GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair, Palm Beach MPO
Commissioner Rodney Friend, Bay County TPO
Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Councilmember Reg Buxton, Collier MPO
Commissioner Rob Williamson, Florida-Alabama TPO
Councilmember Doreen Caudell, Forward Pinellas
Commissioner Terry Burroughs, Heartland Regional TPO
Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson, Hernando/Citrus MPO
Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO
Councilmember J.B. Whitten, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Commissioner Willie Shaw, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Commissioner Ed Fielding, Martin County
Commissioner Doug Smith, Martin County
Carl Mikyska, MPOAC
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Council
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration
Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration
Carmen Monroy, Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Policy Planning
Mark Reichert, Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Policy Planning
Alex Gramovot, Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Policy Planning
Mira Skoroden, Florida Department of Transportation, District 4
Victoria Williams, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO
Paul Flavien, Broward MPO
Daniel Knickelbein, Broward MPO
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas
Michael Escalante, Gainesville MTPO
**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair, Palm Beach MPO, called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair welcomed those in attendance and shared some historical background of the meeting facilities.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, moved to approve the minutes of the April 2017 Governing Board meeting. Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. UPWP REPORT

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, presented the UPWP Report for the April through June 2017 timeframe.

Mr. Mikyska noted that the MPOAC came in over budget by $0.34 with the balance covered by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Mr. Mikyska expressed his appreciation of the accomplishments from the last quarter and thanked those that assisted.

B. FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Mikyska reviewed the list of transportation related bills that were contained in the annual report, passed during the 2018 Florida Legislature and signed by the Governor. Discussion of these bills has taken place in previous meetings and having the report available gives the Governing Board a historical summary of changes made in law that effect transportation policy and funding.

C. FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE EFFORTS

Mr. Mikyska reminded the Governing Board of discussions that occurred during the presidential campaign of the desire to have an infrastructure package, which is currently targeted at approximately $1 billion. The specific funding approach being discussed would provide roughly $200 billion in federal funds to incentivize $800 billion of funding from other sources (private, state and/or local government). Mr. Mikyska noted that the effort to pass an infrastructure package has been overshadowed by other legislative priorities and that it was unclear when legislation would be considered for passage. He also noted that a discussion would be held later in the meeting under Business Items and Presentations to consider federal transportation policy positions as recommended by the MPOAC Policy and Technical Committee, which met between the printing of the MPOAC Governing Board agenda package and the Governing Board meeting.

D. SUMMARY OF MPOAC WEEKEND INSTITUTE

Mr. Mikyska presented an overview of the MPOAC Weekend Institute for Elected Officials, which provides MPO Board members with a broad overview of the authority and responsibilities of MPOs and the role of MPO Board members in the transportation decision-making process. Mr. Mikyska stated this was a record year for attendance with 38 attendees and an overall course rating of 4.79 on a 5.0 scale. Mr. Mikyska reviewed the
history, location and participant ratings of the two MPOAC Weekend Institute sessions. Mr. Mikyska presented a summary of ratings and attendee profiles, and complimented the MPOAC Weekend Institute training staff for a job well done. Mr. Mikyska noted it would be difficult to continue the trend with attendance next year since it would not be following an election cycle and asked the MPOAC Governing Board for patience and understanding if the attendance numbers are not as high in 2018.

Commissioner J.B. Whitten, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, inquired if staff ever considered hosting the MPOAC Weekend Institute in the Tallahassee area. Mr. Mikyska replied that different locations were tried over time and had attendance issues. Tampa and Orlando, being centrally located, resulted in the best attendance over time.

Commissioner Whitten also inquired about allowing agency staff to attend the Weekend Institutes as they are active participants in MPO processes longer than most elected officials. Mr. Mikyska replied that there had been discussions about developing a training program for MPO staff and other MPO participants. He continued by adding that the MPOAC Institute, as currently constructed, is designed to meet the needs of MPO board members and that one of the key components of the training is to ensure an environment where the attendees feel comfortable asking all forms of questions and in which an open dialogue and sharing of experiences can take place. He also assured MPOAC members that the staff takes great care to ensure that Sunshine Laws are understood in a training environment and monitors the group conversation to steer clear of any potential violations.

Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, inquired if the training still included breaking down the modules for an individual MPO and if review of Sunshine Law was included. Mr. Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), replied that a module breakdown can occur and be structured to meet any desired timeframe that works for an individual MPO. He noted it had been done 3 years ago for the Broward County MPO following one of their Board meetings. He reviewed some of the limitations and drawbacks with this approach and emphasized that the retreat environment as the current Weekend Institute platform maximizes participation and the learning experience.

• AGENCY REPORTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Mark Reichert, Transportation Planning Manager, FDOT Office of Policy Planning, updated the members on the activities of FDOT and brought forward topics of interest to the MPOs. Mr. Reichert specifically discussed the following:
Mr. Reichert announced that FDOT has adopted a Vision Zero policy for the safety performance targets which will be in place for the approval of the Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) on August 31, 2017. MPOs are required to adopt their targets no later than February 27, 2018. He noted that MPOs have the option to adopt the statewide safety targets, to develop their own targets, or adopt a combination of local and statewide safety performance targets.

Mr. Reichert reviewed concerns raised in the past from MPOs for getting local safety projects funded through FDOT’s Work Program development process. He stated FDOT is committed to working with the MPOs to develop a process over the next few years for finding ways to consider more local safety projects for funding through the FDOT Work Program. He mentioned the safety funding for the next five years is already committed and that any requests for funding would be considered for the new fifth year of the Work Program.

Mr. Reichert confirmed that FDOT has committed to provide the necessary data to report on the various federally required mobility performance measures. He mentioned that the data would be provided in a visual and raw format, with the expectation of it being beneficial and in direct support of providing information to the individual MPO Boards and the public. He said that a presentation of the initial data would be provided during the October Staff Directors’ Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Reichert mentioned that the revised MPO Program Management Handbook is now available on the FDOT website and is more user friendly. The FDOT has committed to ensuring that the web version of the handbook would always be current and revised as needed to reflect changes in federal and state laws and rules. He recognized that MPOs use the handbook even though it was developed for FDOT MPO liaisons, and encouraged the continuation of this practice to ensure that all involved in the process have the most current information and guidance available.

Mr. Reichert provided an update on the first MPO Liaison Training held in June 2017 in Tallahassee. He noted the great attendance and stated that FDOT stressed to attendees they were working toward statewide consistency and management of the MPO program. He mentioned that FDOT is looking for ways to improve the program, and to provide FDOT MPO liaisons with ways to manage the program more efficiently.

Mr. Reichert mentioned that FDOT has been working with the MPOAC Best Practices Committee to improve MPO planning practices and processes and noted the excellent ideas proposed at the last committee meeting. He stated that Alex Gramovot, FDOT, is in the process of implementing an idea to create a central repository for documents to improve access to information for FDOT, FHWA and MPOs.
• FDOT plans to hold another Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership meeting later this fall. FDOT will use this as an opportunity to kick off the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) update season. FDOT will also review the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process and discuss workforce planning. FDOT hopes to meet in the October or November timeframe.

• Mr. Reichert mentioned that FDOT is in the midst of an autonomous vehicle project, with the main focus to provide data on the saturation point of autonomous vehicles, which are expected to mainly be electric, and the impact that saturation will have especially in the area of funding. He thought that information from the project would be of great use during the development of MPO Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs).

• Mr. Reichert concluded by mentioning that FDOT recently received news to move forward on a research study looking at coordination between the transit planning and the MPO planning processes. He noted that FDOT is in preliminary talks right now with CUTR on the study scope and that they plan to involve the MPOAC Governing Board in future discussions.

Ms. Carmen Monroy, Director, FDOT Office of Policy Planning, pointed out the collaboration occurring with the MPOs and FDOT that it is yielding innovative ideas, such as discussing workforce development issues. Ms. Monroy expressed her appreciation and welcomed the continued work to develop and strengthen the business.

B. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Lee Ann Jacobs, Planning Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Florida Division, Office of Project Development, made announcements of interest to the members:

• In late April, the FHWA 2017 Excellence Awards were announced with two recipients in Florida. An award went to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority system modernization project, which was one of ten awards nationally. An honorable mention went to FDOT for the Florida Transportation Plan, which was one of three honorable mentions given nationally.

• The FASTLANE grant program has been revised and its name changed to Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA). There are new requirements, which will focus on leveraging private money so partners can use federal dollars as a supplement, rather than a substitute. More information can be found on the FHWA website at https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants. There is $1.5 billion available for funding this year. Projects that were previously submitted for the FAST Act grant program can be resubmitted with an explanation as to how that project competitively addresses the new grant criteria for the INFRA program. Applications are due November 02, 2017.
Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, FHWA Florida Division Office of Project Development, announced that FHWA has provided an interim approval for the optional use of a two-stage bicycle turn box approved in the manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Ms. Brunelle described the concept and noted that if MPOs are interested in further information or implementation approval, that they need to work through FDOT.

Ms. Brunelle stated the final rule of the system performance measures and the bridge/pavement measures went into effect on May 20, 2017. She then made a presentation on the measures themselves and reviewed the color-coded chart included in the agenda backup and distributed to those present. The blue coded items relate to Performance Measures; the purple coded items relate to Plans the MPO needs to integrate, which may or may not have performance measures; and the yellow coded items relate to new planning requirements. Ms. Brunelle gave an overview of the due dates for each measure, which are listed at the top of the chart.

Ms. Brunelle continued her presentation on how to read the LRTP and S/TIP charts and the performance measures summary handout (distributed), stating that the summary was designed to present all relevant information in one place. An FHWA planner would reach out to each MPO Staff Director for a remote one-on-one session of about 1-1.5 hours. These sessions will review specific information related to their MPO and if any additional technical assistance is required.

She concluded by reminding the MPOAC Governing Board that the statewide safety target is due August 31, 2017 (as noted by Mr. Reichert during his presentation) and that MPOs have to approve their individual safety target by February 27, 2018.

**BUSINESS ITEMS & PRESENTATIONS**

**A. APPROVAL OF MPO LRTP HORIZON YEAR OF 2045**

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, noted that the first LRTPs of the next update cycle are due starting in October of 2019. MPOs have already begun work to meet that deadline. For several years, MPOs in Florida have used a common horizon year, making data related to costs and revenue easier to generate. Mr. Mikyska also noted that having a common horizon year allows financial data from the 27 LRTPs to be aggregated and show statewide needs. The Staff Directors’ Advisory Committee met on June 01, 2017 and recommended Fiscal Year 2045 as the horizon year, which is five years beyond the most recent LRTP.
Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, moved to approve 2045 as the horizon year for the next update cycle of Florida LRTPs. Councilmember Reg Buxton, Collier MPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 2018 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND POLICY POSITIONS

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, presented the proposed 2018 Legislative Priorities and Policy Positions. He noted the 2018 Florida Legislative Session will be considered an early session and begins January 9, 2018. This early session allows the members to wrap up early to go back to their respective districts and to campaign for reelection, if necessary. Due to the earlier schedule committees will meet beforehand in September, necessitating the need to approve the policy positions earlier than usual in the calendar year.

Mr. Mikyska stated the positions included in the packet are similar to the positions for the 2017 legislative session, and reviewed the following changes:

- Policy position #2: 2017 was added because there was a push for a ban on distracted driving during the most recent legislative session.
- Policy position #3: Added 2017 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funding data to the chart that is typically shown in the brochure.
- Policy position #6: Identified the role that FHWA plays in the approval of funds in the operation of MPOs.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed each policy position separately for the benefit of new members. He reviewed Priority Policy Position #1: “Implements the recommendations from the MPOAC transportation revenue study and other options for expanding transportation revenue sources.” This study was conducted a few years ago by the MPOAC and involved a steering committee that included a variety of stakeholders including the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Public Transportation Association, Floridians for Better Transportation, the Florida Nature Conservancy, the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties.


Mr. Mikyska reviewed Priority Policy Position #2: “Regulates distracted driving as a primary offense by prohibiting the use of electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a moving motor vehicle.” Distracted driving is currently a secondary offense in Florida. The position was worded openly to give it timelessness to address any technological changes.
Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, moved to approve Priority Policy Position #2. Councilmember Reg Buxton, Collier MPO, seconded.

A discussion took place among those in attendance about the language included in the policy and the potential for confusion or limitations. Mayor Kaplan suggested that the language be changed to “Regulates distracted driving as a primary offense by prohibiting the use of two-way electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices which are not incorporated into the vehicle itself or permanently docked while operating a moving motor vehicle.” The first and second of the motion approved the amendment.

Commissioner Rob Williamson, Florida-Alabama TPO, stated as worded this policy does not deliver the desired outcome and that he could not support it as presented. The motion passed with Commissioner Rob Williamson, Florida-Alabama TPO dissenting.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed Priority Policy Position #3: “Restores funding to 2007 levels for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). The TRIP leverages state documentary stamp tax proceeds to promote regional planning and project development by providing state matching funds for improvements to regionally significant transportation facilities identified and prioritized by regional partners.” This proposal seeks to restore TRIP funding by reducing diversions of documentary stamp proceeds for non-transportation purposes. He reviewed a chart of TRIP funding to show the fluctuation over time and noted the desire of this policy position is to stabilize the program funding stream.

Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, moved to approve Priority Policy Position #3. Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed Priority Policy Position #4: “Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS.” This policy would open up the eligibility of facilities whereby if you have a nearby facility that when improved would alleviate a SIS facility, it would become eligible for SIS funding.


Mr. Mikyska reviewed Priority Policy Position #5: “Establishes flexible and predictable funding for transit projects (capital and operating) identified through the metropolitan transportation planning process by removing various funding limitations for the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF).” This was identified as some of the transportation
systems are maturing and there is limited space for expansion, this policy position would offer a congestion relief alternative. Many fund types are not eligible for transit or transit type improvements, and operating expenses of transportation transit systems can be particularly tricky to receive funding.

Commissioner Rodney Friend, Bay County TPO, moved to approve Priority Policy Position #5. Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed Priority Policy Position #6: “Recognizes that federal metropolitan transportation planning funds shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure.” MPOs are funded by federal dollars that pass through the state, who then add additional restrictions and limitations before distributing the monies to MPOs. The premise of this position is there are already a number of federal requirements, restrictions and limitations on those federal funds, which adequately protect the public investment in the MPO operations. The request is that federal MPO funds be solely subject to federal requirements.


Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, discussed a policy approved by the Broward MPO addressing the impact to funding when transportation projects are allocated to a specific project through the legislative process, also known as earmarking, and asked Mr. Greg Stuart, Broward MPO Staff Director, to provide more detail. Mr. Stuart explained that when local governments secure funding for a transportation project through the legislative process that Florida statutes requires that those funds come out of the district budget, meaning that some other project would lose funding. Mr. Stuart noted that a related issue is if the project is funded through the legislative process and was already part of the district budget, and the Governor vetoes funding for the project, that the project will be delayed for a full fiscal year. Mr. Stuart said that he would bring this before the Staff Directors Advisory Committee for further consideration as part of policy position discussion for 2019.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MPOAC POLICY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, provided a background on the MPOAC Policy and Technical Committee discussion on federal transportation and infrastructure initiatives during their July 13, 2017 meeting. As has previously been noted, the administration is interested in passing a $1 trillion federal infrastructure bill that would leverage private, local and state government funds using approximately $20 billion in federal funds. Additionally, there was a Federal Register Notice issued on June 08, 2017 requesting ideas that could help streamline the process to move transportation projects to implementation, with a caveat
that this could be accomplished administratively, not legislatively. Mr. Mikyska stated that
given both of these initiatives, there was a need for the MPOAC to consider formal policy
positions to assist staff to engage in the ongoing discussions happening in Washington, DC.
As a result, the MPOAC Technical and Policy Committee developed 12 federal transportation
policy positions for consideration by the MPOAC Governing Board. The positions were based
on knowledge of current issues being discussed by Congress and the administration and
through a review of federal policy positions adopted by the MPOAC between 2009 and 2012
as transportation federal authorization legislation was under development.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed each of the twelve proposed federal policy positions in turn, noting
that the positions were being presented in no particular order for discussion purposes. The
intent was not to have the federal policy positions prioritized in a final policy document or
brochure. Instead the policy positions would be listed in bullet format and categorized by
broad subject area.

Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair, Palm Beach MPO, inquired on the definition of “poor
performance” used in policy position #3 relating to using performance measures for funding
purposes. Mr. Mikyska stated that the Committee agreed that it would not be in Florida’s
best interest to have the federal government use poor performance relative to the
performance measures used as a mechanisms for funding distribution.

Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, inquired if changing
policy position #4 relating to indexing existing transportation revenue streams to the
Consumer Price Index (CPI) should be expanded to include any future revenue streams. Mr.
Mikyska stated the language could be changed to reflect any future revenue streams in
addition to existing revenue streams, if that was the desire of the MPOAC Governing Board.

A discussion then took place among those in attendance about the preservation of the
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program and if there
was a need to include such language in the policy positions. Mr. Mikyska noted if the MPOAC
Governing Board direct staff to do so, a new policy position could be drafted as a separate
position to be included along with the original twelve.

Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, moved to adopt the proposed MPOAC Federal
Policy Positions, as amended. Councilmember Reg Buxton, Collier MPO, seconded. The
motion carried unanimously.

**D. US 27 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR STUDY**

Commissioner Ed Fielding, Martin County, introduced this project, which suggests a
modification to a FDOT project that considered a dual rail line extension in the US 27
corridor in southeastern Florida, potentially connecting from Miami to the Tampa/Orlando region. Mr. Fielding stated that the purpose of a multi-modal expansion of the US 27 corridor would be to provide relief from freight traffic moving to and from the seaports and airports of South Florida along the congested roadway network on Florida’s east coast. This would allow freight haulers to move freight directly from the ports onto this more central corridor for repacking and later redistribution.

Mr. Thomas Lanahan, Deputy Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, then provided a more detailed presentation on the US 27 Multi-Modal Corridor Study. Mr. Lanahan reinforced the need to move freight from the central part of the state to the southeast. He stated that FDOT had studied freight movement along a corridor between the west side of Miami and the south side of Lake Okeechobee and that there is a need for further study extending to the Orlando area. Mr. Lanahan reviewed the FDOT studies completed to date and gave a brief account of the 2012-2013 US 27 Multimodal Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) Study. Mr. Lanahan reviewed the benefits for this project and the need to coordinate with key stakeholders, including the MPOAC.

A short discussion ensued on this subject. Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, expressed concerns for his area and the need for collaboration with the Broward MPO. Mr. Lanahan replied that the Broward MPO Staff Director was an active participant in this discussion and that further discussions on the subject would include Broward MPO.

At that point of the meeting, new FDOT Transportation Secretary Michael Dew introduced himself to the MPOAC Governing Board and thanked all for the partnership and welcomed any questions or requests for assistance.

• COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, mentioned the communication item in the agenda packet:

• Thank you letter from Maria Lefevre, Executive Director, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Secretary of Transportation, to Carl Mikyska expressing her thanks for the letter on behalf of FDOT’s application for Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program under the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) grant program, also known as FASTLANE.

• MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Richard Kaplan, Broward MPO, announced he would be giving an update at next month’s Florida League of Cities meeting on Pedestrian Safety Through Environmental Design.
(PED STED), which was previously presented to the MPOAC in 2014. FDOT put together a study and built a pilot program, which looks to be extraordinarily successful and working.

Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair, Palm Beach MPO, announced the Florida League of Cities annual conference will be at the Orlando World Center, August 17-20, 2017, and invited all to attend. Mayor Haynie provided details on the evenings activities, which include a tour of the West Palm Beach Brightline station.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The next meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board will be held on November 07, 2017 in Panama City Beach, Florida.