

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council**  
**Governing Board**  
**October 29, 2015**

**Governing Board Members in Attendance:**

Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Chairperson  
Councilman Bryan Caletka, Broward MPO  
Commissioner Rodney Friend, Bay County TPO  
Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA  
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO  
Councilman Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO  
Commissioner James Brooks, Heartland TPO  
Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Goodgame, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Councilman Rick Williams, Lee County MPO  
Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO  
Councilman James Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO  
Mayor Willie Shaw, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO  
Mr. Darrell Drummond, St. Lucie TPO

**Others in Attendance:**

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director  
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel  
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC  
Jeff Kramer, USF/CUTR  
Karen Seggerman, USF/CUTR  
Alex Carroll, USF/CUTR  
James Christian, FHWA Florida Division, Tallahassee  
Karen Brunelle, FHWA  
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA  
Carmen Monroy, FDOT Policy Planning  
Yvonne Arens, FDOT  
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO  
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA  
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs  
Sherrie Carver, Heartland TPO  
Dennis Dix, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
TJ Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO  
Alice Bajanowski, Martin MPO  
Ronnie Blackshear, Polk TPO

David Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Aileen Bouclé, Miami-Dade MPO  
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO  
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO  
Carol Scott, FDOT  
Regina Colson, FDOT  
Sean Santalla, FDOT

### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair welcomed those in attendance and self-introductions were made.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO, made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2015 MPOAC Governing Board Meeting with the addition of Bob Herrington to the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee. Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, reported on the MPOAC Budget. During the period from July 1 - September 30, 2015, approximately \$86,910 was spent of the total \$530,548 budget.

Regarding federal transportation legislation, he noted that both the House and the Senate have passed legislation to extend funding for the federal program until November 20, 2015 while they negotiate differences between their two bills. A member noted that there is discussion of an increase in urban attributable funds in the federal Surface Transportation Program (SU funds). A member questioned the status of TAP funds in pending legislation. The Chair noted that Congresswoman Lois Frankel is advocating offering incentives to high-performing MPOs.

Mr. Mikyska informed members of a USDOT Office of Inspector General Audit that occurred over the summer regarding the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), particularly as it relates to MPO Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). An auditor visited FDOT and one Florida MPO in June to learn about the STIP process. Other states were visited as well. A written report is expected in January 2016.

## 5. Agency Reports

### a) FDOT Agency Report

Ms. Carmen Monroy, Director of the FDOT Office of Policy Planning, updated the members on the update of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Policy Plan. She discussed how the thirty-five member Steering Committee represents a broad spectrum of stakeholders and that eleven thousand participants attended workshops on the plans held throughout the state. The next step is to incorporate public comments into the plans which are being received through November 14<sup>th</sup> (FloridaTransportationPlan.com). The final Policy Plan will be presented to stakeholders by the end of the year. The plan's existing emphasis areas are to:

- Reaffirm statutory intent for interregional, interstate, and international travel; and
- Continue an emphasis on the state's largest and most strategic transportation facilities.

Ms. Monroy also noted new emphasis areas in the Policy Plan:

- Innovation and technology
- Statewide/regional economic development opportunities
- Modal and system connectivity
- First mile/last mile
- Coordinated planning for SIS, regional, and local facilities

The next steps include Steering Committee review of draft SIS Policy Plan (December 11) with public comment on the draft SIS Policy Plan (January). The Final SIS Policy Plan is expected to be complete by February 2016. Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Chairperson and Councilman James Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, Vice-Chair serve on the Steering Committee.

Ms. Yvonne Arens, FDOT Office of Policy Planning, then discussed issues related to air quality attainment. On October 1, 2015, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb) from the current 75 ppb. The decision is based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone effects on public health and welfare, and the updated standards will improve public and ecosystem health. If Florida has any areas designated as nonattainment, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to bring the areas into compliance with the revised NAAQS. Transportation conformity would be required in these nonattainment areas. Areas must demonstrate that transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS. At this time, no areas in Florida are expected to be designated as non-attainment. However, Hillsborough County may be close to the threshold, particularly if conditions worsen over the next year. States make recommendations to EPA for nonattainment areas based on data from the years 2014-2016. Designations are based on the

4<sup>th</sup> highest annual reading of each monitor in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) during that time period. EPA will make final designations by October 2017.

Ms. Monroy then informed the members about FDOT's new initiative called "Focus on Communities." The initiative aims to elevate the importance of communities--people, places, and their plans--in the transportation decision-making process. FDOT will be holding a training workshop to bring practitioners of Florida's sociocultural effects evaluation process together to identify needs, exchange information, and refine current approaches to ensure that transportation actions include a community focus. The tentative date and location for the workshop is May 3-4, 2016 in Orlando.

The Office of Policy Planning and the Office of the Comptroller are working to update the process by which FDOT passes funds to the MPOs. This is in response to a variety of factors, including new federal requirements from 2 CFR 200 and guidance from the State's Department of Financial Services. This is an opportunity to streamline invoicing requirements for the MPOs, helping to reduce their administrative burden. Upcoming changes include new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) requirements, a new invoicing and monitoring process, and a new 2-year MPO agreement which will be effective July 1, 2016 (aligning with the new UPWP cycle). A benefit for the MPOs will be that FDOT will be able to more reliably meet the 15-day deadline for invoice payment. A Statewide conference is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>. Members were told to contact Yvonne Arens or Sean Santalla for more information.

Ms. Monroy noted the "Drive It Home - Roadside Litter Prevention Education" (RLPE) Media Campaign was launched by FDOT with financial support from FHWA. She noted that millions of visitors get their first glimpse of our state from their car windows as they travel along Florida's highways. Keeping the highways clean has become a financial burden.

A member requested that presentations be made available prior to the meetings to enable members to review the information and prepare thoughtful questions.

#### **b) FHWA Agency Report**

Mr. James Christian, Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Florida Division, thanked those who participated in the U.S. DOT Megaregions event held in Orlando on October 2, 2015. He noted that the Event Director was highly complimentary of the location, facilities, panel participants, and other attributes of the event. Mr. Christian thanked Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, his staff and Harry Barley for organizing it.

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Office of Project Development at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Florida Division Office, discussed the extension of federal transportation legislation through November 20, 2015 and noted that the Highway Trust Fund is expected to drop below \$4 billion in the November/December 2015 timeframe.

Ms. Brunelle noted that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was approved. The approval letter, "Approval of the FY 2015/16-2018/19 STIP and Statewide Planning Funding", is included in the agenda packet. She further noted that the full report regarding STIP approval is available from Mr. Mikyska.

Notices of proposed rulemaking regarding transportation performance management to be published within the next few months include System Performance (late November), Highway Safety Improvement Program Final Rule (mid-December), Safety/Performance Measures Final Rule (January 2016), Bridge and Asset Management (early during the 2016 calendar year), and the Planning Final Rule (March 2016).

Florida did not receive any TIGER grants during the last round of awards. Florida recipients of FHWA Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2) Implementation Technical Assistance included MetroPlan Orlando for Work Zone Impact and Strategies Estimator Software (WISE) - Proof of Concept and FDOT for Pre-Cast Concrete Pavement – Lead Adopter.

Another grant opportunity for MPOs is the FHWA Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration program which provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. FDOT and Manatee County received a \$1 million award for installation of an adaptive signal control technology system along SR 70 through this program.

The National Roadway Safety Awards is a biennial competition sponsored by the FHWA and the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) to recognize roadway safety achievements that help reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the nation's roadways. Florida received three awards:

- FDOT for Advanced Lighting and Measurement System Program in the Infrastructure and Operational Improvements category
- FDOT for Safe Mobility for Life Coalition in the Program Planning Development and Evaluation category
- Orange County Public Works for Texas-Americana Road Safety Small Area Study

Ms. Lee Ann Jacobs, Planning Team Leader at the FHWA Florida Division Office, noted that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) website homepage featured the Florida flag because the FDOT earned the Grand Prize and the People's Choice awards in the 2015 America's Transportation Awards competition. A panel of judges selected FDOT's \$670 million Port of Miami Tunnel project to receive the Grand Prize. FDOT's I-595 Corridor Improvements Project earned more than 56,000 online votes and won the People's Choice Award.

Tampa, Florida was selected as one of three connected vehicle deployment sites as Wave 1 participants in the U.S. DOT's Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program. Tampa was awarded \$17 million to solve peak rush hour congestion in downtown Tampa and to protect the

city's pedestrians by equipping their smartphones with the same connected technology being put into the vehicles.

## **6. Business Items & Presentations**

- a) 2016 MPOAC Meeting Schedule. Mr. Mikyska presented the proposed MPOAC meeting schedule for 2016 as noted in the agenda packet. Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed 2016 MPOAC meeting schedule. Councilman Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Mikyska announced that the 2016 MPOAC Institute will be held April 15-17, 2016 in Orlando and May 13-15, 2016 in Tampa. Fliers with additional information will be mailed prior to the end of the year. Members were encouraged to attend and spread the word to others on their MPOs.

Mr. Mikyska brought a proposed rule by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers to the Governing Board's attention. The proposed rule would create an official definition of "traffic engineering" and a list of tasks which would be required to be completed under the responsible charge of a licensed professional engineer in the State of Florida. Many of the listed tasks (traffic studies, impact fee studies, and other applications of real-world data in a planning context) are currently being performed by planners across the state. Mr. Mikyska noted the potential impact this may have on the planning profession in Florida since many cities and counties adopt FBPE rules by reference in their local regulations. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, noted that on a day-to-day basis, such a rule would impact contracting. Mr. Mikyska informed the members that the proposed rule has been published, and that comments are due by November 4, 2015. The Staff Directors recommended that the Governing Board have Mr. Mikyska prepare a letter in opposition to the proposed rule. Commissioner Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO, moved to affirm the Staff Directors' motion. Councilman Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) 2016 Legislative Policy Positions. Mr. Mikyska presented the 2016 Draft Legislative Policy Positions that were developed during the September 11, 2015 Policy and Technical Subcommittee Meeting in Bartow. Mr. Mikyska stated that the Staff Directors recommended two changes: 1) Position #5 – "zone" should read "zones"; and 2) Position #6 should be amended to read "Supports implementation of ridesharing services statewide (such as Uber and Lyft) with statewide provisions for safety and liability coverage."

Discussion ensued regarding the legislative policy positions, particularly Position #6. Governing Board members consented to voting on the Legislative Priorities individually:

1. Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, moved approval of Policy Position #1. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Goodgame, Lake-Sumter MPO seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Goodgame moved approval of Policy Position #2. Commissioner Nick Maddox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Councilman Charles Bare, Florida-Alabama TPO, moved approval of Policy Position #3. Commissioner Nick Maddox seconded. The motion passed with two members in opposition.
4. Commissioner Nick Maddox moved approval of Policy Position #4. Commissioner Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Councilman Charles Bare moved approval of Policy Position #5 as amended by the Staff Directors. Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Commissioner Nick Maddox moved to remove Policy Position #6 from the Legislative Priorities. Councilman Bryan Caletka, Broward MPO, seconded. The motion passed with one member in opposition.

- c) State vs. Federal Requirements on MPO Operations – Refreshments and Travel Expenses. Mr. Mikyska noted that refreshments are not a reimbursable expense using State funds unless provided as part of a facility rental per a 1978 Attorney General written opinion. This applies to MPO funds that flow through the State. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, moved to have Mr. Gougelman request a revised Attorney General opinion based on federal statutes. Councilman Charles Bare seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Travel expenses for MPOs are governed by Florida Statute 112.061. Subsection (14) of that section provides an exception for MPOs. MPOs may establish their own food reimbursement rates, per diem rates (food + lodging), and mileage reimbursement rates (IRS rates may be chosen instead). Class C travel (less than 24 hours without lodging) does not include food reimbursement. However, mileage and related costs (tolls, parking, etc.) can be reimbursed.

- d) MPOAC Strategic Plan Update. Hal Beardall presented the status of the MPOAC Strategic Directions Plan. He discussed the overall process and then reviewed the results of a survey of MPO Governing Board members (20 responses received). Eleven core strengths, three key planning assumptions, and five 2020 vision themes were identified. Draft preliminary SDAC goals included:

1. The MPOAC will advocate and lead collaboratively for effective local and regional transportation policy and planning.
2. The MPOAC will support the sharing of best practices and help coordinate and communicate with M/TPOs and other transportation organizations.
3. To achieve the 2020 vision and goals, the MPOAC will adjust its organizational structure to deliver results.

He noted that the SDAC will meet in November and December (by phone) to prepare a survey that will go out to the MPO Staff Directors.

Member discussion supported the SDAC's diversity and its emphasis on leadership, communication, and advocacy.

## **7. Communications**

Mr. Mikyska noted two letters contained in the agenda packet:

- MPOAC letter to Mr. Gregory Nadeau, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
- Letter from Kathryn Starkey, Pasco County, Florida to MPOAC

## **8. Member Comments**

A member requested that the MPOAC create a forum for MPOs participating in SUN Trail projects to coordinate their planning activities.

The Chair noted that this is the last meeting for Mary Bo Robinson and Harry Reed. She also introduced Aileen Bouclé who will be working with the Miami-Dade MPO.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.