

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Governing Board Meeting
April 26, 2012**

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Vice-Chair
Vice-Mayor Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO
Councilmember Brian Caletka, Broward MPO
Councilman Jeff Danner, Pinellas County MPO
Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO
Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO
Councilmember Thomas Leonardo, Lee County MPO
Councilmember Delores Madison, Capital Region TPA
Mayor Pro Tem Leigh Matusick, Volusia MPO
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO
Mayor Jim Richards, Lake-Sumter MPO
Council Member Dick Rynearson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Councilman Sam Saad, II, Collier County MPO
Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO
Mayor Marlene Wagner, Polk TPO

Others in Attendance:

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC Assistant
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Jeff Kramer, USF/CUTR
Karen Seggerman, USF/CUTR
Stephen Reich, USF/CUTR
Jan Davis, USF/CUTR
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration
Bob Romig, FDOT
Kathy Neill, FDOT, Office of Policy Planning
Juan Flores, FDOT
Keith Melton, FTA
Jim Wood, FDEP
Herb Hiller, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Lucie Ayer, Collier County MPO
Harold Barley, MetroPlan Orlando
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Dennis Dix, Hernando County MPO
Mike Escalante, Gainesville MTPO
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO

Others in Attendance (continued):

Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO

Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa- Walton, Bay County TPOs

Don Scott, Lee County MPO

Greg Stuart, Broward MPO

Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO

Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO

Baylie Jacobs, Sarasota

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Self-introductions were made by new members.

Announcements:

Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, and Susan Schrieber, Miami-Dade MPO, have been appointed to the Policy Committee of the Association of MPOs (AMPO). Commissioner Bob Dalari and Harry Barley, MetroPlan Orlando, have been reappointed to the Board of Governors and the Executive Director Council of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). Howard Glassman has been reappointed to the Committee on Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Processes (ADA20) of the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Thomas Leonardo, Lee County MPO, to approve the January 26, 2012 minutes. A second was received from Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, provided a status report on current MPOAC finances, reporting that roughly 75% of current fiscal year funds have been spent, which is on target for the year.

Mr. Glassman then discussed the draft Fiscal Years 2012/2013 – 2013/2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contained in the agenda packet. He pointed out that the overall amount budgeted is lower than in the current UPWP due to the completion of the Transportation Revenue Study. He further reviewed the document's table of contents, noting that a new task had been added allowing MPOAC to work with FDOT and other partners to implement the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). There has been a work group established for this effort and reports will be forwarded to the MPAOC membership on their progress over time. The last 2 pages outline the allocation of all funds by work task. He noted that the 3rd clause in Resolution 2012-01 before the Board allows the Chair to make any changes to the document that may be necessary based on comments from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), or the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). One member requested that a glossary of acronyms be provided to make it easy to look up the numerous acronyms in each document. Mr. Glassman agreed to provide a glossary. Commissioner

Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO, moved to approve MPOAC Resolution 2012-01 adopting the 2-Year UPWP for FY 2012/13-2013/14. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Glassman then referred to the Agreement for Legal Services contained in the agenda packet. He spoke highly of the work performed by Mr. Gougelman and recommended that the MPOAC continue his contract. He also pointed out that the legal counsels of individual MPOs also work with Mr. Gougelman on MPO legal matters. A member requested clarification on the line item amount for this contract. Mr. Glassman replied that it is \$18,000 annually. Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO, made a motion to approve the General Counsel legal services contract with Mr. Paul R. Gougelman. It was seconded by Commissioner David Garofalo Sr., Sarasota/Manatee MPO. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gougelman thanked the Governing Board and expressed how he enjoyed working with the MPOAC.

Mr. Glassman directed attention to a one-page handout that summarized the more pertinent aspects of the 2012 Summary of the Florida Legislative Session previously received by MPOAC members by email. He noted that legislation falls into four categories – economic development, transportation revenue, MPOs, and organizational restructuring. He described how important economic development was to the current administration and how that is reflected in legislation through the Strategic Port Investment Initiative that includes funding, the required development of a Statewide Seaport and Waterways Systems Plan, an Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support Plan, and a Freight Mobility and Trade Plan. Mr. Glassman then discussed how the Department will be working with its transportation partners, including the MPOAC, on these planning efforts over the coming year. He also noted that the Legislature committed to considering tolls as a funding mechanism on new limited access facilities, lanes added to existing limited access facilities, new major bridges over waterways, and replacements for existing bridges, stressing the significance of this approach.

Mr. Glassman reported that the MPO Staff Directors recommended that the MPOAC prepare and send a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requesting that a portion of the \$135 million specified for existing or planned strategic transportation projects that meet certain criteria be appropriated to the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP), a popular and successful program for the MPOs and FDOT. Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO, made a motion that such a letter be prepared and sent to the FDOT and Councilmember Delores Madison, Capital Region TPA, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Glassman reminded the Board that an MPOAC Institute Weekend is coming up June 8-10 and to encourage their fellow Board members to attend.

Vice-Chair Haynie then presented TJ Fish with a plaque “in recognition and appreciation for his outstanding service as Staff Director’s Advisory Committee Chair for 2010-2012.” She also congratulated Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa- Walton, Bay County TPOs, as the incoming chair.

4a. FDOT Report

Kathy Neill, FDOT, provided the FDOT report. The Freight Mobility and Trade Plan will include a policy element and an investment element. The policy element will be completed by July 2013. The consultant will start the process in July 2012 through regional meetings around the state and webinars to obtain

stakeholder input including that of the MPOAC. She introduced Juan Flores, State Freight Logistics and Passenger Operations Administrator, who will be presenting to the MPOAC at the July meeting.

The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan was adopted in January 2010 and the State continues to work on implementation of the plan. Currently FDOT is developing draft criteria and thresholds that address new types of facilities, including intermodal logistics centers (ILCs), urban fixed guideway terminals and corridors, military access facilities, and hub-to-hub connectors. FDOT expects to distribute the draft criteria this summer. FDOT is also updating the SIS cost feasible plan covering all modes for the year 2040. There will be outreach to MPOs in the late fall with the draft plan expected to be released sometime between January and March 2013 for review and comment and adoption in April 2013. Ms. Neill noted that FDOT would be working with MPO staff on long range revenue forecasts.

The 2010 Census information on urbanized areas was released on March 26, 2012. Florida has two new urbanized areas – one in Citrus County and one in Highlands County. An MPO must be designated to represent these urbanized areas – either a new one or an existing one. She noted that Florida's urbanized areas (UZAs) are continuing to grow together, particularly along the coast and major transportation corridors, increasing the need for regional cooperation. The Department will be having discussions with the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) who has interest in this topic. The FTC is forming a subcommittee (trade and logistics, future corridors, MPO designation, and regional governance and boundaries) with the intent to provide guidance on those issues, including merging MPOs or increasing regional cooperation. She noted that the FTC will be meeting on May 9th.

Ms. Neill commented on technical issues that MPO staff will address in response to changing urbanized area boundaries, such as smoothing urbanized area boundaries. The Department will be discussing FHWA PL and FTA 5303 planning funding formulas. The Seaport and Waterway Plan required by the Legislature has no statutory timeline and will be addressed beginning in July 2013.

A member asked if there is a way for the MPOAC to convey its priorities to the FTC. Vice-Chair Haynie explained that FTC members are appointed by the Governor representing different geographic areas. Southeast Florida reached out to the FTC Commissioner representing the area and encouraged others to do the same. Howard Glassman recalled past FTC discussion on similar issues. He suggested the time to convey MPOAC concerns and priorities would be after the FTC committee is formed and their direction and intent is clarified.

A member asked a question about intermodal logistic centers (ILC) and how the Lee County airport can become one. Department representatives indicated that they will follow up on this issue.

4b. FHWA Report

Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), reported that that the current Federal surface transportation law (SAFETEA-LU) has been extended for 90 days until the end of June. Currently, there are ongoing discussions regarding the 2013 transportation appropriations bill and it appears obligation levels will be the same as they are 2012. The proposal also includes another \$500 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants. In regard to Census issues, Ms. Jacobs directed attention to a schedule of important dates that was included in the agenda packet. FHWA is watching the Federal Register for the list of designated Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) which is expected to be announced in mid- to late-May. The FHWA Office of Planning,

Environment, and Realty Executive Geographic Information System ([HEPGIS](#)) beta version is now available publicly. She described some of the new features of the system.

4c. FTA Report

Mr. Keith Melton, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Community Planner, Office of Planning & Program Development, began the FTA report by directing attention to the materials provided in the agenda packet. FTA along with FHWA and FDOT will be conduct three planning and certification reviews in Florida this year. FTA is streamlining the environmental review (NEPA) process and plans to have what they hope are improvements to the process by October/November 2012. Improvements include expanding the list of categorical exclusions in the grant process and specifically including bus rapid transit and street car projects. He noted a new livability and sustainability initiative that allows FTA funds for pedestrian and bicycle projects near transit routes and stations within a defined area (1/2 mile for pedestrian projects). More information is available on the FTA website. In addition, changes to the New Starts and Small Starts programs are forthcoming in the fall that will reduce process timelines. Deadlines for most of the discretionary funding programs have passed; however, Tribal Transit and Over-the-Road Bus Applications are due soon.

Mr. Melton noted that the civil rights reports are getting much more scrutiny within FTA and the FTA Civil Rights ADA Assistance Line (1-888-446-4511). This area is currently sharing the civil rights officer based in Kansas City but a new one for this area should be appointed soon.

The Chair noted that Florida appeared to have the largest number of grant awards. Mr. Melton agreed that Florida typically leads in grant awards along with Georgia and North Carolina.

5. Florida's Future Corridors Initiative

Mr. Bob Romig, FDOT, State Transportation Development Administrator, made a presentation on the Florida's Future Corridors Initiative. He reminded them of FDOT Secretary Prasad's "Florida's 21st Century Vision" that calls for planning a transportation system that maintains Florida's competitive edge by not only meeting current needs, but also meeting forecasted needs. The 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) seeks to achieve long-range visions in transportation decision-making, related to future growth and development of Florida's regions. This includes considerations of future corridors.

The Future Corridors Initiative is a continuation of work on corridors that started in 2005/2006 and includes the concept of managed lanes to get the most out of our existing system. He reminded members that looking at future corridors involves a 50-year horizon and that implementing the initiative is not something that will occur in the next few years, but over a long period of time. The Future Corridors Initiative is focused on how to improve connections between areas of the state to better serve our economy, particularly freight, based on anticipated population, employment, and goods movement growth. He identified a number of corridor study areas including corridors from Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida, from Central Florida to Tampa Bay, and from Southeast Florida to Central Florida following the US 27 Multimodal Corridor. Safety, congestion, hurricane evacuation, and freight movement (including intermodal logistics centers) are among the issues that will be addressed. The Department recognizes, and will be working with, regional visioning efforts and major landowners to

develop transportation corridors as well as conservation areas. The process is in its early stages and FDOT will be out talking to each MPO as the process moves forward.

One member expressed enthusiasm for this effort, particularly in regard to coordination with regional visioning efforts. It was noted that these visioning exercises have revealed a strong desire for clustered development and prevention of sprawl and stressed that this highlights the importance of minimizing access to land not intended for development. Another member asked what our competitive edge is compared with other states. Mr. Romig responded by saying that we need to be competitive on a global basis rather than competing with ourselves. We need to respond to the widening of the Panama Canal and its impact to freight movement in Florida. We need to send ships back through the canal full instead of empty. The member further expressed doubts about the projected numbers of growth. Mr. Romig responded that growth numbers come from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the University of Florida and that we need to be responsive to the projected changes in our state. The member cautioned the MPOAC not to accept information on face value and to ask questions. It was suggested that the Lee County airport could assist in goods movement into and out of south Florida in addition to the US 27 corridor.

6. MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study

Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, described the nation's transportation funding crises that led to the MPOAC taking a proactive stance by funding a Transportation Revenue Study. He introduced Steve Reich with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF) who reported on the current status of the study. The study started in 2010 and identified an annual \$3.5 billion funding gap and sources of problems including revenue sources not adjusted for inflation, and less travel along with increased fleet efficiency resulting in less gas tax collected.

Mr. Reich referenced the material in the agenda packet reviewed the top six revenue options.

1. Two cent fuel tax increase per year for 5 years (10 cents) indexed – *State*
2. Index all fuel taxes not currently indexed – *Local*
3. One cent municipal optional sales tax – *Local*
4. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Study
5. Five cent local diesel tax – *Local*
6. Return motor vehicle licensing (MVL) fee, registration fee and title fee increases to the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) (*from General Revenue to the State Transportation Trust Fund*)

Mr. Glassman stressed that the FDOT administration is supportive of Option #6 as is the Florida Transportation Builders Association.

T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, Chair of the Staff Director's Advisory Committee reported on the recommendation of the staff directors. The staff directors recommended that the MPOAC transmit to the Legislature and Governor the information on the State's unfunded transportation needs and the 14 options to reduce the funding shortfall AND recommended that they initiate legislative action on the top six revenue options to implement those items amending Option #3 to include all counties with an MPO. He clarified that any local or state efforts on VMT should be captured in the study.

In reference to the amendment to Option #3, it was explained that there are still 13 counties in Florida with no charter and no regional transportation authority, but that are covered by an MPO. This change would expand surtax eligibility to those 13 counties that have MPOs and are not currently eligible.

Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO, moved that that the MPOAC transmit to the Legislature and Governor information on the State's unfunded transportation needs and the 14 options to reduce the funding shortfall and recommend they initiate legislative action on the top six revenue options to implement those items, amending Option #3 to include all counties with an MPO. Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO, seconded the motion. In response to a question of prioritization, Mr. Glassman responded that all six are important. Howard Glassman noted that the Revenue Study Advisory Committee (RSAC) would reconvene and discuss the options, seeking buy-in from the various participants and determining the appropriate time, organization, and mechanism to convey these options to the Legislature. The vote was called and the motion carried with Councilmember Sam Saad, II, Collier MPO, dissenting.

7. Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan

Mr. Jim Wood, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Chief, Office of Greenways and Trails, presented an overview of the schedule and process for the 2012 Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan update. He stated that this Plan is not just an update, it's a brand new plan and that there is a role for MPOs in the planning process. He reviewed the different elements of the plan and pointed to maps that include the trails from all MPO long range transportation plans (LRTPs). He touched on the Florida Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program Designation Program as well as the Florida Recreational Trails Program. The office spends a lot of time and energy publicizing and promoting of the trails, noting that the most frequent question received by Visit Florida is "where can I bicycle in Florida?"

Mr. Wood and his staff have completed 2 economic impact studies in the past year, one with Orange County that showed a \$42 million impact to the economy attributable to greenways and trails. In discussing outreach to private individuals, he noted that the Homebuilders Association of Florida says that trails are the number one amenity sought by homebuyers. Mr. Wood also discussed the East Coast Greenway, the Florida National Scenic Trail, the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition, and other major connections to ecological greenways. He then discussed the Plan update schedule (including public workshops in September) and the Plan framework, both of which were handed out during the meeting. Specific note was made of the map update and importance of coordinating with the MPO LRTPs to address over 270 segments of greenways and trails throughout the state and that they were reviewing each trail segment by segment. After completion of the base map, priority corridors will be developed and gaps identified. The FDEP website has an overview of the plan and other information.

Mr. Wood introduced Mr. Herb Hiller from Deland who discussed the Florida East Coast Greenway that includes 3000 miles through 15 states and the District of Columbia. It includes 600 miles in Florida, 200 of which are already in place for safe bicycling and walking. He spoke eloquently of the benefits of trails to the community, tourism, economy, and individuals.

A member expressed that Mr. Wood and Mr. Hiller may have understated the importance of trails due to the major economic impact they can have. The member described how the Pinellas Trail, carrying more than 1.6 million people per year, improved the economy of the City of Dunedin where the construction of the trail prompted an increase in the occupancy rate from a low of 40% to a current rate of 100%. The member stated that property values increase for every foot closer they are to the trail.

Trails are a \$4 trillion industry and are a very cost-effective tool in a communities economic development toolbox.

8. Communications

The Chair directed attention to the communications in the agenda packet. Mr. Glassman referred to the letter from the MPOAC to Congressman Mica expressing our concern over a provision in the House bill that would lessen the authority of an MPO.

9. Member Comments

A member suggested that one meeting be held in Southeast Florida annually. Another member requested that because he makes a practice of sharing information from the MPOAC meeting with his fellow MPO Board members, it would be convenient if the minutes could be provided within 2 weeks of the meeting. MPOAC staff will try to meet this request.

A member mentioned that she is President of Bike Florida, a group that supports an annual bicycle tour, and recounted the most recent bike ride. Many participants in the Bike Florida event are from out of state, getting away from the snow and cold. Their surveys reveal that people want more trails to see the “real Florida” and that these types of trails are an incredible economic tool for the state.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2012 at the Orlando Airport Marriott.