

**Draft Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Governing Board Meeting
July 25, 2013**

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Chair, Broward MPO
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Vice-Chair, Palm Beach MPO
Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro, Miami-Dade MPO
Commissioner Tom Bausch, Martin MPO
Councilman Jim Bennett, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Commissioner Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
Mayor Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO
Kathryn Hensley, St. Lucie TPO
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
Councilman Sam J. Saad, III, Collier MPO
Councilman James Wood, Okaloosa-Walton 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
Karen Brunelle, FHWA
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA
Kris Milster, FHWA
Jennifer Hibbert, FTA
Jim Wood, FDOT
Elizabeth Birriel, FDOT
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs
Marlene Avalo, Miami-Dade
Richard Blattner, Broward MPO
Peter Buchwald, Vice-Chair, St. Lucie TPO
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO
James Cromar, Broward MPO
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Irma San Roman, Miami-Dade MPO
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach MPO

Others in Attendance continued:

Bill Cross, SFRTA/Tri-Rail

Elizabeth Van Zandt, Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority

Diana Alarcon, City of Fort Lauderdale

Tim Garling, Broward County

Jeff Weidner, FDOT

Lynnetta Bennett

1. Call to Order

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Fort Lauderdale Cruise Port Hotel. The Chair welcomed all to Broward County and self-introductions were made followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Kaplan recognized Commissioner Richard Blattner, Chair of the Broward MPO, from the City of Hollywood. He noted that there would be a reception at 6:30 p.m for those in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2013 joint meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board and Staff Director's Advisory Committee. Councilman James Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, 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 FY 2012/2013 MPOAC budget. He clarified that the MPOAC budget covers the state fiscal year which starts on July 1 of any given year and ends on June 30 of the following year.

He then presented an overview of legislation approved during the 2013 Florida Legislative Session. He noted that although the FDOT legislative package didn't pass, the FDOT Work Program was fully funded at \$8.4 billion. Bills that did pass include Senate Bill 52 that banned texting while driving as a secondary offense, House Bill 319 that contained several measures regarding the use of mobility fees, House Bill 85 that provided for public-private partnerships, House Bill 579 that allowed natural gas to be taxed as a fuel, and Senate Bill 606 that created the six-county Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission.

A discussion ensued regarding the texting and driving legislation. In response to a question regarding the status of the MPOAC policy positions for the next legislative session, Mr. Glassman stated that the Policy and Technical Subcommittee would meet on August 23rd and that the legislative policy positions for the 2014 legislative session would be part of the agenda. He welcomed Governing Board members to attend that meeting if they had an interest in participating in that discussion or to submit written suggestions prior to the Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting. As additional issues were raised regarding legislative policy, Mayor Kaplan asked Mr. Glassman to send Governing Board members a message describing the matters that will be discussed at the Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting and requesting that they send any additional matters that they wish to have addressed at that meeting.

Mr. Glassman then provided an overview and status report on the legislative proposals made by the MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study. He reminded members of the interim study recommendations intended to restore the purchasing power of today's transportation dollar to what it could purchase in 2000. He also described the long term study recommendations, including a mileage-based user fee that does not rely upon GPS technology as a tracking device. Mr. Glassman noted that the study report (or the affiliated study brochure) has been distributed to the Governor, Florida legislature and many partner organizations. He also mentioned that presentations on the study recommendations have been made to both the Senate and House Transportation Committees. Some progress was made on efforts to introduce legislation during the 2013 session in the areas of moving tag and title fees from the general fund to the state transportation trust fund (STTF), the expansion of the charter county surtax to cities over 200,000 residents, and the study to consider the feasibility and implementation of a mileage-based user fee. Mr. Glassman indicated that he expected the Florida Transportation Commission to hold a workshop to discuss the subject in the near future.

Discussion ensued regarding revenue source options including the mileage-based user fee, tolling and managed lanes. Members expressed that they had shared the revenue study with their legislative delegations and encouraged others to do the same.

Mr. Glassman reported that an MPOAC Freight Committee (the formation of which was approved by the MPOAC Governing Board at their April 2013 meeting) had met the previous day for their first formal meeting. Broward MPO Executive Director, Mr. Greg Stuart, was elected Chair and Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando was elected Vice-Chair. Committee members received a status report on freight activities around the state as well as a detailed presentation on the operations and activities of Port Everglades, including recent approval to deepen the shipping channels and to add additional boat slips.

Mr. Glassman then introduced MPOAC General Counsel, Mr. Paul Gougelman, who provided the members with a summary of Senate Bill 50 which was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor and which, among other things, requires that a member of the public be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard by a board or commission before it takes official action on a proposition. A written opinion prepared by Mr. Gougelman (dated July 1, 2013) on the applicability of SB 50 to the MPOAC and individual MPOs was included in the MPOAC agenda package (Attachment 4 of the MPOAC agenda package under the Executive Director's Report). During their meeting, the Staff Directors recommend to the Governing Board that Mr. Gougelman prepare a draft policy for Board consideration regarding public comment at MPOAC meetings. A discussion ensued regarding the appropriate time and location for public comment during MPOAC meetings. Several members shared how public comment was handled within their jurisdictions.

Vice-Chair Susan Haynie moved that Mr. Gougelman draft a policy that allows public comment for items not on the agenda to be heard at the beginning of the meeting (by use of a sign-up sheet), allows public comment to be accepted along with each agenda item, and provides for appropriate time limits (3 minutes) on all public comments. The motion was seconded by Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO, and passed unanimously.

Mayor Kaplan then moved up Agenda Item 4C from the Federal Transit Administration to allow the speaker time to catch an airplane following her presentation.

4. Agency Reports
c. FTA Agency Report

Ms. Jennifer Hibbert, Director of Planning and Program Development at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region IV Office in Atlanta, GA., provided updates regarding FTA activities and contact information for FTA staff members responsible for a variety of issue areas in the region. A copy of her presentation was included in the MPOAC agenda package.

Ms. Hibbert provided an overview of MAP-21 as it pertains to FTA and noted that funding for the agency has stayed basically the same since last fiscal year and is expected to remain fairly constant for the next fiscal year. She reviewed new programs in created by MAP-21 including the Safety Authority Program, the State of Good Repair Program, the Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Grants Program, the Public Transportation and Emergency Relief Program and the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Grants Program. She also identified programs that were repealed, consolidated, or modified as part of MAP-21. Grantees can expect steady and predictable funding, more efficient programs, targeted funding, new reporting requirements, and performance measurement requirements under the new program structure. She also reviewed several definitional changes made in law. In terms of metropolitan and statewide planning, transit agency representation on MPO Boards is being emphasized and MPOs should expect to hear more on performance based planning over the next several months. She further noted some policy updates and directed members to the FTA website for more information.

Ms. Hibbert clarified that the TOD Planning Pilot Grants are discretionary and will be released as a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) when the apportionment is made available. The money is for studies to determine how TOD can fit into a community. An MPOAC member suggested that TOD planning resources could have a great impact in small communities. Members asked about transit representation on the MPO Boards, particularly where employees may serve on a Board with their employer. Ms. Hibbert stated that MAP-21 was not clear on this issue and that further clarity would be provided as part of the rulemaking process. She also clarified that the historic preservation section refers to preserving a historic transportation structures only. Ms. Hibbert also clarified that program funds that were made available in previous years under previous federal laws and rules would follow the rules in place at the time the funds were authorized. She also clarified what happens to unused or lapsed funds, noting that those funds are returned to the general pot of transportation funds for use under the current program structure. Ms. Hibbert shared how sequestration had affected FTA staff and the New Starts and Small Starts Programs.

a. FDOT Agency Report

Mr. Jim Wood, FDOT, Director of Policy Planning, provided an update of Department efforts. The Future Corridors concept studies have been completed for Tampa Bay-Central Florida and Tampa Bay-Northeast Florida corridors. He focused on the Pilot Study Area of East Central Florida-Space Coast comprising portions of Brevard, Orange, and Osceola counties. The study will identify likely future land use and economic development patterns, evaluate and build consensus around alternative strategies, develop model processes for coordinating plans, and explore potential public/private partnerships. The Department has already been working with the MPOs involved and a task force will be established to further involve the region.

In regard to performance measures (MAP-21 and Florida Transportation Plan Scorecard), the Department is developing Statewide Mobility Performance Measures that will be presented at the October MPOAC meeting. In April, FDOT Secretary Prasad was appointed as the Chair of the ASSHTO Committee on Performance Measures. Mr. Wood also noted the Florida Transportation Plan Scorecard that is available on the FDOT website.

A Statewide videoconference and workshop on the statewide revenue forecast and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan is scheduled for August 21st. The documents will be available on August 14th.

Mr. Wood mentioned that five MPO reaffirmation submittals have received approval from the Governor's Office including the Capital Regional TPA, the Gainesville MTPO, the North Florida TPO, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, and the Space Coast TPO. Eleven other submittals are currently under review and will be delivered to the Governor's office shortly. The remaining MPOs in the state are in the process of receiving local approval or resolutions prior to formal submittal.

Mr. Wood was pleased to report that following a well-received presentation at the April MPOAC meeting, the Department has enrolled as a member in the TRAC/Rides Educational Outreach Program. Modules can now be purchased for use by individual schools. Members were directed to contact Yvonne Arens, FDOT or Cary Shepard, FHWA to learn more about the program and the availability of teaching modules.

FDOT has contracted with IHS Global Insight to develop a freight database. Data that will be available at the county and TAZ levels and includes origin-destination data, commodity data, tonnage, dollar value, mode (truck, rail, air, water), and vehicle miles traveled by truck. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2013 with anticipated availability of data at the county level near the end of October and at the TAZ level near the end of December. The Department intends to establish training for MPOs as soon as the data is in place.

b. FHWA Agency Report

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Project Development, provided updates regarding FHWA activities. The latest round of TIGER Grant applications are being evaluated. There are nearly 600 applications requesting \$9 billion for the \$474 million available. The Questions and answers regarding performance management on the FHWA website have been updated as of July 15th. Additional details have been included regarding that process.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) guidance was published on June 10th on the FHWA MAP-21 website. The revised guidance provides more details, clarified some areas and added youth services. There are some informational webinars scheduled in August (on the 12th and 29th at noon); however sessions are already full but will be available for replay later.

FHWA has acquired the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) to support freight performance measures and the urban congestion report programs. The program provides data sets for all national highway system roadways. All states will have access to the data sets and a webinar will be held on August 8th at 1 p.m.

FHWA is opening a satellite office in Orlando by September and the office space in Tallahassee will be decreased. Vacancies will be filled in that office. Contacts will change as the office balances the work load for team members.

Finally she thanked those that participated in the statewide assessment of federal planning guidelines.

5. The Wave Modern Streetcar

Ms. James Cromar, Livability Planner for the Broward MPO, and other project partners made a presentation on the Wave Streetcar which is a 2.7 mile modern streetcar that will operate in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The Wave Streetcar project is the first phase of a premium transit system that will connect major employment centers and primary activity centers throughout Broward County.

The project partners include the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Broward MPO, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the South Florida Regional Transit Authority (SFRTA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Project funding includes an \$18 million TIGER IV grant, a local assessment on downtown property owners, a 20-year commitment for operations and maintenance from Broward County and additional resources from the remaining partners. The partners signed a Partnership Agreement to ensure that planning, finance, design, implementation, project sponsorship, operations and maintenance commitments for the Wave Modern Streetcar are provided for as agreed. More information on the Wave Modern Streetcar project is available at www.wavestreetcar.com/home.

Members asked a variety of questions of the presenters on the Wave Streetcar project. Questions related to ridership, maintenance and operating costs, how the downtown assessment district operates and other funding details. Costs and benefits of such a project were also discussed. It became clear from discussion that relative costs and benefits of such a project were heavily dependent on the transportation conditions of the metropolitan area under consideration. Greg Stuart, Broward County MPO, explained that the cost of the Wave Streetcar project will be approximately \$50 million per mile and that, by comparison, the final mile of a road widening project on SR 7 (a construction project scheduled to begin shortly in the Broward MPO area) will cost approximately \$250 million, most of which is for right-of-way acquisition. Mayor Kaplan and the current Chair of the Broward MPO, Commissioner Richard Blattner from Hollywood, explained to the members that given the comparative cost/benefit ratio between continued roadway widening and the modern transit technology, elected officials in Broward County have chosen to pursue the development of a modern transit system (including streetcar technology, bus Rapid transit and other technologies) that will eventually cover much of Broward County, connecting the economic centers to Port Everglades and the airport in support of the economic development goals of the region.

6. Intelligent Transportation System Architecture

Mr. Kris Milster, ITS/Traffic Operations Engineer for the FHWA Florida Division Office, and Ms. Elizabeth Birriel, ITS Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), made a presentation on Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture. The purpose the presentation was to address the many issues surrounding the implementation and maintenance of ITS Architecture, including:

- What is ITS Architecture?
- Why should ITS Architecture be updated and maintained?

- How can ITS Architecture assist in the MPO long range transportation planning process?

The presentation was intended to coincide with the MPO long range transportation plan update process so that ITS projects can be planned and programmed at a region-wide level. They also discussed how ITS Architecture played an important role in the MPO congestion management process (CMP). Ms. Birriel mentioned that the state, along with MPOs and other partners, developed the state's ITS architecture in 2005. She explained that the state's ITS architecture was designed to be updated as changes are made to the National ITS Architecture (NITSA), but that since no changes have been made to the NITSA since 2005 that no updates have been required at the state level as well. However, the state has worked with several FDOT Districts to update their regional ITS architecture. The FDOT Central Office also provides ITS Architecture training for those that need it. She closed by providing contact information for herself and FDOT District ITS Architecture staff.

7. 2103 Review of MPO Long Range Transportation Plans

The presentation on the 2013 Review of MPO Long Range Transportation Plans was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

8. Communications

Attendees were directed to the agenda packet to review a variety of communications that were provided. Mr. Glassman noted that the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) are working to improve coordination between the two organizations.

9. Member Comments

No member comments were made.

10. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Chairman Kaplan invited members to the Pomparo Room on the second floor for a reception sponsored by the Broward MPO.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The next meeting is in Orlando on Wednesday, October 30th at the Orlando Airport Marriott Hotel.