

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Meeting
October 25, 2012**

Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Mary Bo Robinson, Chair, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs
Peter Buchwald, Vice-Chair, St. Lucie TPO
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO
Harold Barley, MetroPlan Orlando
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO
Lois Bollenback, Volusia TPO
Ray Chiamonte, Hillsborough County MPO
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO
Greg Slay, Ocala-Marion County TPO
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO
Dennis Dix, Hernando County MPO
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO

Others in Attendance:

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC Assistant
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Jason Bittner, USF/CUTR
Melissa McCarville, USF/CUTR
Jeff Kramer, USF/CUTR
Karen Seggerman, USF/CUTR
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA
Karen Brunelle, FHWA
Bob Romig, FDOT
Kathy Neill, FDOT
Mary Schoelzel, FDOT
Jennifer Stults, FDOT District 1
Lora Hollingsworth, FDOT
Billy Hattaway, FDOT District 1
Claudia Calzaretta, FDOT
Jim Brown, FDOT
Juan Flores, FDOT

Others in Attendance continued:

Yvonne Arens, FDOT

Regina Colson, FDOT

Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission

Lisa Bacot, Florida Public Transportation Association

Hal Beardall, FCRC Consensus Center

Michael Woods, Lake-Sumter MPO

Matt Ubben, Floridians for Better Transportation

Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO

Bob Wallace, Tindale-Oliver and Associates

Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando

Charley Williams, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants

Bret Baronak, Palm Beach MPO

Angela Morlok, Palm Beach MPO

Lionel Moxie, Broward MPO

Jessica Josselyn, Kittelson and Associates

Mary Raulerson, Kittelson and Associates

Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering

Beth Lemke, Planning Solutions

1. Call to Order

Mary Bo Robinson, Chair, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. The Chair welcomed all in attendance and self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2012 meeting. Harold Barley, MetroPlan Orlando, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, provided a status report on the MPOAC budget. Mr. Glassman reviewed the first quarter budget and directed attention to the financial report provided in the agenda packet. Approximately 25% of the budget has been spent in the first quarter of the fiscal year, keeping the budget on target. Mr. Glassman clarified that an increase in National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) dues will go into effect in 2013 and will be reflected in future budget overviews. Mr. Glassman thanked all MPOs who contributed non-federal local funds to MPOAC advocacy activities.

Mr. Glassman discussed the Regional Governance Workshop that was held on October 24, 2012. He thanked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for their financial support and participation in the workshop, and also acknowledged the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), and the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) for their participation as well. Mr. Glassman then provided a recap on the workshop and a status report on the reapportionment process. New and expanded urbanized areas and urbanized areas with few boundary

changes will be among the first to receive letters from FDOT on reapportionment issues. A second set of letters will be distributed later for those with multiple MPOs in a single urbanized area and more complex urbanized area boundary issues. The workshop also focused on the topic of regionalism. Lessons learned and examples from around the state were also presented and discussed at the meeting. A report summarizing the workshop presentations, discussions and evaluations will be provided to members of the MPOAC once it is complete.

Mr. Peter Buchwald, Vice-Chair, St. Lucie TPO, encouraged members to consider building upon the two-tier concept proposed by Mr. Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO, at the upcoming Policy and Technical Subcommittee Meeting. He further suggested that the two tiers may be best considered across functional boundaries, where the MPOs are responsible for the planning, programming and development for all state and federally funded projects; with the districts responsible for the design construction, operations and maintenance.

Mr. Glassman provided an update on the MPOAC Revenue Study, and shared the transmittal letter sent from the MPOAC to Governor Rick Scott. He noted that all members of the Revenue Study Advisory Committee (RSAC) received copies of the report, along with integral participants in the study. Copies were also distributed to incoming Senate President Don Gates, and incoming House Speaker Will Weatherford. The six highest priority proposals from the revenue study, including suggested legislative changes, were provided in the agenda packet. Mr. Glassman encouraged members to discuss the proposals with delegates at meetings when possible, preferably prior to the 2013 legislative session. Ms. Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO, suggested that a copy of the report be sent to the entire FTC membership, who she noted is the MPOAC's strongest ally on this issue. Mr. Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, responded with the suggestion to include the report details in the legislative policy positions. Mr. Kamm also responded that the chambers of commerce should be included and that that relationship should be a part of the strategic focus. Mr. T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, agreed that the Chamber of Commerce should be involved. Mr. Glassman concluded the discussion by agreeing to take steps to inform and enlist as many potential allies in the pursuit of new and sustainable transportation revenue sources as possible.

Mr. Glassman announced that the next Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting will be held on November 30, 2012 in Tampa and will focus on topics related to the 2013 legislative priorities and policy positions, the LRTP financial guidelines, the implementation of the revenue study and the 2060 FTP implementation status report. Mr. Fish asked to include language in the 2013 policy positions that would support amending the Charter County and Regional Transportation surtax to include non-charter MPO counties.

Mr. Glassman next directed attention to the 2013 MPOAC meeting schedule. The next meeting will be held January 24th in Orlando. A meeting will be held in Tallahassee on April 25th and a meeting will be held at a south Florida location on July 25th. The last meeting in 2013 will be held October 30th in Orlando.

Mr. Glassman introduced Mr. Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida, who discussed tentative dates and locations for the 2013 MPOAC Institutes. There will be two offerings of the event: one in Tampa and one in Orlando. The Tampa offering will be held at the Renaissance Hotel at International Plaza on May 17-19, 2013. The Orlando offering does not have a contract in place as negotiations are being finalized, but is expected to be held on April 12-14, 2013 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel on International Drive. An alternate date and location for the Orlando offering is April 19-21 at the Embassy Suites Hotel on International Drive.

Ms. Ayer asked about the two offerings being timed so close together. Mr. Kramer explained how the general timing was determined as most suitable based on early communications with MPOs and a guiding committee of MPO Board members.

4A. FDOT Report

Ms. Kathy Neill, Director, Office of Policy Planning, discussed 2013 legislative initiatives. She said that some of the MPO provisions in current statute are outdated and could use refreshing. She added that the Department was considering proposing amendments to MPO Board voting membership rules to provide more flexibility based on local circumstances. Draft legislative proposals will be provided at the November Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting, as available. A short discussion of the MPO Board membership cap was held, and will be revisited at the November 30th Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Neill discussed the implementation of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in the new federal transportation law (MAP-21). She noted that MAP-21 combined several previously existing funding programs in the TAP, shifting eligibility and in some cases funding availability. FDOT is attempting to preserve funding for already programmed projects during the current development of the draft Work Program within the constraints of the TAP and other MAP-21 funding programs. Since States and MPOs already have a competitive process for soliciting proposals now eligible under the TAP, Ms. Neill recommended that MPOs continue with the current process until the Department determines the best course of action.

A review of changes to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) designation criteria was provided. Ms. Neill stated that the current draft criteria and thresholds for intermodal logistic centers, urban fixed guideway terminals, corridors, military access facilities, and hub to hub connectors, will be sent out to members of the MPOAC for feedback in the coming weeks. Afterwards, the project eligibility funding matrix will be updated and will also be sent to members of the MPOAC for review.

Ms. Neill next discussed the status of the search for an Executive Director for the Florida Rail Enterprise (FRE). She noted that Mr. Brian Blanchard will remain the interim point of contact for the FRE until a new executive director is appointed. She also discussed the Freight Mobility and Trade Plan. The plan deals with important issues affecting Florida's freight community and she discussed how the plan will address those issues. Everyone was encouraged to visit the website, www.freightmovesflorida.com, for further information on this topic and representatives of the MPOAC were invited to attend upcoming

Business Forum meetings that will be hosted by the Department. Ms. Neill will notify Mr. Glassman of the dates and locations of these meetings.

Ms. Neill also confirmed that all letters related to MPO boundaries will be distributed soon. She noted FDOT's commitment to trail programs, though the money is not designated in the same fashion as before. Mr. Kamm asked about the performance measures at the state level at the Central Office, and Mr. Glassman noted that the performance measures are an anticipated agenda item for the January MPOAC meeting.

Mr. Bob Romig, State Transportation Development Administrator, FDOT, announced Ms. Neill's upcoming retirement in January, and congratulated her on her service.

4B. FHWA Report

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Office of Project Development, gave a report for FHWA. She began with a discussion on MAP-21, and explained the process and timeframe of developing performance measures called for in the new law. FHWA has up to 18 months to identify and establish the planning performance measures at the federal level. She described that the states will then have up to a year to set targets to meet the federal performance measures. After the states set their targets, the MPOs will have six months to set their performance targets. Overall, the entire process is expected to take up to three years for all of the measures and targets to be developed.

Ms. Brunelle next discussed the TAP. She stated that interim guidance, released on October 19th, outlines the activities that are eligible under the new program. The MPO has the lead on projects in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) for the competitive process; however, for non-TMA areas and rural areas, the State has the lead. It was clarified that although MPOs cannot directly sponsor the projects, they are eligible to be a co-sponsor on them. She also explained that funds for the Recreational Trails Programs (RTP) are now required to come from the states allotment of funds for the TAP, unless the state chooses to opt out of funding the RTP in their state. RTP projects will be required to follow federal rules established for the TAP. Ms. Brunelle explained that this requirement applies to both new acquisitions as well as carry over projects. She noted that Florida was one of a few states that chose to opt out of the program, but that States may reconsider their stance to opt-out on an annual basis. Specifically, MAP-21 provided flexibility to annually opt-out, and Florida chose this option for the Fiscal Year 2013 in order to maintain funding flexibility for current commitments in the FDOT 5-Year Work Program.

Ms. Brunelle discussed pedestrian safety. She directed attention to a safety reference and resource list included in the agenda packet. Ms. Brunelle clarified that funds are not available for specific projects, but resources and technical assistance are provided by FHWA. She also noted that the LRTP Expectations Letter is expected to be issued by the end of November.

Ms. Lee Ann Jacobs, Planning Programs Coordinator, FHWA, invited members of the MPO to a livable communities meeting that will be held on November 13th. She explained that it will be an information

exchange hosted in Atlanta. Also, Ms. Jacobs informed all that a video library is available online at the FHWA website, which includes an overview of federal aid programs.

5. Florida Transportation Commission

Mr. Mark Reichert presented a report for the Florida Transportation Commission. He provided an overview of the Commission's history and authority and current initiatives. The first initiative, the Commission is involved in considering transportation revenue alternatives. In accordance with this focus, the Commission was an active member on the MPOAC Revenue Study Advisory Committee. Mr. Reichert described how fuel tax revenue decreases have put a strain on funding availability for transportation infrastructure maintenance and needs. This has been compounded by the troubled (though stabilizing) economy, new driving habits and improved fuel economy. As a result, new mechanisms for funding transportation need to be considered, including a mileage-based user fee in lieu of the traditional fuel tax. The second initiative is to advance the statewide Future Corridors Program which has become a priority for the current Administration. The third initiative relates to the urban area boundary update issue and issues of coordinated regional decision-making. He noted that the Commission is currently conducting an analysis of the potential for the consolidation of expressway authorities. The fourth initiative focuses on improving freight logistics and increasing trade potentials for the State.

Mr. Kamm commented on the potential replacement to the existing fuel tax, which Mr. Reichert described as a mileage based user fee and as a subject that will be studied further. Mr. Kamm described difficulties on the city and county level to plan with the mileage based user fee, stating that tools and calculation methods are needed to work with this. Mr. Reichert agreed that all parties will need to work together to make this work. Mr. Barley expressed the need to understand the purpose of the mileage based user fee to better plan how to proceed and strategize.

6. FDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan & Bicycle/Pedestrian Focused Initiative

Ms. Lora Bailey Hollingsworth, P.E., FDOT Chief Safety Officer, discussed the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The 2012 plan has enhanced the emphasis areas that were established in 2006 to include distracted driving, at-risk drivers, impaired driving and traffic data. Mr. Billy Hattaway, FDOT District 1 Secretary, presented on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Focused Initiative. A focus has been placed on the top 10 counties in Florida for pedestrian fatality/serious injuries. He described a variety of strategies to deal with the pedestrian safety problems in Florida including altering land development patterns, improving coordination between local governments and the state, educating the public through programs like the Alert Today Alive Tomorrow campaign, and other engineering solutions. Worst case corridors are being identified and dealt with on a proactive basis.

7. Florida Public Transportation Association

Ms. Lisa Bacot, Executive Director, Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), presented an overview of the FPTA and its programs and activities. Ms. Bacot reviewed the many benefits of public transportation which include economic enhancements, accessible mobility, roadway efficiency, and

reduced emissions. She then described the Public Transit Block Grant and how funding is distributed throughout the state. Highlights from MAP-21 were also discussed, including Urbanized Area Grants, consolidation of transit funding programs, increased funding for Rural Area Grants, and private sector participation in the delivery of public transportation.

8. Center for Urban Transportation Research at USF

Mr. Jason Bittner, Director, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF), introduced himself to members and made a brief presentation on the CUTR mission and current activities. Mr. Bittner described the research contributions CUTR makes to the transportation field. He directed attention to the agenda packet which includes a description of all the research areas in which CUTR is involved. He also noted an upcoming award dinner hosted by CUTR to honor Miami-Dade Airport Director, Jose Abreu, and invited all to attend. Mr. Bittner described the strategic plan initiative currently underway at CUTR, noting the vital goals outlined to-date. He also mentioned the activities of the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) and the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute (NBRTI), including a new international project being conducted with the United Nations. Finally, he described how USF will be upgrading the School of Global Sustainability to a College and that CUTR is highly involved with this initiative.

9. Communications

Attendees were directed to the agenda packet to review a variety of communications that were provided.

10. Member Comments

Mr. Fish mentioned that several cities in Florida are on a recent list of the most expensive places to live in the country, in part due to the high cost of transportation in the state.

11. Public Comments

Mr. Matt Euban with Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) spoke as an advocate for transportation. Mr. Euban commented on the American Society of Civil Engineers' release of the Florida Infrastructure report card, which resulted in an overall average score of C. He specifically pointed out that a C score was given on highways due to insufficient revenue sources available for long term transportation needs. He also described FBT's interest in the MPOAC Revenue Study and that they are hopeful this action will help to better balance available transportation revenue options with transportation needs.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.