

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council  
Governing Board and Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Joint Meeting  
January 26, 2012**

**Governing Board Members in Attendance:**

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Vice-Chair  
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO  
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Commissioner Sam J. Saad III, Collier MPO  
Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO  
Councilmember Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO  
Commissioner Don Burgess, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Councilmember Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO  
Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, Polk TPO  
Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO

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

Greg Stuart, Broward MPO  
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA  
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO  
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO  
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, Chair  
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO  
Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando  
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO  
Jeff Sheffield, North Florida TPO  
Greg Slay, Ocala/Marion County TPO  
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO  
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO  
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO  
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO  
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO  
Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO  
Ray Chiaramonte, Hillsborough County MPO

**Others in Attendance:**

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director  
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC Assistant  
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel  
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research  
Steve Reich, Center for Urban Transportation Research  
Jan Davis, Center for Urban Transportation Research  
Karen Seggerman, Center for Urban Transportation Research

Brady Sneath, Center for Urban Transportation Research  
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration  
Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration  
Shakira Crandol, Federal Highway Administration  
Kathy Neill, FDOT, Office of Policy Planning  
Bob Romig, FDOT, Office of Policy Planning  
Jennifer Stults, FDOT D1  
Keith Melton, FTA Region IV  
Barbara Foster, Department of Economic Opportunity  
Michelle Dennard, Department of Economic Opportunity  
Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning  
Richard Gallant, Florida Transportation Commission  
Rusty Ennemoser, FDOT  
Regina Colson, FDOT, Office of Policy Planning  
Yvonne Arens, FDOT  
Mike Neidhart, Gannett Fleming  
Ming Gao, FDOT D7  
Huiwei Shen, FDOT  
Bryan Caletka, Broward MPO  
Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering  
Juan Flores, FDOT  
Jasmin Raffington, DOT  
Sheri Coven, FRCA  
Carl Mikyska, Federal Highway Administration  
Hal Beardall, FCRC Consensus Center  
Jeff Danner, Pinellas County MPO  
Richard Biter, FDOT  
Fred Abousleman, NARC  
Erika Young, NARC  
Erik Steavens, TIP Consultants  
Mark Cahill, FDOT  
Elizabeth Jacobs, North Port  
Mackenzie Jacobs, North Port Intern  
Mikayle Jacobs, North Port Intern

## **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Kaplan, Broward MPO, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Self introductions were made.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, to approve the Governing Board Meeting minutes from November 4, 2011. A second was received from Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, to approve the Staff Directors' Meeting minutes from November 4, 2011. A second was received from Greg Stuart, Broward MPO. 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 referring to the budget table in the packet. He then reported on the MPOAC 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) Implementation Working Group. The Working Group met on November 4, 2011 and discussed FTP goals and objectives. Members offered comments regarding the statewide vision, regional decision-making, future transportation corridors, and performance measures. The Working Group will meet again to discuss further appropriate mechanisms for MPOs to share in the implementation of the 2060 FTP.

Mr. Glassman directed attention to the two upcoming MPOAC Weekend Institute events. They will be held March 30-April 1, 2012 in St. Augustine, FL and June 8-10, 2012 in Tampa, FL. Jeff Kramer of the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF) clarified that initially, there is one seat per MPO available at each training event. If all of the seats are not reserved, they will be opened up for MPOs that wish to send more than one member. Mr. Kramer shared that 142 MPO Board members have been trained during MPOAC Institute events: 62% of whom still serve on their MPO Board. Mayor Kaplan encouraged the MPOAC Governing Board members to attend the training if they had not done so already.

Mr. Glassman then provided an overview of State and Federal legislation using the summary distributed by Mr. Kramer. This year the transportation bills (SB 1866 and HB 1399) focus on seaports, freight, and tolling, and includes: increasing funding to the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council; launching a Strategic Port Investment Initiative and creating an Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support Program; repealing the Florida Intrastate Highway System (which largely overlap Strategic Intermodal System corridors); and allowing tolling on new limited access facility lanes.

Section 54 of both bills includes two MPO-related issues. The first provides that representatives of FDOT shall serve as non-voting advisors on MPOs – this is language requested by FDOT last year, but not passed. The second requires MPOs in urbanized areas or transportation management areas containing more than one MPO to adopt a single list of project priorities for the urbanized area beginning October 1, 2013. Members raised concerns regarding the requirement for a single list of MPO priorities with an urbanized area. Bob Romig, FDOT, expressed understanding of the implementation challenges and stated that FDOT will request that the sponsors remove the language from the bill. He stated that this

year, the focus will be on revising urbanized area boundaries and other boundaries based on the 2010 U.S. Census. The Department will also seek minor changes to the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) language and seek continuing funding for the TRIP.

Sections 66 and 67 of the bills address storm water management on state transportation facilities and provides for storm water banking. Section 71 requires a review of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority and recommendations for reorganization or organizational merger.

A bill to ban texting while driving is actively being considered in the Senate, but not the House. Additionally, there is no movement on a bill prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving by those under 18 and school bus drivers. Efforts to control yellow and red traffic control signals may not be advanced this legislative session. A growth management bill under consideration provides for a moratorium on transportation concurrency and proportional fair share mitigation by local governments for a specified period of time. A bill to recreate the Seminole County Expressway Authority was passed by the Senate, but not the House.

There has been some discussion on consolidation of expressway authorities through the Turnpike Enterprise and a report has been prepared on that subject. Some in the legislature are also supporting toll collection consolidation; however the Senate Transportation Committee has not passed it thus far.

Ray Chiaramonte, Hillsborough County MPO, suggested that the wording for Section 22 (regarding a proposed ceiling of 1.5% of project expenditures on landscaping) needs clarification. Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO, stated in regard to landscaping that 1.5% should be the floor, not the ceiling. Mr. Romig explained the intent of the provision is to ensure that the appropriate amount of landscaping is placed at the right locations to make a big impact. A discussion ensued regarding the best way to make this occur.

In response to a question from T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, regarding how Section 43 (managed lanes) of the bills would work, Mr. Romig explained that the intent is to capitalize on the successful managed lane concept implemented in South Florida. There, the congestion pricing technique results in excess funds that are then used for express bus service. Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO, expressed concern that managed lanes on I-4 may hurt SunRail passenger numbers. Discussion ensued regarding the effects of congestion pricing techniques currently used in Florida.

In regard to a question regarding Section 59, the repeal of the Statewide Intermodal Transportation Advisory Council, Mr. Romig responded that is due to Council inactivity and ongoing procedures to update the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS).

#### **4. Senator Jack Latvala, Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee**

Although on the agenda, Senator Latvala was unable to attend due to a conflict with a Senate Committee meeting. Mr. Glassman stated that he will stay in contact with the Senator during the legislative session relative to transportation proposals and MPOAC priorities and policy positions.

#### **5. Election of Officers**

Election of Governing Board Chairperson:

Mr. Gougelman, MPOAC Counsel, asked Mayor Kaplan, current MPOAC Governing Board Chair, if he would be willing to continue to serve if nominated. Mayor Kaplan responded that he serves at the will of the Governing Board and would certainly do so again. Mayor Kelley, Bay County TPO, motioned to

nominate Mayor Kaplan as Chair of the Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Governing Board Vice-Chairperson:

Mr. Gougelman asked Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, current Vice-Chair of the MPOAC Governing Board, if she would be willing to continue to serve if nominated. She replied affirmatively. Commissioner Sam Saad, III, Collier MPO, nominated Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO, for Vice-Chair. Councilmember Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, nominated Deputy Mayor Haynie. Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, Polk TPO, made a motion to close the nominations. Mayor Kelley, seconded the motion. The motion carried, nominations were closed and a hand vote was taken. Deputy Mayor Haynie was re-elected as MPOAC Governing Board Vice-Chair with 9 votes (Commissioner Garofalo received 4 votes).

Election of Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Chair:

Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, nominated Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, current Vice-Chair of the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee, to serve as Chair. Karl Welzenbach seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Vice-Chair:

Gregory Stuart, Broward MPO, nominated Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, to serve as Vice-Chair of the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee. Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, then nominated Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA, to serve as Vice-Chair. A hand vote was taken. Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, was elected to serve as the Staff Directors' Advisory Vice-Chair with 12 votes (Mr. Reed received 4 votes).

## **6a. FDOT Report**

Bob Romig, State Transportation Development Administrator, and Kathy Neill, FDOT Director of the Office of Policy Planning, provided the FDOT report.

Bob Romig introduced Mr. Richard Biter – the new FDOT Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development. Mr. Biter described the activities of his office, explaining that they bring in commerce and jobs, particularly through freight mobility. Consequently, he stated that the Governor is interested in working with FDOT's transportation partners to increase investment in seaports and other intermodal connectors across the state.

In response to a question regarding the impact of the Panama Canal, Mr. Biter described meetings he had attended that underscored the uncertainty in regard to the actual impact to ship and freight traffic in Florida and beyond. The Port of Miami is expected to benefit due to its depth and the new tunnel that connects truck traffic directly to I-395 from the port. He believes that all Florida ports will benefit not only from the Panama Canal widening, but also from increased trade with South America.

One member expressed excitement over the development of a state rail plan and inquired about the priorities in this regard. Mr. Biter responded that movement of freight is the priority and the state is seeking public-private partnerships (PPPs) to make that movement possible. He noted that Florida does not have the assets to fund these large investments alone. He stressed the importance of intermodal

logistics centers to move containers from ports to distribution centers. Mr. Biter then explained that the goal is to attract manufacturers to Florida based on our ability to ship goods to other countries.

On behalf of the MPOAC Governing Board, Mayor Kaplan welcomed Mr. Biter to his new role with FDOT and that the MPOAC looked forward to working with him to improve transportation in Florida. He also emphasized the importance of the work the MPOAC is doing in the area of sustainable revenue sources for transportation and offered to have the revenue study now under development forwarded to him.

Mr. Biter introduced Juan J. Flores, the new FDOT State Freight and Logistics Administrator, and noted the important role that Mr. Flores will play in advancing the states freight mobility interests.

Kathy Neill, FDOT, Director of the Office of Policy Planning, gave an update on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan. The plan was updated in January 2010 and the Department is moving forward with its partners on implementation including development of highway criteria, sunsetting the FIHS, and updating the SIS Needs Plan. This year, the Department is working on SIS project eligibility criteria (e.g. military access, fixed guideway, and other project types). The criteria will be sent for review and comment once completed. She also stated that the Multimodal Needs Plan process will begin this summer.

Ms. Neill next discussed revenue forecasts for MPO long range transportation plans. Revenue forecasting will begin this summer. Once FHWA and FTA have finalized their expectations letter, the Department will meet with the MPOAC to develop MPO guidance documents and a process for producing the revenue forecasts.

Ms. Neill reviewed the U.S. Census and MPO membership reapportionment process. The Department expects information on the urbanized areas (UZA) based on the 2010 US Census figures by mid-2012 and will be looking for impacts to existing UZAs and for any newly created ones. She indicated that while new UZAs do need to be covered by an MPO process, they do not necessarily need a new MPO. She also mentioned that any changes in existing MPO boundaries will likely affect voting memberships and that the Department will work with MPOs to address those and other issues raised by changes in MPO boundaries.

Ms. Neill mentioned that the Florida Chamber Foundation is working on Phase 2 of its freight logistics study with an emphasis on manufacturing. The study will be completed this year ahead of the next legislative session. She also noted that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is performing a Florida Greenways update which will include identifying priority corridors or gaps in the existing system. They will be reaching out to interested parties for input.

## **6b. FHWA/FTA Report**

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Director of the Office of Project Development, gave the FHWA report. Ms. Brunelle stated that census numbers are expected by the end of March and will trigger MPO reapportionment processes. In terms of legislation, Ms. Brunelle explained that there was no news to report on reauthorization. Ms. Brunelle then announced that two Florida entities were TIGER Grant recipients – the Seminole Indian Tribe and the Port of Jacksonville.

Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA Planning Team Leader, reviewed the unified planning work program cycle. She stated that an LRTP expectations letter will be provided again this year. Mr. Glassman has provided comments on the initial draft and the revised draft will be released shortly for additional comments.

Ms. Jacobs then provided and discussed certification questions for MPOs in transportation management areas (TMAs). She stated that concerns raised in the federal certification review report are being addressed. Through coordination with environmental, civil rights, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), FHWA significantly reduced the number of questions included on the certification question list, including the complete removal of sections on air quality and emerging issues. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of staff time needed to compile information for the document and whether all the questions proposed are necessary. Ms. Jacobs indicated that they would welcome additional comments. Mr. Fish agreed to coordinate the MPOs comments on the certification questions. The question was then raised regarding whether the FHWA and TMA certification could be combined with the state certification. FHWA responded that the possibility would be explored. Ms. Jacobs responded affirmatively to a request for example responses to TMA questions for those MPOs who will be becoming TMAs and have not had to respond to such questions in the past.

Keith Melton, FTA Region IV, Office of Planning and Program Development, gave a brief report. He stated that the apportionment notice is out. Urbanized areas over 200,000 may now use 5307 funds for fuel, however, there is a cap on the amount nationally. He noted that USF/CUTR was awarded one of the UTC grants. A proposed rule was released on January 25<sup>th</sup> regarding the New Starts Program containing fairly significant changes to help streamlining. Mr. Melton also noted that the Laps and Gaps grants applications are due.

## **7. Transportation Revenue Study Recommendations**

Mr. Fish opened by noting that the subcommittee met earlier in the day and approved a recommendation regarding the Transportation Revenue study.

Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, introduced the committee and their work on the MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study. The purpose of the study is to offer sustainable transportation revenue solutions for the Legislature's consideration. Mr. Howe introduced Steve Reich with the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida.

Mr. Reich reviewed the presentation slide (#11) RSAC Recommendations for Consideration by MPOAC and explained that the subcommittee recommended that all sixteen options be further developed and provided to the Legislature for consideration. (16 out of the 50+ permutations originally studied)

Discussion ensued regarding how the options may work and specific concerns related to some of the various options. It was noted that the vehicle mile traveled (VMT) option has many privacy-related concerns, particularly "Big Brother" implications. In addition, some believe that the VMT may not necessarily raise more revenue, particularly if those setting the rate are the same ones setting the gas tax rate. Others voiced concerns about voting for anything that may be construed as a tax and reiterated the importance of convincing the Legislature to stop taking funds intended for transportation from the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) for non-transportation purposes. An overriding concern by elected officials was that by agreeing with this list, they are voting for a tax and they were reluctant, even unwilling, to do so.

Mr. Howe explained that CUTR would develop position papers and draft legislative implementation language on these options for further review by the MPOAC members. Ultimately, they will be forwarded to the Legislature as possible options for the large revenue gaps that exist for transportation infrastructure. It was recognized that the MPOAC is a planning body that looks 20-30 years in the future, much further than the Legislature. The MPOAC did not vote for the sixteen options, but instead voted to provide the information regarding the escalating transportation funding gap, and possible ways to close that gap, to the Legislature.

Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, moved for further development of the sixteen options recommended in the study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO. All present voted approval for the motion with the exception of Commissioner Sam Saad III, Collier MPO, who voted "nay." The motion passed by acclamation.

## **8. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**

Michelle Dennard, Director of the Division of Strategic Business Development for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), presented an overview of the DEO and discussed the development of Florida's 5-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan.

The DEO contains 3 divisions – the Division of Community Development, the Division of Strategic Business Development, and the Division of Workforce Services – reflecting the agencies that were combined to form the Department. While some of the former agencies' functions were preserved, the focus of the DEO is economic development. The Division of Strategic Business Development focuses on economic development project support and facilitation working with Enterprise Florida. The Division houses the Office of Film and Entertainment and is involved in intergovernmental planning for economic development. The mission of the Department is to provide a seamless approach to economic development.

Ms. Dennard described how the DEO has been charged by the Legislature to: 1. Create initial business plan; 2. Develop an Annual Report; and 3. Develop a five-year strategic plan. The first two charges have been accomplished and the third – the five-year strategic plan – is underway. The Department is looking to Enterprise and Workforce Florida, as well as other partners, for assistance. The plan will be a guide for all other agencies to see where they play a role in economic development and how it will work with their plans. The framework of the plan is based on the six pillars developed by the Florida Chamber Foundation. Phase 1 of the planning process included a synthesis of many other plans throughout the State and a one-day stakeholder workshop that established the initial vision. Phase 2 is starting out with ten different regional meetings. Phase 3 will involve implementation and measurement of progress. Ms. Dennard then introduced Barbara Foster who coordinates the regional meetings.

Ms. Dennard then briefly mentioned the State Economic Enhancement and Development (SEED) Trust Fund, explaining that it does exist; however, it is up to the legislature to determine what to do with the SEED fund. Ms. Dennard explained that it remains unclear as to how it will be used.

## **9. National Association of Regional Councils**

Fred Abousleman, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), thanked the MPOAC for the invitation and explained that NARC's mission is to be one of the MPOAC's advocates in Washington, D.C. and that they are working for the best possible transportation legislation for MPOs.

Erika Young, NARC Transportation Director, made a presentation describing current NARC activities and the federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation. She discussed NARC's transportation priorities and their focus on regionalism, and then provided an overview of federal transportation legislation. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) is the name of the bill currently passing through various Senate committees. The bill keeps local governments at the table by including MPOs; however, there is concern for small MPOs and major metropolitan areas. The House version of the bill is expected to be released on January 27<sup>th</sup> although the House is not currently in session. This bill focuses on devolution to the states, program consolidation, and financing options including drilling and Medicare/Medicaid policy changes. House action is expected the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Young also touched on issues affecting MPOs such as small MPOs and the Tier concept included in MAP-21. Ms. Young stressed that it is important for MPOs to showcase their successes and highlight positive examples to share with the Congress.

Mr. Abousleman discussed the concept of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs) that is in HR 3780. Public projects within an established zone would be open to private financing and the private entity would be able to receive a tax deduction for providing such funding. The MPOAC has supported the concept of RIIZs in the past and Mr. Abousleman encouraged MPOAC Board members to discuss this option with members of their Legislative delegation.

Mr. Abousleman also announced the upcoming 2012 National Conference of Regions in Washington, D.C., February 12-14, 2012. He stressed that the meeting includes high level discussions including Secretary LaHood and Chairman Mica and well as other Congressional staff members. He also announced that NARC's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held in St. Petersburg, FL, July 10-14, 2012 and that topic suggestions are welcome.

Discussion ensued regarding various aspects of the presentation including the timeframe of the reauthorization, the RIIZ concept, oil drilling (particularly in Florida), and the Tier concept for MPOs. The presentation will be made available to the MPOAC.

## **10. Communications**

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

## **11. Member Comments**

- Bryan Caletka, the alternate from the Broward MPO introduced himself.
- Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO, announced that she would not be seeking re-election in the fall and therefore, this would be her last year on the MPOAC.
- Councilmember Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, asked if there is safety data available for electric vehicles. Mr. Glassman will respond to that request for information.
- Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO, introduced Commissioner Sam Saad, III with the Collier MPO.
- Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, introduced Commissioner James Herston with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO.
- Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando, announced that the ground breaking for SunRail will be held on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**13. Adjourn**

The Vice-Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.