

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Meeting
November 4, 2011**

Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, Vice-Chair
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, Chair
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO
Karl Welzenbach, Volusia 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
Steve Reich, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Karen Seggerman, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Brady Sneath, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration
Kathy Neill, FDOT, Office of Policy Planning
Huiwei Shen, FDOT, Office of Policy Planning
Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering
Jonathan S. Baker, Marriott International
Mary Schoelzel, FDOT D5
Steve Friedel, FDOT D5
Vickie N. Wyche, FDOT D5
Claudia Calzaretta, FDOT D5
Lorena Valencia, FDOT D5
Jennifer Stults, FDOT D1
Pamela Richmond, Lake-Sumter MPO
Gary Huttman, METROPLAN Orlando
Sarah Adams, Cambridge Systematics
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO
Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO

1. Call to Order

Mary Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Self introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, to approve the July 28, 2011 minutes. A second was received from Harry Barley, METROPLAN Orlando. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report

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

Mr. Glassman provided a brief status report on the MPOAC budget. He described how the MPOAC has experienced a reduction of budget authority for the current fiscal year – a byproduct of the administrative arrangement between the MPOAC and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). He explained that the reduced budget authority required a reduction in MPOAC expenses that could be solved by transferring funds from the MPOAC to a member MPO intended to pay statewide annual dues for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and that the funds transfer would require an amendment to the statewide PL funding formula and Task 1.5 of the adopted MPOAC Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO, made a motion to approve the amendment to the statewide PL funding formula and Task 1.5 of the adopted MPOAC UPWP, with the recommendation to allocate the funds to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency to pay for statewide AMPO dues. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Glassman then reported on the MPOAC 2012 Draft Legislative Policy Positions and Priorities. Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO, made a motion to adopt the following three legislative positions as priorities for the upcoming legislative session:

1. Preserve the State Transportation Trust Fund by opposing the diversion of dedicated transportation funds for non-transportation uses,
2. Restore funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Grant Program, the Strategic Intermodal System, the New Starts Transit Program, the County Incentive Grant Program and the Small County outreach Program, and
3. Provide to all counties that are members of an MPO the authority to implement the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax.

The motion was seconded by Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO, made a motion that the MPOAC send a letter to the legislature in support of a legislative policy position requiring the use of child restraint devices in motor vehicles for children four to seven years of age. The motion was seconded by Randy Whitfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Ayer made a motion that the MPOAC send a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Transportation Commission promoting interoperable and multi-modal smartcard technology and asking them to make efforts to investigate the feasibility of such technology in Florida. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Glassman directed attention to the upcoming MPOAC meeting schedule. To accommodate presenter schedules, he solicited feedback for the next Staff Director's meeting to be held jointly with Governing Board on January 26, 2012. Chair TJ Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, offered his support for a joint meeting. Since there may be action items at the next meeting, Ms. Robinson suggested two separate, but overlapping, meetings to accommodate combined presentations. Ms. Ayer described a possible meeting layout of Noon-1 p.m. for the Staff Director's to focus on action items, and then a joint meeting from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. for presentations and MPOAC Governing Board action items. Mr. Fish stated that he would work with Mr. Glassman to identify if there will be any action items. If there are action items, they will take the recommendation for a Staff Director's only meeting prior to the combined meeting.

Mr. Fish next complimented the group's presence at the 2011 AMPO Conference in Dallas, Texas. Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, described one topic at the AMPO conference related to cell phone tracking data and its potential use for traffic counts.

4a. FDOT Report

Kathy Neill, FDOT, Director of the Office of Policy Planning, provided the FDOT report. She discussed the Department's legislative policy initiatives for the 2012 legislative session. She anticipated that the House Bill would be publicly available within a week and would include much of what was in the FDOT legislative package. There are provisions to sunset the Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS) which is now a component of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and the Statewide Intermodal Transportation Advisory Council (SITAC) which is currently inactive, and to eliminate the Florida Passenger Rail Commission. Ms. Neill reviewed various technical revisions to the statewide planning provisions and the roadway system definitions, as well as a proposed bicycle pilot program. New provisions for seaports include the increase of statutory funds from \$8 million to \$15 million annually and create a strategic port infrastructure initiative with an annual funding of \$35 million. FDOT will work with the state's seaports to develop a statewide seaport and waterways systems plan. Ms. Neill described additional legislative provisions to have FDOT serve as non-voting advisors to the MPOs and for having tolled managed lanes added as eligible components of the state highway system. She then explained that FDOT recommended that MPOs in urbanized areas containing more than one MPO to adopt single list of project priorities for the urbanized area, with an effective date of 2013, and that Senator Latvala is soliciting other ideas to incorporate into the Senate Transportation Bill.

Ms. Neill proceeded with a discussion on financial forecasts for the long-range transportation plan (LRTP). She reviewed information from the September MPOAC Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting, noting that the financial information the FDOT will provide to MPOs will cover the time period 2014 through 2040. FDOT plans to prepare the forecast by Spring of 2013, and will be working with MPOs and FDOT Districts to create the methodology for making the financial forecast. She described how FDOT is working with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to develop their five year strategic plan, which will then serve as a foundation for other plans across the state, including a statewide transportation vision. Ms. Neill also discussed the status of the future corridors plan update, stating that technical working groups are being formed to guide the plan development process.

Ms. Neill stated that a draft report was prepared and distributed last month on potential proportionate share calculation changes. Ms. Neill welcomed emails with any recommendations and concerns on the proportionate share formula study.

4b. FHWA Report

Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA, Director, Office of Project Development gave the FHWA report. Ms. Brunelle first provided a legislative update, stating that SAFETEA-LU was extended through March 31, 2012. The continuing resolution ends November 15, 2011, but Congress is expected to extend it through the remainder of the federal fiscal year. The new transportation authorization legislation is being proposed by the House and the Senate for consideration in the coming months. Mr. Kamm suggested that if the transportation enhancement program becomes suspended, that enhancement projects contained in the current FDOT 5-Year Work Program be held harmless. Ms. Neill stated that the Department strives to honor commitments made in the current Work Program.

Ms. Brunelle next discussed the long range transportation plan expectations letter. FHWA is working on a draft document, and expects it to be ready for review by the end of month. Ms. Brunelle announced a Measuring Freight Performance webinar on November 16, 2011 from 1-2:30. She also announced that Florida received five grants totaling \$18 million under the 2011 Livability Grants Program. Ms. Brunelle concluded by directing attention to the agenda packet for information on the disadvantaged business enterprise.

5. Transportation Revenue Study Recommendations

Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, introduced Steve Reich with the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida and commended all contributions to the Revenue Study Advisory Committee (RSAC). Mr. Reich provided a comprehensive update on the study scope and status. He gave an in-depth briefing on the revenue options approved by RSAC for consideration by the MPOAC at their September 15, 2011 meeting. These revenue options will serve as the MPOAC's legislative position on enhancing transportation funding for Florida starting with the 2013 legislative policy positions. Mr. Reich stated that updated packets would be sent to Mr. Glassman reflecting the revised and corrected charts that were presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Welzenbach to accept the report in draft form and to spend the next nine months to adopt a final list of revenue options and to draft legislative language to implement the revenue options. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ayer. Mr. Howe expressed concern with delaying the decision too long and encouraged the MPOAC to adopt a final list of revenue options at the January meeting of the MPOAC in Tallahassee. Mr. Fish clarified that the motion on the table did not preclude approval of a final list of revenue options in January and suggested that the remaining time could be used to refine the options and draft legislation. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Communications

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

7. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.