

**Florida MPO Advisory Council
Meeting of the Staff Directors
August 2, 2018
Orlando, Florida
Draft Meeting Minutes**

STAFF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Greg Stuart, Chair, Broward MPO
Lois Bollenback, Vice Chair, River to Sea TPO
Dawn Schwartz, Bay County TPO
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA
Gary Harrell, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO
Anne McLaughlin, Collier MPO
Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas
Mike Escalante, Gainesville MTPO
Pat Steed, Heartland Regional TPO
Steve Diez, Hernando/Citrus MPO
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO
Michael Woods, Lake-Sumter MPO
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO
Harold Barley, MetroPlan Orlando
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade TPO
Mike Daniels, Ocala/Marion County TPO
Mary Beth Washnock, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA
John Villeneuve, Pasco County MPO
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO
Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Steven Grant, Palm Beach TPA, MPOAC Governing Board member
Carl Mikyska, MPOAC
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF
Stacie Blizzard, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration
Karen Brunelle, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration
Alex Gramovot, Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Policy Planning

Mark Reichert, Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Policy Planning
Marybeth Soderstrom, Heartland Regional TPO
Eric Hill, MetroPlan Orlando
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
Regan Jones, MetroPlan Orlando
Lisa Smith, MetroPlan Orlando
Virginia L. Whittington, MetroPlan Orlando
Elizabeth Whitton, MetroPlan Orlando
Manny Lajmiri, Pasco County MPO
Steven Bostel, Space Coast TPO
Laura Carter, Space Coast TPO
Jim Martin, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Carol Scott, Florida Department of Transportation, District 5
Kellie Smith, Florida Department of Transportation, District 5
Raj Ponnaluri, Florida Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering and Operations Office
Wiley Page, Atkins
William Roll, Kimley-Horn
Jim Wood, Kimley-Horn
Steven Gayle, RSG
Stephen Lawe, RSG
Rob Cursey, Tindale Oliver

• **CALL TO ORDER**

Greg Stuart, Chair, Broward MPO, called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm. Chair Stuart welcomed those in attendance. Chair Stuart recognized the passing of Bob Kamm, former Staff Director of the Space Coast TPO. Those in attendance paused for a moment of silence. He also recognized the upcoming retirement of Harry Barley, Executive Director and congratulated Gary Huttman on his appointment to the position of Executive Director of MetroPlan Orlando. He introduced John Villeneuve, new Executive Director of the Pasco County MPO.

Mr. Mikyska led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 07, 2018 MEETING**

Lois Bollenbeck, River to Sea TPO, moved to approve the minutes of the June 07, 2018 Staff Directors' Advisory Committee meeting. Harry Barley, MetroPlan Orlando MPO, seconded. 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 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Report showing expenditures and budget for the full state fiscal year 2018, as well as a list of activities of the MPOAC from May through June of 2018. Mr. Mikyska stated that the MPOAC finished the state fiscal year 2018 under budget.

B. MPOAC WEEKEND INSTITUTE OVERVIEW

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, presented an overview and the results of the participant survey from the two 2018 sessions of the MPOAC Weekend Institute. He stated that this year, there were a total of 32 attendees. Mr. Mikyska noted that participant surveys scored this year's Institute very well. He added that since the inception of the Institute, 54% of participants still serve on MPO Boards. He complimented the MPOAC Institute training staff for a job well done, and provided staff contact information for questions or concerns that may arise later.

Chairman Stuart distributed information from Representative Bill Shuster, Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He explained that the purpose of the information is to provide insight into a proposal that Representative Shuster has introduced on how to fund the Highway Trust Fund, and make it more solvent.

• AGENCY REPORTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Mark Reichert, Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Office of Policy Planning, updated the members on the activities of FDOT as follows:

- He announced that Jim Wood, Chief Planner, is no longer with FDOT's Office of Policy Planning, and his position has not yet been filled.
- Mr. Reichert stated that Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Revenue estimates were released at the Policy and Technical Committee Meeting. He addressed some

questions that came about as a result of that meeting. Mr. Reichert addressed some outstanding issues that came up at the most recent Policy and Technical Committee meeting. The first was a question concerning long range estimates and transit funding, and how much of the transit funds were designated for capacity improvements. He stated that an explanation has been received from the transit office which states that approximately 55% of transit funds go towards capacity improvements. Mr. Reichert noted that a more formal explanation is being prepared and will be emailed when complete. Mr. Reichert stated that a question was raised by Lois Bollenback, River to Sea TPO, regarding the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) cost feasible plan and the five year gap in the adopted work program. Mr. Reichert distributed a document that details the stages of the SIS funding strategy.

- Mr. Reichert stated that there are some internal discussions to discontinue funding for the TRAC-N-Ride program due to lack of interest. He noted that the program funding is currently only being utilized by the Broward MPO.
- He announced the following upcoming meetings:
 - Annual Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership Meeting, December 11-12, 2019 in Orlando, FL
 - Focus on Community Conference, December 12-13, 2019 at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando FL
 - Florida Automated Vehicle Summit, November 27-28, 2018, Tampa, FL
 - TransPlex Conference , May 7-9, 2019, in Jacksonville, FL
- Mr. Reichert stated that the Statewide Safety Targets are set annually and the submission deadline date is August 31, 2018. He informed the membership that FDOT will be adhering to Vision Zero for its five safety performance measures. Mr. Reichert noted that eight of the State's 27 TPO/MPOs chose to set their own quantifiable targets the previous year while the rest supported the FDOT targets. He pointed out that February 27, 2019 was the deadline date for MPOs to set safety targets.
- Mr. Reichert stated that FDOT prepared for the Statewide Annual Assessment and Planning Findings conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The annual review has been completed with one outstanding issue, the implementation of the transportation performance measures.

B. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Stacie Blizzard, Transportation Planning Specialist, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Florida Division, Office of Project Development, updated the members on activities of FHWA as follows:

- Ms. Blizzard reminded members of the funding opportunity for the Measuring Multi-Modal Network Connectivity Pilot Program. The application deadline for the pilot program is August 2, 2018.

- Ms. Blizzard announced that FHWA is implementing the fifth round of the Every Day Counts Innovation program. She explained that ten innovations were advanced this year under the name of On-Ramp to Innovation. Ms. Blizzard noted the innovations that would be the most interest to MPO/TPOs: 1) Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP program); 2) Use of Crowd Sourcing to Advance Operations; 3) Value Capture – capitalizing on the value created by transportation; and 4) Virtual Public Involvement. She indicated that staff of the MPOAC sent this out to the TPOs/MPOs, including the website information.
- Ms. Blizzard announced that the nomination period for the 2019 Environmental Excellence Awards is open from August 1 through September 14, 2018. She explained that this program recognizes outstanding transportation projects, processes, and partners that use FHWA funding sources to achieve environmental excellence.
- Ms. Blizzard encouraged those present to submit any comments, observations, and feedback concerning the Statewide Annual Assessment and Planning Findings to FHWA staff by the deadline date of August 17th.

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Office of Project Development, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Florida Division, continued the update as follows:

- Ms. Brunelle stated that the Planning Team Leader has retired and the position is now advertised. They hope to have the position filled by the next MPOAC meeting (November 1, 2018).
- Ms. Brunelle said that the Federal Planning Rule became effective on May 27, 2018, and that all LRTP & S/TIP Amendments must now address safety performance measures.
- Ms. Brunelle noted that FDOT Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) met the June 15, 2018 submittal deadline for the new system performance measurement (PM3) travel time metrics.
- Ms. Brunelle stated that FHWA is currently reviewing the following: TIP transportation performance measures documentation when new S/TIP amendments are received; the MPO Consensus Document that was adopted in May 2018; the draft TIP Templates for infrastructure condition performance measures (PM2) and PM3; and the draft System Performance Report Framework.
- Ms. Brunelle stated that the implementation of National Highway System (NHS) Bridge Penalty went into effect June 2018. She noted that there is a financial penalty tied to the condition of NHS Bridges if they fall below a certain standard.
- Ms. Brunelle stated that a new guidebook for transportation performance management (TPM) Truck Freight Bottleneck Reporting became available in July 2018. The guidebook can be accessed at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/guidance/>
- Ms. Brunelle stated that on August 31, 2018 FDOT will set the 2019 safety targets.
- Ms. Brunelle stated that October 1, 2018 is the deadline for S/TIP with safety targets addressed; FDOT has requested to use FDOT/MPO equivalent data sources (PM3);

FDOT will report bridge/pavement/System Performance Targets to FHWA; and baseline reports for bridge/pavement/system performance (Interstate only).

- Ms. Brunelle noted that November 14, 2018, is the deadline for MPOs to set bridge, pavement, and system performance targets.

• BUSINESS ITEMS & PRESENTATIONS

A. LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS AND OUTREACH

Mr. Mikyska provided an overview of the 2019 proposed legislative priorities and policy positions. He explained that the 2019 Florida legislative session will start on March 5, 2019. He pointed out that the session starts late due to the November elections, and Legislative committees begin meeting in January 2019. Mr. Mikyska explained that in order for the MPOAC to have adopted policy positions available for distribution prior to the start of legislative committee meetings, the MPOAC Governing Board must formally adopt a platform of positions at today's meeting. Mr. Mikyska explained that the positions had been vetted and modified by the MPOAC Policy and Technical Committee at its July meeting. He noted that the underlined bullets are newly proposed language.

1. Implements key recommendations from the revenue study with two added suggestions:
 - Expand the Charter County and Regional Transportation System surtax to allow municipalities over 150,000 in population (or the largest municipality in a county) and all counties located in MPO areas to enact up to a one cent local option surtax by referendum.
 - Index local option fuel taxes to the consumer price index in a manner similar to the current indexing of state fuel taxes.
 - Identify potential revenue sources for the current motor fuels tax which is no longer able to fully support the current or future needs of the transportation system.
 - Charge alternatively fueled vehicles a fee equal to the fuel tax paid by gasoline or diesel fueled vehicles.
 - Ban legislative appropriations for individual transportation projects (commonly referred to as earmarks). As an alternative, create a competitive grant program that benefits local transportation projects.

Mr. Mikyska discussed the newly added fourth bullet under policy position #1, "Charge alternatively fueled vehicles a fee equal to the fuel tax paid by gasoline or diesel fueled vehicles." He explained that this proposed policy position relates to electric and other vehicles that do not pay a motor fuel tax and are using the roadway network for no cost,

subsidized by vehicles that operate on diesel and gasoline fuels. Mr. Mikyska stated that this is an attempt to put alternatively fueled vehicles on equal footing with vehicles that contribute to the highway trust fund both at the state and national levels. Mr. Mikyska added that the word “alternatively” was carefully chosen to capture all vehicles that do not contribute to the highway trust fund through a motor fuel tax.

Mr. Mikyska discussed the proposed fifth bullet under policy position #1 relating to a ban on transportation earmarks. He explained that this position is intended to remove the harmful fiscal impacts that these projects have on the FDOT and MPOs. He explained that it is important for the Legislature to understand the potential ramifications of earmarks. Mr. Mikyska stated that when an earmark is approved in law, the money going to the earmarked project is taken out of the FDOT District budget and creates two potential problems. Problem one is that the earmark still has to go to the Governor for approval, and that if the line item is vetoed the money for that earmark does not come back to the District and that all phases of the vetoed project cannot be advanced in the FDOT Work Program. Problem two is that commonly earmarks do not fully fund transportation projects and that requires additional money to be found elsewhere, often by deferring or eliminating other projects that are MPO priorities. There was no opposition to the addition of these proposed recommendations.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed policy position #2 which “Regulates distracted driving as a primary offense by prohibiting the use of handheld electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a moving motor vehicle.” He explained that this policy position relates to distracted driving, specifically texting while driving. He explained that this policy position came very close to passing in the last legislative session, but that there were two issues of concern that contributed to its failure. The first was that the proposed legislation only addressed texting while driving, and did not address other uses of a mobile device. He said that there was a concern that if a driver is pulled over, they would have to hand over their phone to the officer in order to prove their innocence thereby violating their Fourth Amendment rights. This concern prevented the legislation from moving forward in the Senate committee process. Mr. Mikyska said that there was also concern brought up by members of the legislature that the use of a mobile device is sometimes used for more than texting (i.e.: navigation). He explained the burden that could be placed on those drivers that do not have new model vehicles with built-in navigation technology. This policy position, as proposed, would alleviate that concern.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed 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”.

Mr. Mikyska explained that TRIP funding is used by MPO/TPOs to fund projects, and the funding fluctuates due to the funding source of documentary stamp tax. He said that revenue from that tax fluctuates from year to year because of real estate activity. Mr. Mikyska stated that the idea is to restore TRIP funding to the 2007 level of around \$150 million per year. The logic for selecting 2007 was that it represented a moderate historical funding level for the program, while remaining high enough to achieve significant benefit for the state.

A brief discussion ensued. Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota-Manatee TPO, recommended having the first sentence as the explanation statement, and not worry about the remaining explanatory language as the first statement contains sufficient explanation for the request. No opposition was expressed to the proposed recommendation and the policy position was modified accordingly. The membership also agreed that the 2017 TRIP funding level should be added to the graphic when the information became available.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed policy position #4: “Allows Strategic Intermodal Systems (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.”

A brief discussion ensued. Consensus of the Staff Directors was to remove the words “roads and other” from the sentence so that it is not viewed to be at the detriment of transit and that it does not favor one mode over another.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed 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).” Mr. Mikyska explained that this policy position would put transit and highway funding on a more equal footing by removing artificial barriers to spending state transportation funding on transit projects. He added that there are no changes to this position from the previous year.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed policy position #6: “Recognizes that federal metropolitan planning funds shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure.” Mr. Mikyska explained that this was a policy position from last year that is intended to prevent the state from limiting the allowed uses of federal transportation planning funds by MPOs, and that it is recommended again this year unchanged.

Mr. Mikyska reviewed proposed new policy position #7: “Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies (including autonomous vehicle and Hyperloop technologies) that make Florida the national leader in creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, while simultaneously protecting the health and welfare of

Florida’s citizens and visitors by making all forms of tampering with such technologies a punishable offense.”

Mr. Mikyska explained that the MPOAC Policy and Technical Committee recommended that this new policy position be added this year. He stated that this proposed policy position is supportive of policies that have been brought forward as pieces of legislation by the members of the legislature that are enthusiastic advocates of transportation innovations and that support the idea of the rapid changes happening in transportation (i.e. automated and electric vehicles). Mr. Mikyska noted that another intended purpose of this position is to advocate that Florida be the leader in the field of transportation technology and innovation. A discussion ensued and the Staff Directors agreed to modify the first sentence of the explanatory paragraph following the proposed policy position to read, “It is clear that transportation technologies will undergo, and have undergone, a revolutionary leap forward over the next past several years.”

Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota-Manatee MPO, moved to approve the adoption of the policy positions, as amended. Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Mikyska explained that at the February 01, 2018 MPOAC Governing Board Meeting direction was given to MPOAC staff to conduct a survey of the 27 MPOs and to determine which days of the month the MPOAC could meet without conflicting with individual MPO Board meeting dates, with the understanding that the day before an MPO Board meeting should also be avoided. Mr. Mikyska noted that the results of the survey were presented at the June 07, 2018 meetings of the MPOAC. He said that direction given at that time was to revisit the calendar and to remove from consideration any MPO whose representative had not attended the previous four MPOAC Governing Board meetings. Mr. Mikyska reviewed the results of the survey which was conducted by MPOAC staff and presented calendars for the next two years showing dates available for MPOAC meetings. He said that the objective was to set a standard meeting schedule, and have MPOAC staff set meeting dates at least two years in advance as this is helpful for MPOs that do not have a set methodology for setting their own meeting dates. Mr. Mikyska said that this will allow those MPOs to be able to see the future MPOAC meeting dates, and avoid them when setting their calendars for the coming year. He noted that MPOAC staff also considered the availability of legal counsel to attend and guide both the Staff Directors and Governing Board through the nuances of both federal and state laws affecting the business of the MPOAC, the member MPOs and the Florida DOT.

The member consensus, based on the information provided, was for MPOAC meetings to be held in calendar year 2019 on Wednesday, January 30, 2019; Tuesday, April 30, 2019; Tuesday, June 30, 2019; and Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

Phil Matson, Indian River MPO, moved to accept the 2019 meeting dates. Pat Steed, Heartland Regional TPO, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The member consensus was for MPOAC meetings to be held in calendar year 2020 on Thursday, January 30, 2020; Thursday, April 30, 2020; Thursday, July 30, 2020; and Thursday, October 20, 2020.

Phil Matson, Indian River MPO, moved to accept the 2020 meeting dates. Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The member consensus was to take no action on the 2021 meeting dates.

C. CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT

Mr. Mikyska and Mr. Reichert brought this forward as an information item, and noted that no action on this item is requested. Mr. Mikyska explained that at the MPOAC Leadership meeting which was held in Tallahassee on April 23 and 24, 2018, the topic of a Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) was discussed by FDOT and MPOAC leadership. The leadership expressed an interest in pursuing the CPG because it would offer an easing of administrative burdens on both the MPO and FDOT staff. Mr. Reichert stated that it is anticipated that the CPG would not increase the burden on (Federal Highway Administration FHWA), and would ease the administrative burden on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). He noted that there would be no financial impact to Florida's MPOs. He added that if Florida chooses to pursue the CPG, it would be effective with the next round of MPO UPWPs (State Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022).

Mr. Reichert stated that the prospect of implementing the CPG is planned to be discussed in detail at the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) meeting on December 11 and 12, 2018 in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. He said that the purpose of presenting this information at this meeting is to give some background information on the program to MPOs so that the implications of a CPG can be considered thoroughly by the membership before being discussed at the FMPP meeting later this year.

D. FUTURE MOBILITY RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

Mr. Mark Reichert stated that this item is brought forward for informational purposes and no action is requested. He introduced Stephen Lawe and Steven Gayle, RSG, and they presented

the results of the Future Mobility Research Synthesis Report. Mr. Lawe explained that the purpose of this research, funded by FDOT, focused on assembling in one document an overview of recent research on and practices around rapidly evolving transportation technology and trends. Mr. Gayle stated that this research will support State Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) staff, prevent duplicative research among the State's 27 MPOs, and provide valuable input as MPOs update their long-range transportation plans (LRTPs). This reflects the growing interest in both the technology and societal impacts of future mobility through Automated/ Connected/ Electrified/Shared (ACES) mobility options. MPOs preparing their next LRTPs, which will have a horizon year of 2045 or beyond, are concerned with how to address these issues and can look to this report for guidance in these areas.

E. FDOT CAV (CONNECTED AND AUTOMATED VEHICLE) STATUS REPORT

Raj Ponnaluri, FDOT, Traffic Engineering and Operations Office, gave a brief presentation about the Florida DOT Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) Initiative. Mr. Ponnaluri provided an overview the efforts that are currently underway around the State of Florida in these technology areas. He also discussed the opportunities, challenges and roles that can result in FDOT organizational alignment to expedite the deployment of CAV technology in a manner consistent with the FDOT Mission and Vision. Mr. Mikyska noted that the presentation will be available on the MPOAC website. Mr. Ponnaluri provided the website address to stay abreast of FDOT CAV efforts:

<http://www.fdot.gov/traffic/ITS/projectsdeploy/cv/connectedvehicles>

• COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were provided in agenda packets for informational purposes:

- Letters sent to tolling agencies requesting free tolls for Florida's Disabled Veterans
- MPOAC Resolution 2018-02 requesting free tolls for Florida's Disabled Veterans

• MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no member comments.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 pm. The next meeting of the MPOAC Staff Directors’ Advisory Committee will be held on November 01, 2018, at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. MPOAC has reserved a block of rooms for \$129 per night. The Rosen Plaza phone number is (800) 627-8258. A meeting notice will be sent out at least one month prior to the meeting date.