

Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Joint Meeting of the Governing Board & Staff Directors' Advisory Committee
April 2, 2015

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Chair
Mayor Walter Kelley, Bay County TPO
Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Councilmember Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO
Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson, Hernando/Citrus County MPO
Commissioner Les Miller, Hillsborough County MPO
Commissioner Ray Goodgame, Lake-Sumter MPO
Councilmember Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, Vice-Chair
Vice-Mayor Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Pinellas County MPO
Mayor Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
Councilmember Jim Bennett, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO
Mr. Darrell Drummond, St. Lucie TPO

Staff Directors

Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, Chair
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA, Vice-Chair
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO
Mary Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO
Dennis Dix, Hernando/ Citrus County MPO
Beth Alden, Hillsborough County MPO
T. J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO
Harold Barley, MetroPlan Orlando
Greg Slay, Ocala/Marion County TPO
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach MPO
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Lois Bollenback, River to Sea TPO
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO

Others in Attendance:

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC
Jeff Kramer, USF/CUTR
Christen Miller, USF/CUTR
Karen Seggerman, USF/CUTR
David Hawk, FHWA
Karen Brunelle, FHWA
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA
Shakira Crandol, FHWA

Carl Mikyska, FHWA
Stacie Blizzard, FHWA
DeLania Hardy, Association of MPOs (AMPO)
John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics
Danny Shopf, Cambridge Systematics
Hal Beardall, FCRC Consensus Center
Jim Boxold, FDOT Secretary
Jennifer G. Weeks, FDOT
Diana Fields, FDOT
Sean Santalla, FDOT
Jim Wood, FDOT State Transportation Development Administrator
Brian Blanchard, FDOT Assistant Secretary
Bob Romig, Florida Transportation Commission (FTC)
Chairman Jay Trumbull, Florida Transportation Commission (FTC)
Ray Chiaramonte, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)
Whit Blanton, Renaissance/ Pinellas MPO
Bob Wallace, Tindale-Oliver

1. Call to Order

Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. The Chair welcomed those in attendance. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO, made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board. Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO, made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting of the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee. Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, provided a status report on the MPOAC budget referring to attachment 1 of the MPOAC agenda package under the Executive Director's Report. He noted that approximately 70% of the budget has been spent.

Mr. Glassman presented the Legal Services Agreement for General Counsel Paul R. Gougelman (FY 2015-2016) referring to Attachment 2 of the MPOAC Agenda Package under the Executive Director's Report.

He explained that some of the activities of the General Counsel included providing guidance on legal matters pertaining to Florida MPOs. Mr. Gougelman expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with everyone.

Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, moved to approve the Legal Services Agreement and Councilmember Bare seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Glassman then presented the 2015 State Legislative Status Report, referring to attachment 3 of the MPOAC Agenda Package under the Executive Director's Report. He referred members to the handout – MPOAC Summary of State Legislation. He reviewed contents of the major transportation bills including 8 areas of interest to the MPOAC members that reflect either MPOAC policy or directly relate to MPOs.

Mr. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, gave a summary of the repeal of the MPOAC Administrative Rules, referring to the adoption of new operating bylaws and the completion of the rule repeal process. He explained that the agency is no longer subject to the Florida Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 120, F.S.), but was required to repeal the existing rules under the formal Procedure Act process. He stated that the rule repeal process has now officially been closed.

On behalf of the MPOAC, Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO (Chair of the MPOAC Governing Board), Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO (Vice-Chair of the MPOAC Governing Board), Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO (Chair of the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee), and Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA (Vice-Chair of the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee) honored Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, with a plaque that reads, in part, "Presented by the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Committee Governing Board and Staff Directors to Howard Glassman in recognition of his dedication and contributions as the MPOAC Executive Director for 20 plus years." Additionally, Mr. Glassman received a card, signed by the MPOs, and a gift card.

Mr. Glassman thanked all the members and stakeholders for participating in the process over the years. He continued by thanking specific individuals, including former MPOAC Chairs (Larry Schultz, David Mills, Scott Paine, Richard Kaplan, and Susan Haynie), long-time MPOAC member Mayor Walter Kelley, Bay County TPO, Mr. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, and the MPOAC Institute team (Jeff Kramer, Karen Seggerman, Hal Beardall, and Scott Paine). He concluded by thanking past and present MPOAC Administrative Assistants including Patti Brannon, Heidi Langston, and Brigitte Messina.

5. Executive Director Position

Mayor Haynie, Chair, stated that Howard Glassman will be retiring May 31, 2015 when he completes the Florida Deferred Retirement Option Program. In January 2015, the MPOAC Executive Committee began the process to fill the position by publicly advertising the position for 30 days with a closing date of February 13, 2015. The MPOAC received approximately 40 applications through the State of Florida People First employment website. The Executive Committee met on February 20, 2015 in Tallahassee to review the applications, develop a short

list, and to select applicants to be formally interviewed. The short list consists of 14 applicants from which four were chosen to be interviewed by the Executive Committee on April 1, 2015 in Tallahassee. After the interviews the Executive Committee selected Jeff Kramer to be the new MPOAC Executive Director, stating that they believed that he could bring the organization forward.

Mayor Haynie, Chair, requested that a motion be made to appoint Jeff Kramer as the new MPOAC Executive Director which would be effective June 1, 2015; subject to completion of a satisfactory background check and examination, any required pre-employment physical, and negotiation and approval of a memorandum of understanding with regards to salary, expenses, schedule, time, and presence in the MPOAC Tallahassee Office and all of the forgoing should be accomplished or waved by the executive committee.

Mayor Kaplan made a point of order stating that his understanding of the job of the Executive Committee was to create a shortlist, but not to make the final recommendation decision. He continued by explaining his concerns about an absence of transparency in regards to the selected applicants and the decision made by the Executive Committee. He expressed his desire to be more involved during the process and how, in his opinion, the interviews should have taken place in front of the Governing Board. Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson, Hernando/Citrus County MPO, expressed agreement with Mayor Kaplan's comments.

Mayor Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO, made a motion to appoint Jeff Kramer as the new MPOAC Executive Director with all the contingencies expressed by the MPOAC Executive Committee. Commissioner Ray Goodgame, Lake-Sumter MPO, seconded.

Councilmember Bare noting that FDOT Secretary Jim Boxold had entered the room, made a motion (prior to the approval of the motion on the floor) to postpone discussion on the MPOAC Executive Director and to advance Item 7A of the MPOAC Agenda Package, FDOT Agency Report, to expedite the presentation by Secretary Boxold. Vice-Mayor Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Pinellas County MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was not approved with three votes in favor and eight in opposition and discussion on Item 5 continued.

The motion on the floor was then taken up for a vote and was approved with nine votes in favor and two in opposition.

Councilmember Bare then made a motion to reorder the agenda to advance Item 7A of the MPOAC Agenda Package, FDOT Agency Report, to expedite the presentation by FDOT Secretary Jim Boxold. Vice-Mayor Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Pinellas County MPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Agency Reports

a. FDOT Report with Secretary Jim Boxold

Secretary Jim Boxold began the FDOT report by underlining the importance of the relationship between FDOT and Florida's MPOs. He expressed his opinion that he has been appointed Secretary at an optimum time as Florida's economy is growing and the FDOT and MPOs have an important role in sustaining and expanding the state's economic growth which is underscored by the over \$10 billion transportation budget and the many resources available for making transportation improvements across the state. He continued by providing an overview of three areas that he will be emphasizing as Secretary.

The first area of emphasis highlighted by Secretary Boxold was innovation. Secretary Boxold described how the Department prides itself on being innovative in its project development, construction and financing techniques and how it strives to identify innovative solutions in all areas of its work. He pointed to the I-4 Ultimate project in Central Florida as an excellent example of this approach. In that project, the Department is leveraging the resources of the private sector through public-private partnership (P3) to deliver in six years a completed project that would take 20 to 25 years following the traditional process of FDOT funding and project development process.

The second area of emphasis was efficiency. FDOT is a highly outsourced agency that is 100 percent outsourced in construction and 70-80 percent outsourced in several other areas. He described how the FDOT transformed in a matter of a several years from a 10,000 employee agency with an annual budget of \$5-6 billion to an agency with 5,000 to 6,000 employees and a budget of over \$10 billion. Secretary Boxold indicated that FDOT may have reached the extent to which outsourcing can be employed to achieve efficiencies, but that the Department will continue to seek engagement with the private sector to identify efficiencies and to leverage technology to continue to deliver projects faster.

The third area of emphasis highlighted by Secretary Boxold was embracing Florida's uniqueness. Secretary Boxold explained how federal funds represent only 25 percent of the FDOT budget which is significantly lower than the rest of the country, noting that many states rely on federal funding for 70-80 percent of their agency budget, leaving those agencies apprehensive about what would happen if federal funding was reduced or stopped entirely. Since Florida is different, it gives FDOT an opportunity to be a national leader.

Secretary Boxold concluded his presentation by relaying a few updates, including the status of federal transportation reauthorization legislation and the Department's request that any reauthorization provide more time to focus and complete the performance management goals of MAP-21. He also discussed the possible impact to transportation funding of Florida Amendment 1 (relating to increased state funding for water and land conservation), stating his confidence that the state budget approved by the legislature will not negatively impact the FDOT budget. In fact, he indicated his hope that the next state budget may even positively impact transportation

funding in the state by allowing the Department to continue emphasizing bicycle and pedestrian trails and safety, including the goal of completing the Coast-to-Coast Trail within five years and making Complete Streets concepts a priority for the Department. Finally, Secretary Boxold announced that the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) program is accepting letters of interest until the end of May 2015 due to available capacity and encouraged MPOs to take advantage of the opportunity.

Several members expressed concern about the Department's future corridors initiatives. Secretary Boxold responded by stating that a number of different corridors are currently being discussed and that the corridor from Jacksonville to Tampa was among the Department's priorities. Secretary Boxold also addressed member concerns about the possible impact of Florida Amendment 1 funding on the transportation budget by restating his confidence that the amendment will not have a negative impact on transportation funding in Florida.

Mr. Jim Wood, State Transportation Development Administrator, FDOT, continued the FDOT report by announcing the appointment of Carmen Monroy as the new Policy Planning Director starting on April 24, 2015. He then shared a video with the membership outlining the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Policy Plan update process. He expressed his appreciation for the morning discussion held with MPOAC members who provided their opinions and made comments on both the FTP and SIS Policy Plan and for MPOAC participation as members of the FTP/SIS Steering Committee and three Topic Area Advisory Groups (Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, Innovation & Economic Development, Quality of Life & Quality Places). He then provided a meeting schedule for the Steering Committee and Advisory Groups. He also noted that regional workshops will be held across the state this summer to provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input and that a Statewide Policy Town Hall will be held in August 2015. A draft of the FTP and SIS Policy Plan will be available for public comment in the fall and final plans will be adopted by December 2015. More information can be found at www.FloridaTransportationPlan.com.

Mr. Wood then gave an update on the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor Study. The study goal is to identify transportation solutions to better connect the Tampa Bay area to the Jacksonville area. The three phases in the study process includes concept identification, corridor evaluation, and project development. Currently, FDOT is transitioning into the evaluation phase and expects to select a consultant during the summer of 2015, with the evaluation phase formally launching thereafter.

Mr. Wood continued his presentation by providing a few results from the 2014 Government Officials Survey and the 2014 Visitors Survey. The results of the survey of government officials were generally comparable to the results from prior survey cycles, with only a few exceptions. These included a small drop since 2012 in how much FDOT District officials seek the input of government officials during the design of roadway construction projects and all-time highs in the level of satisfaction in how much FDOT seeks government official input in the development of statewide plans (85 percent), seeks local government official priorities for roadway construction

projects (80 percent) and considers local government officials priorities in the development of the FDOT Work Program (72 percent).

The 2014 Visitors Survey results were noticeable in improved satisfaction. When asked if Florida's highways compared well to highways at home, 94 percent of visitors were in agreement. Visitor satisfaction was very high with Florida rest area experience with 95 percent of visitors participating in the survey indicating that they were highly satisfied with their rest area experience while visiting. Visitors also expressed a small increase in their overall airport experience, indicating a 98 percent satisfaction rate.

Mr. Wood concluded his presentation by announcing the Statewide FDOT/MPO/FHWA/FTA meeting in Orlando, April 14 and 15, the FTP/SIS Steering Committee meeting in Cocoa Beach, May 29, and the Statewide Transportation Policy Town Hall in Orlando, August 25, 2015.

A suggestion was made about grading and comparing new and old transportation plans. Mr. Wood replied by stating that FDOT has seen the benefits from the prior transportation plans whether it is relating to the SIS, future corridors, or various other efforts . FDOT is also seeing the benefits from the public process. The goal is to establish an overall and collective consistency by having the state plan guide the overall effort.

Mayor Haynie, Chair, reordered the agenda to Item 8, Florida Transportation Commission, to accommodate the schedule of Mr. Jay Trumbull, Chair of the Florida Transportation Commission.

8. Florida Transportation Commission

Mr. Jay Trumbull, Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) Chair started his presentation by recognizing that that FTC Commissioners have not been heavily involved with local MPOs in the past and that he has identified becoming engaged in the activities of local MPOs as a new objective for the FTC.

He then described the work and structure of the FTC for members of the MPOAC. Created in 1987, the FTC serves as a citizen's oversight board for the Florida Department of Transportation. The nine members of the FTC are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate for four-year terms. The FTC is assigned to the Department for administrative and fiscal purposes, like the MPOAC, but otherwise functions independently of the control and direction of the Department. The Commission usually meets around seven times per year, in locations throughout the state in order to receive local input.

The Commissioners must represent transportation needs of the state as a whole and may not subordinate state needs to those of any particular area. The Commission is prohibited from involvement in day-to-day operations of the FDOT (e.g., consultant or contractor selection, specific projects, personnel matters, etc.).

Mr. Trumbull described the primary functions of the FTC as reviewing major transportation policy initiatives or revisions submitted by the Department and recommending major transportation policy to the Governor and Legislature. In the past, the FTC has recommended policies related to public transit, transportation funding, roadway jurisdiction and more. The FTC, in addition to serving as an oversight body for the Department, also provides oversight for transportation authorities across the state and monitors and reports on the efficiency, productivity and management of those authorities. Finally, the FTC serves as a nominating body in the selection of the Secretary of Transportation, as needed. No comments were made.

Mayor Haynie, Chair, reordered the agenda to complete Item 7B, FWHA Agency Report.

7. Agency Reports

b. FHWA Agency Report

Mr. David Hawk, FHWA Division Chief Operating Officer, began the FHWA report by starting with a discussion of the current status of federal transportation authorization legislation and the condition of the Federal Highway Trust Fund. He noted that MAP-21 (the current federal transportation authorization) has been extended to May 31, 2015 and that congressional action would be needed to further extend or replace MAP-21 so the federal transportation program can continue. He described, in brief, the administration proposal to reauthorize the federal transportation program (the GROW America Act) and to continue funding for the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

Mr. Hawk continued his presentation by describing recent and planned events and activities around the State of Florida related to FHWA programs and initiatives. He announced that a Bike and Pedestrian Assessment will be held in Orlando on April 16, 2015. He then noted that 29 cities in Florida signed up to participate in the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets, a program that encourages Mayors and other elected city officials to lead a call to action by forming a local team to advance bicycle and pedestrian safety and accessibility goals through a series of challenge activities. Mr. Hawk indicated that Florida's participation was large compared to other states.

Mr. Hawk then announced that the FDOT was selected to participate in the 5th round of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) in the Railroad and DOT Mitigation Strategies category. Round 6 of SHRP2 will begin on May 29 in the Capacity category, while round 7 of SHRP2 will take place in 2016 in the Reliability category. Information on the various rounds of SHRP2 can be found on the program website <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2>. Mr. Hawk mentioned that grant funding is currently available as part of the Every Day Counts (EDC) Initiative, including through the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive program and the Accelerating Innovative Development (AID) program. He also discussed FHWA's interest in advancing connected vehicle technologies, specifically vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) technologies, and that FHWA was currently soliciting applications for pilot deployments related to V2I and are expecting many proposals as part of that solicitation. He

also indicated that FHWA is planning a second wave of connected vehicle pilot deployments next year.

In closing, Mr. Hawk mentioned the environmental processing timeframe and how FHWA is working with FDOT to streamline their process as much as possible. He stated that FHWA is open to any ideas on how to speed up that process and encouraged MPOs to be in touch on that subject.

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Project Development, continued the FHWA Agency report by introducing members of her FHWA Planning team (Carl Mikyska, Shakira Crandol, Stacie Blizzard, and Lee Ann Jacobs) and recognized them for their abilities to work in partnership with the MPOs to move important transportation projects forward across the state.

Ms. Brunelle then provided an update on the status of MAP-21 performance measurement notice of proposed rulemaking. She indicated that the Pavement and Bridge Performance Measure Rule was currently open for comment and that the comment period had been extended to May 8, 2015. The state Asset Management Plan Development rule is also open for comment until April 21, 2015. For more information on Transportation Performance Measures visit www.FHWA.DOT.gov\TPM.

Ms. Brunelle closed her report by discussing the three Federal Planning Emphasis Areas for the 2016 fiscal year. They include Transitioning to Performance-based Planning and Programming; Ensuring a Regional Approach to Transportation Planning by Promoting Cooperation and Coordination across Transit Agency, MPO and State Boundaries; and Access to Essential Services. More information can be found at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/metropolitan/mpo/fy_2016/index.cfm.

Mayor Haynie, Chair, reordered the agenda to Item 6, Allocation of Non-Recurring PL Funds.

6. Allocation of Non-Recurring PL Funds

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, reminded members that Florida MPOs were notified at the January 2015 MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee meeting in Orlando that a total of \$1,130,891 million in nonrecurring federal planning (PL) funds had become available for their collective or individual use. This funding became available from the PL reserve where it had been held to fund the operations of up to two new MPOs following the 2010 Census. Only one new MPO was formed (the Heartland Regional TPO), resulting in the availability of a portion of the reserved PL funds. The FDOT asked the MPOAC membership to consider options for allocating the available nonrecurring PL funds.

On March 6, 2015, the MPOAC Policy & Technical Subcommittee, following consideration of several allocation options, recommended the following allocation option for adoption by the MPOAC Governing Board:

Approve the distribution of \$1 million of the PL funds to the individual MPOs, based on their share of urbanized area population, and distribute the remaining \$130,891 to the MPOAC for the development and implementation of an MPOAC Strategic Plan.

Mr. Glassman then provided a description of a draft amendment to the MPOAC Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 which would add a new Task 4.5 which would implement the second portion of the recommended allocation option (distribution of \$130,891 to the MPOAC for development and implementation of a Strategic Plan), referring to Attachment 2 of the MPOAC agenda package under Item 6.

Commissioner Ray Goodgame, Lake-Sumter MPO, made a motion to approve the recommended allocation option as the method of distribution for \$1,130,891 of nonrecurring federal planning (PL) funds. Councilmember Bare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Councilmember Bare made a motion to approve the amendment to the MPOAC Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2015-2016. Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Haynie, Chair, reordered the MPOAC Agenda Package to Item 9, Transformation of Our State Pre-Construction Process.

9. Transformation of Our State Pre-Construction Process

Mr. Brian Blanchard, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations, began his presentation by announcing that a survey will be sent to MPOs soon and explained why MPOs will be receiving the survey.

FDOT, according to Mr. Blanchard, is considered one of the most innovative DOTs in the country because of its drive to constantly improve. He challenged the MPOs to look for opportunities to innovate and to submit ideas to make the FDOT an even better agency. This will be accomplished, in part, via a 5-minute survey that MPOs can use to communicate innovation ideas with the FDOT. The Department will continue to make innovation a part of its strategy by trying to capture the creative energies and the powerful insights of FDOT employees and its partners, including MPO ideas submitted through the survey he announced at the beginning of his presentation.

Mr. Blanchard then discussed changes being made to the FDOT pre-construction process. The FDOT commissioned a study that analyzed the impact of federal regulations and processing times for federally funded projects for the PD&E, Design and Construction phases versus project phases funded only with state funds. The study concluded that the majority of time/cost savings was in the PD&E phase. It was also determined that overlapping the Design and PD&E phase provided additional time/cost savings. Little or no time/cost savings was found during the construction phase. Federally funded projects sampled lasted between 1.8 and 3.5 times longer than state funded projects in the pre-construction phases (PD&E and Design). FDOT reviewed

the 5-Year Work Program and found 44 projects that will be modified to state only funding in order to take advantage of the cost/time savings. The Work Program Instructions have been revised to reflect that each new PD&E/Design phase added to the Work Program must be evaluated for benefits of funding solely with state funds versus federal funds.

Mr. Blanchard then discussed the statewide “Innovators! Team.” The team was created to review the innovation ideas, to select achievable ideas and to then push the ideas forward for approval. This team has tackled some big ticket innovation ideas and turned them into workplace applications, including Submit Construction Documents On-Line and Monitor & Control Traffic Signals for Optimal Flow. To date, 150 ideas have been received from FDOT employee and over 170 ideas have been received from FDOT’s partners (contractors/consultants), primarily from a survey in August 2014. FDOT is in the process of working through the ideas on this list. Mr. Blanchard said that FDOT will add comments received from MPOs to their growing list of innovation ideas as they come in from the survey announced at the beginning of his presentation.

Several members offered Mr. Blanchard ideas on his presentation with several members expressing concerns about small project funding and requirements. Mr. Blanchard asked that the ideas be submitted in the upcoming survey so that FDOT has an opportunity to document the ideas and consider them as part of the “Innovators! Team” process.

10. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Ms. DeLania Hardy, Executive Director of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), presented updates that were announced in previous presentations, including MAP-21 reauthorization and Highway Trust Fund (HTF) status, the administration reauthorization proposal (GROW America) and the MAP-21 rulemaking process. She also described the AMPO reauthorization recommendations as it relates to the ongoing discussion of transportation reauthorization.

Ms. Hardy then elaborated on the GROW America proposal, specifically the provisions that would allow the USDOT Secretary to designate “High Performing” MPOs and the associated incentive of granting additional federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, a \$70 million pilot program for MPOs that have a population of 1 million or higher to improve transportation connectivity to disadvantaged communities and a requirement for MPOs to offer a higher degree of public participation. Ms. Hardy requested to hear MPOs comments about GROW America at the end of her presentation.

Ms. Hardy then led a discussion about proposed rulemaking and guidance related to the MAP-21 requirement for MPOs to provide representation for transit agencies on the MPO. She said that it was possible that the planning rule may result in MPOs being required to provide a voting transit representative seat that may not be filled by a local elected official. Mr. Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, responded by saying that the MPOAC sent an extensive letter to the Federal docket that strongly expressed concerns about the proposed transit representation

rulemaking, asking for flexibility in the implementation approach taken by individual MPOs. Additional comments were made about the effect such a proposal would have in states with strong open-meetings laws (like Florida) and the potential manipulation of the MPO decision making process if transit representatives are required to sit on the same board, in the same capacity, as elected officials who have supervisory authority over those same transit representatives. Ms. Hardy agreed with those concerns and reassured members that this topic will remain high on her list of priorities.

Ms. Hardy then led a discussion with MPOAC members related to the GROW America Act proposals she discussed earlier in her presentation. She added that the proposal to designate “High Performing” MPOs would require existing MPOs in the same Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) to consolidate or for those MPOs to adopt a single long range transportation plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The membership discussed their concerns with the “High Performing” MPO proposal, noting that several existing MPOs in Florida share a common MSA and would potentially be impacted by the proposal. Many expressed their concerns on who would and who would not benefit from the proposal and apprehension about the current language. Ms. Hardy said that she appreciated the members’ willingness to share their thoughts and concerns about the issue and promised to keep them in mind as the discussion continues.

11. Communications

Mr. Glassman noted the communications for the quarter were included in the agenda packet:

- Letter to State Senator Jeff Brandes from Mayor Jim Swan, Chair of MetroPlan Orlando, regarding a statewide Vehicles Miles Traveled Study and a related pilot project, dated March 2, 2015.
- A letter to the MPOAC from the Florida-Alabama TPO conveying Resolution FL-AL 15-05 supporting the MPOAC 2015 Legislative Policy Positions, dated February 18, 2015.

12. Member Comments

Mayor Haynie, Chair, welcomed new member Beth Alden, Hillsborough County MPO, and thanked Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, for his leadership and 20 years of service to the MPOAC.

Mayor Haynie then honored Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, with a plaque that reads “To Howard Glassman in recognition and appreciation for outstanding service as an executive director of the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council from 1994-2015.”

Mayor Kaplan commented on the MPOAC and how it sets a standard for which other states strive. He continued by giving advice to the new members to keep listening and considering the issues and that soon it will not seem so overwhelming.

A suggestion was made to look into mechanisms to have the MPOAC institute travel to local MPOs and to offer training for local elected officials and staff members.

Mayor Walter Kelley, Bay County TPO, announced that he is up for reelection on April 21, 2015 and thanked the MPOAC and stated his appreciation for their guidance and making the MPOAC the best organization of its kind in the nation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.