

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council  
Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 28, 2011**

**Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:**

Dennis Dix, Hernando MPO  
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO  
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO  
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO  
Beth Alden, Hillsborough County MPO  
Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO  
Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando  
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, Vice-Chair  
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, Chair  
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO  
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO  
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA  
Denise Bunnewith, North Florida TPO  
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO  
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO  
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO  
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO  
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO  
Donald Scott, Lee County MPO  
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO  
John Voges, Ocala/Marion County TPO

**Others in Attendance:**

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director  
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC Assistant  
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel  
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research  
Melissa McCarville, Center for Urban Transportation Research  
Bob Romig, FDOT  
Kathy Neill, FDOT  
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration  
Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration  
Keith Melton, Federal Transit Administration  
Joe Yesbeck, T.Y. Lin  
Hal Beardall, FSU Consensus Center  
Leigh Holt, Space Coast TPO  
Kim DeLaney, Treasure Coast RPC

Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering  
Jessica Josselyn, Kittelson & Associates  
Mary Schoelzel, FDOT  
Bob Wallace, Tindale-Oliver and Associates  
Chris Ryan, Broward MPO  
Gary Huttman, METROPLAN Orlando  
Jennifer Stults, FDOT D1  
Michael Woods, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Amy Windom, CH2M Hill  
Billy Hattaway, VHB  
Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO  
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO  
Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Councilmember Tom Leonardo, Lee County MPO  
Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO  
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO  
Marci Larson, North Florida TPO  
School Board Member Kathryn Hensley, St. Lucie TPO

### **1. Call to Order**

TJ Fish called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m. Self introductions were made.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Randy Whitfield to approve the April 7, 2011 minutes. A second was received from Sarah Ward. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, gave his report.

Mr. Glassman provided a brief overview of the MPO budget, stating that the budget was on target with a slight surplus. He then presented a recap of the 2011 State Legislative Session and a status report of Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization discussions ongoing in Washington, DC. The Local Government Planning Act, the General Transportation Bill and the Charter County Surtax did not pass this past state legislative session. . What did pass were major changes to the 2005 Growth Management Act, including reduced state oversight of development decisions and new requirements for local transportation elements that are coordinated with MPO long range transportation plans (LRTPs). The Legislature also passed a bill creating a new Department of Economic Opportunity that will include a Division of Community Development to take the place of the former Department of Community Affairs. Also passed during the legislation session was the creation of the State Economic Development and Enhancement (SEED) Trust Fund and a requirement for seaport strategic plans. Mr. Glassman suggested that representatives responsible for those programs could be invited to a future MPOAC meeting for a presentation. Mike Howe (Sarasota/Manatee MPO) asked about measures in proposed federal surface transportation reauthorization language regarding performance measures and the role for MPOs in creating and/or implementing them. Mr. Glassman explained that detailed language regarding that

subject has not yet been released, but that there is thought that MPOs will be involved in any new performance measurement process.

Mr. Glassman then discussed MPOAC Resolution 2011-01 regarding MPO designation thresholds and continuing operations of existing MPOs. TJ Fish (Lake-Sumter MPO), Chair, pointed out that the resolution was in the agenda package. Conversation proceeded about the population threshold issue and the continuance of MPOs falling below any new threshold. Marlie Sanderson (Gainesville MTPO) felt a population of 100,000 was acceptable. Karl Welzenbach (Volusia TPO) stated that he believed that a population of 200,000 would be a viable limit. Peter Buchwald (St. Lucie TPO) described the complications and challenges for an MPO to work at a local level when it would be covering a large planning area. Bob Kamm (Space Coast TPO) made a motion to adopt MPOAC Resolution 2011-01. The motion was seconded by Phil Matson (Indian River County MPO). The motion was approved by acclimation, with Karl Welzenbach dissenting.

Mr. Glassman continued by providing a summary of the June 3, 2011 Policy and Technical Subcommittee. He noted that the next session of the Florida legislature will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup> and that the MPOAC will need to be developing policy positions prior to that time. Mr. Welzenbach pointed out that EPA delayed the release of new air quality standards and some environmental groups are threatening to sue over the issue. Mr. Glassman announced several upcoming meetings and conferences. The ITS World Congress will be held in Orlando, FL from October 16-20, 2011 and the AMPO 2011 Annual Conference will be in Dallas, TX from October 25-28, 2011. Mr. Barley (Metroplan Orlando) announced two upcoming National Association of Regional Council (NARC) conferences - the NARC 2011 Executive Directors Conference which will be held October 25-28, 2011 in Dallas, TX and the 2012 NARC Annual Conference and Exhibition in St. Petersburg, FL, June 10-13, 2012. Mr. Barley encouraged sponsorships for these events.

Lucie Ayer (Collier MPO) was welcomed back in her new position with the Collier MPO.

#### **4a. FDOT Report**

*NOTE: Due to other scheduled commitments, FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad was not able to attend the Governing Board meeting. Members of the governing board were invited to attend this session to hear Secretary Prasad's presentation.*

Bob Romig, Interim Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development, discussed the statewide managed lanes draft policy and action plan. The FDOT is working to develop policy criteria to identify and prioritize future candidate corridors for treatment as part of the managed lanes action plan. He explained that corridor criteria will include such things as severity and duration of congestion. Copies of the draft plan were not available at the meeting, but would be made available soon.

Mr. Romig explained that they are in the final stages of drafting the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) 2040 plan, and that it will be released for comment in September. The changes are partially a result of the additional 5 years on the plan and 2010 base-year dollar adjustments. The report is due in December. Mr. Romig then discussed that the FDOT was developing legislative policy initiatives for the 2012 legislative session and that additional information would be delivered to Mr. Glassman for dissemination to the MPOAC membership. Mr. Romig also announced that the TRANSPLEX 2011 Virtual Conference will be held in the fall of 2012 and that he hoped MPOs would participate. Mr. Howe asked if there were discussions on changing the policy requiring at least 50% of discretionary dollars available

for increased roadway capacity be used on SIS facilities. Mr. Romig described that the SIS breakdown is still in place. Mike Howe mentioned toll revenues and asked about the process for adjusting them to raise additional revenue. Bob Kamm pointed out that new legislation expanded the definition of the type of structures permitted to be funded under the SIS program and asked if any work has been done to implement the expanded definitions. Kathy Neill, FDOT, Director of the Office of Policy Planning, and Bob Romig stated that the DOT's interpretation of the new legislation is that it is not an expansion of the SIS definitions and that no additional work was required.

An FDOT report was given by Secretary Ananth Prasad. He complimented Governor Scott's engagement in the transportation agenda. Secretary Prasad then discussed how he has challenged his leadership team to focus on constrained projects, by finding creative ideas to push projects along that are not likely to otherwise get done. He stated that there exists a need for the public itself to promote a strong transportation agenda. People and businesses must be encouraged to get involved with the legislature and feel connected with the funding of transportation projects. He noted that while the work program was worth \$7 billion, the amount contributed by Florida's citizens through motor fuel taxes and other fees translates into a small amount on a per-person cost basis, a cost which highly benefits each and every person daily. He went on to call for strengthened cross jurisdiction coordination, enhanced regional governance, MPO restructuring and consolidation, and linking stakeholders to strong partnerships. He also emphasized the need to preserve the federal highway trust fund and that Congressman John Mica (Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) has a good plan to preserve it for the next 6 years (the life of a new surface transportation authorization bill). Secretary Prasad stated that FDOT must evaluate the value of its products and services to the consumer, and analyze what people are willing to pay for different transportation options. He noted that there has been a lot of important streamlining of environmental reviews and that more needs to follow. He also emphasized that Department processes need to be consistent, predictable and reliable.

Councilmember Tom Leonardo (Lee County MPO) suggested further decreasing costs of operations. He expressed disagreement with the concept of tolling bridges and roadway lanes. Secretary Prasad clarified that he is suggesting tolling only new capacity (lanes and bridges). Mayor Richard Kaplan (Broward MPO) described the Revenue Study Advisory Committee activities and requested Department feedback on the preliminary report. He then commented on the activities of the Southeast Florida Transportation Council and proposed streamlining operations and management through a regional structure. Commissioner David Garofalo (Sarasota/Manatee MPO) asked about reapportionment and if measures were being taken to ensure an efficient process. Secretary Prasad stated that a discussion has not yet taken place with the governor on this subject. Mayor Walter Kelly (Bay County TPO) requested assistance on Sunset Limited train issues. Commissioner Gene Valentino (Florida-Alabama TPO) mentioned the Regional Transportation Finance Authority and expressed concern over possible communication disconnects with state level officials to initiate projects. Commissioner Valentino then suggested a forum between local level and state level officials to discuss funding mechanisms for bonding initiatives. The Secretary said his presentation at the MPOAC meeting was meant to spur ideas and open a conversation on such things as increasing revenue to fund transportation projects. TJ Fish was interested in public-private partnerships, and asked about how MPOs may capitalize on the funds being moved into the new SEED Trust Fund. The Secretary encouraged the MPOAC to stay engaged in how SEED projects get prioritized and how the funding gets distributed.

#### **4b. FHWA Report**

Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA, Director, Office of Project Development gave the FHWA report. She mentioned that the FY11 TIGER grant program was open for application. Pre-applications will be due on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and final applications will be due October 31<sup>st</sup>. Planning projects will not be eligible for TIGER grants (capacity projects only) and there will be a limit of 3 applications per applicant. TJ Fish asked if they need FDOT endorsement to submit an application. Ms. Brunelle explained that project selection will be done by US DOT staff, not FDOT, and that the primary criteria for evaluating applications will be long term outcome, job creation and near term economic activity. Secondary selection factors will be innovation and partnership. Mr. Fish asked if there is a federal focus for using fiber optics in transportation and Ms. Brunelle stated that there are specific requirements to follow. Karl Welzenbach pointed out that a series of workshops on basic minimum requirements with state and federal laws would be helpful. Ms. Brunelle agreed. Beth Alden (Hillsborough County MPO) asked what is acceptable from FHWA on documentation and consistency related to long range transportation plan amendments when timeframes between the project and the plan itself do not align. Ms. Brunelle explained that depending on the magnitude of the change in the time and budget, an amendment may be required to be consistent with the timeframe of the plan. Ms. Brunelle stated that they would discuss that issue in further detail at a later time. Harry Barley suggested that that the resolution of this discussion would be a helpful follow-up to all at the next session.

Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA, Planning Programs Coordinator, announced that on August 11<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee, FL they will be conducting a Statewide Planning Session and that MPOs were invited to attend or call in. Ms. Jacobs then discussed the State of the Practice Review. She mentioned best practices and that they were particularly impressed with the MPO Handbook, MPOAC coordination and the MPOAC Institute. Ms. Jacobs then discussed the requirement to address total project costs for all phases from planning through construction in MPO documents. FHWA is working with FDOT on how to incorporate this requirement into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

She stated that Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) awards are expected to be announced in early August. An Air Quality Workshop hosted by Sarasota/Manatee MPO will be held August 24-25, 2011. Mike Howe stated all were invited and that he will give Mr. Glassman information to share with MPOAC members. Mr. Barley requested that a brief report on Federal Certification Reviews be put on future MPOAC agendas if time is available.

#### **4c. FTA Report**

Mr. Keith Melton, Office of Planning and Program Development, presented the Federal Transit Administration report. He gave a presentation on Livable and Sustainable Communities (available on the FTA website). Mr. Melton described how FTA continues to focus on premium transit projects and that there are two Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects under development in Orlando, both of which will feed into the SunRail commuter rail project. There are also two BRT projects in Jacksonville under development. He remarked on notable projects in Gainesville, Tallahassee, and Orlando. Mr. Melton then presented the NEPA flowchart for FTA projects, as supplied in the agenda packet.

#### **5. Greenroads**

Amy Windom, P.E., of CH2M Hill gave a presentation on Greenroads, a sustainability rating system for roadway design and construction projects. She explained that the Greenroads Foundation is a non-profit, third party corporation that was established to manage certification reviews using the Greenroads Rating System developed by the University of Washington and CH2MHill. This system

awards points for increasingly sustainable practices, and helps to quantify the sustainability attributes of a roadway project. Bob Kamm asked about the fee for using Greenroads. Ms. Windom said it is a \$5000 fee, which includes a tiered documentation of how the Greenroads plan affects the participant. Phil Matson said that providing more information on the long term savings and benefits would help to encourage people to get on board with the Greenroads concept.

## **6. Transit Oriented Development**

Dr. Kim DeLaney, Growth Management Coordinator for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, presented an overview on Transit Oriented Development. She described the fundamental differences between Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Transit Adjacent Development (TAD). Ms. DeLaney provided examples of the integration of this approach into long range transportation planning. FDOT is taking the lead on TOD strategies and approaches, with information provided online at [www.FLTOD.com](http://www.FLTOD.com). She concluded that several advantages of TOD are that it lends for better leveraging of investments, promotes efficiency of development and mobility, public-private partnerships, federal fund competitiveness, and improved quality of life.

## **7. Advancing Metropolitan Planning for Operations**

This presentation was bumped from the agenda due to time constraints.

## **8. Communications**

The Chair directed attention to the communications in the agenda packet.

## **9. Member Comments**

There were no member comments.

## **10. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **11. Adjourn**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.