transportation planning funding, although several steps are required to do so.

He announced several deadlines for submitting information and reports to FTA. He announced that Florida received 82 grants worth \$344 million in FY 2010. He stated that MPOs are being encouraged to program carry-over funds. He informed the members that all JARC and New Freedom funds should be in the TIP, and that the description can be general. All ARRA funds have been obligated. Over \$2 billion has been awarded nationwide in 2010, and he discussed several projects awarded in Florida.

6. Benefits of Fixed Route Transit in Florida

Ms. Diane Quigley, FDOT Transit Planning Administrator, gave a presentation on the findings of a recent study conducted by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), on the benefits of fixed route transit in Florida. The study looked at all 29 urban fixed route agencies for all fixed route modes (bus, rail, street car, etc.). The focus of the study was only on federal formula grant-funded programs. The purpose was to identify the benefits derived from funding both capital and operating. She discussed jobs, cost savings to transit users and cost/time savings for highway users and hours of delay saved.

Fuel savings and emissions were also reviewed. The study also looked at safety and mobility benefits for transportation disadvantaged populations. The draft final report is currently under review and will be distributed for comment online in the spring of 2011.

Councilmember Thomas Leonardo made comments about the use of natural gas as an alternative to other fuels for busses. He also made comments about the expansion of Chinese vehicle ownership and the cost of producing ethanol based fuels. Chairman Kaplan made comments about conversion to natural gas, and asked for manuals and information on conversion.

7. Transit Public Education Campaign and ULI Transit Study

Mr. Dennis Eirikis of Clear Light Communications gave a presentation on behalf of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA). In particular, FPTA is seeking to partner with MPOs on the IM4Transit Campaign. He discussed the state of the transit system across the country and in Florida. There are also several groups that have organized anti-transit campaigns. FPTA has been rebranded and has produced a number of new materials. He offered assistance in MPO public involvement campaigns. He said that USPIRG and T4America have decided to open offices in Florida to advance a transit agenda. ULI has issued a report called "Connecting Florida." FPTA surveyed Floridians over the past year to gauge interest in the topic. A wide majority are in favor of transit, and many pro-transit volunteers were identified. He described a number of incentives for volunteers and organizers. He asked for participation by MPOs during the IAM4Transit campaign. Mr. T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, made comments reflecting the sense of the Staff Directors Committee that the campaign needs to target all people, not just pro-transit people.

Councilmember Thomas Leonardo made comments about wait times and the suburban nature of many Florida cities. He also discussed the level of subsidy per trip for transit. Commissioner Paula Delaney said that college students could be a fruitful source for supporters. She also commented on the hidden subsidy of roadways. Chairman Kaplan made comments on how transit can help pay for itself. His ideas include attempting to quantify the economic benefits in terms of wages earned after transit trips, and jobs at businesses catering to transit.

8. MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study

Mr. Steve Reich, Center for Urban Transportation Research, delivered an update on the MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study. He recounted the membership of the Revenue Study Advisory Committee, including the addition of three new members. He gave updates on the first two meetings of the RSAC. A draft paper is under way, and a set of recommendations should be prepared by January 2012.

He discussed the results of ballot initiatives related to transportation across the United States. The Florida Transportation Commission has prepared a draft resolution of support in the project. Also several associations have expressed their willingness to promote legislative initiatives. He gave highlights of the Florida funding situational analysis document. The expected revenue from federal and state sources is expected to continue to decline. The population growth and income growth will be heavily focused in metropolitan areas.

Mr. Reich also discussed several shortfall studies from the FDOT, the MPOAC and the USDOT. Mr. Glassman asked when the RSAC will select some options to consider. Mr. Reich said that would occur at

the March meeting for review by the MPOAC in April. Chairman Kaplan asked if raw data could be useful to legislators and staff during this session, but before the project was complete. He suggested that while in Tallahassee this April, a short presentation of raw data should be given to interested state policy makers. Mr. Howe agreed that a briefing would be appropriate, but no legislative suggestions should be made.

9. Communications

Chairman Kaplan said the communications were self explanatory.

10. Member Comments

During member comments, Councilmember Thomas Leonardo asked if the members of the Council would be open to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at meetings. The Chair stated that a flag would be needed, and Mr. Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando, said METROPLAN would supply the flag during meetings in Orlando.

Chairman Kaplan recognized the MPOAC's newest members. Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia TPO, said that a layman's guide to the MPO is available.

Commissioner David Garofalo asked if meetings could be held on Fridays instead of Thursdays and at different locations. Chairman Kaplan said that Thursdays have solidified as the least conflicted date. In regard to location, Orlando is the most central. Chairman Kaplan said he was open to other times and locations.

Mayor Rocky Randels said that the presentation on Livability was useful to him and pointed out the presentation in the Governing Board member packet.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjourn

Chairman Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.