

**Florida MPO Advisory Council
Meeting of the Governing Board
October 29, 2020
Orlando, Florida
Meeting Minutes**

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

IN-PERSON (GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS – A TOTAL OF 9 MAKING AN IN-PERSON QUORUM):

Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, Chair
Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, Vice Chair
Vice Mayor Geoff McConnell, Bay County TPO
Commissioner Suzy Sofer, Forward Pinellas
Commissioner Terry Burroughs, Heartland Regional TPO
Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO
Councilmember Fred Forbes, Lee County MPO
Mayor Dick Rynearson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO

IN-PERSON (OTHERS):

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC
John Waldron, MPOAC
Jeff Kramer, CUTR
Mark Reichert, FDOT Central Office
Alison Stettner, FDOT Central Office
Kevin Thibault, FDOT Central Office
Brad Thoburn, FDOT Central Office
Libertad Acosta-Anderson, FDOT D5
Anna Taylor FDOT D5
Mary Beth Washnock, Bay County TPO
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA
Gary Harrell, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Tiffany Bates, Florida-Alabama TPO
Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas
Steven Diez, Hernando/Citrus MPO
Brian Freeman, Indian River County MPO
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
Rob Balmes, Ocala/Marion County MPO
Chandra Frederick, Polk TPO

Lois Bollenback, River to Sea TPO
Laura Carter, Space Coast TPO
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO

VIRTUAL (GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS – A TOTAL OF 10, DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A QUORUM):

Commissioner Sandy Johnson, Broward MPO
Commissioner Christopher Constance, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Commissioner William McDaniel, Collier MPO
Commissioner Robert Bender, Florida-Alabama TPO
Mr. Charles Klug, Hillsborough MPO
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, MetroPlan Orlando
Mayor Steven Grant, Palm Beach TPA
Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
Ms. Kathryn Hensley, St. Lucie TPO
Councilmember Billie Wheeler, River to Sea TPO

VIRTUAL (OTHERS):

Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Christen Miller, CUTR
Karen Brunelle, FHWA
Jamie Christian, FHWA
Cathy Kendall, FHWA
Scott Philips, FDOT Central Office
Huiwei Shen, FDOT, Central Office
Erika Thompson, FDOT Central Office
Wayne Gaither, FDOT D1
Christine Fasiska, FDOT D4
Kellie Smith, FDOT D5
Scott Koons, Gainesville MTPO
Pat Steed, Heartland Regional TPO
Mike Woods, Lake-Sumter MPO
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Virginia Whittington, MetroPlan Orlando
Aileen Bouclé, Miami-Dade TPO
Dawn Schwartz, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA
John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics

There were an additional 5 people attending virtually, one who was identified only by a first name and four who were only identified by a phone number

• **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Nick Maddox, Chair, Capital Region TPA, called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. All in attendance introduced themselves. Those attending online were then given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO, made a motion to allow members attending online to vote. A second was made by Commissioner Terry Burroughs, Heartland TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

• **PRESENTATION BY THE FLORIDA DOT SECRETARY KEVIN THIBAUT**

Mr. Kevin Thibault, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) addressed the membership.

Secretary Thibault began his comments by emphasizing that FDOT planning activities provides the foundation for programming and project delivery through innovative planning and effective outreach in an effort to strategically advance the best transportation solutions at the right time. The mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities. This mission is accomplished through a primary purpose to plan and develop (either directly or indirectly) Florida’s robust transportation system. The Department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida’s residents and visitors, but to also enhance mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid growth.

The four main areas of focus include:

- Improving safety
- Enhancing Mobility
- Inspiring Innovation
- Fostering Talent

Secretary Thibault continued his remarks by discussing the Multi-use Corridors Of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) program. He stated that the M-CORES program is intended to revitalize rural communities, encourage job creation and provide regional connectivity while leveraging technology, enhancing the quality of life and public safety, and protecting the environment and natural resources. The program was signed into law by Governor Ron

DeSantis on May 17, 2019. The intended benefits include, but are not limited to, addressing issues such as:

- Hurricane evacuation.
- Congestion mitigation.
- Trade and logistics.
- Broadband, water and sewer connectivity.
- Energy distribution.
- Autonomous, connected, shared and electric vehicle technology
- Other transportation modes, such as shared-use nonmotorized trails, freight and passenger rail, and public transit.

Secretary Thibault then provided a report on the current status of the M-CORES program. He informed the membership that the work of the three M-CORES Corridor Task Forces is now completed after 15 months of work and that their final reports will be submitted by Nov 15, 2020. The reports will guide FDOT in its subsequent study phases through the identification of high-level needs, guiding principles, and instructions for future action. FDOT assigned the task forces to study three specific corridors: The Suncoast Connector (extending the current Suncoast Parkway from Citrus County to Jefferson County), the Northern Turnpike Connector (extending Florida's Turnpike mainline from the current northern terminus northwest intersect with the Suncoast Parkway), and the Southwest-Central Florida Connector (which would start in Collier County and end in Polk County at the Polk Parkway).

Secretary Thibault discussed the current and future budget situation, explaining that approximately 80% of FDOT resources are based on gas tax collections which have been impacted by a reduction in vehicle miles travelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that while gas tax revenue is increasing in the state, is not back to pre-pandemic levels creating a softening of the FDOT budget in the short and medium term. Secretary Thibault described how the Department is controlling expenditures primarily through administrative efforts in the current fiscal year, but that \$760 million must be cut from the FDOT budget next fiscal year. He expected that budget impacts from the pandemic will shrink after that, but still amount to a total of \$1.4 billion over the life of the 5-Year Work Program. Efforts to address these budget issues are complicated by legislative set-asides (which never took into account a budget situation like the state is currently experiencing) where the Department is required to spend set amounts of money on various programs/projects due to state law, meaning budget cuts must be directed to areas not covered by set-aside legislative language. That said, the Governor has issued an Executive Order that takes into account the issue of legislative "must dos" – providing some leeway for FDOT to work around the legislative obligations if they are currently unobligated. All that said, he indicated that the funding picture is improving.

Secretary Thibault concluded his remarks by discussing the Departments approach to maintaining public involvement activities during the pandemic and the use of technology to create hybrid solutions that allow the public to participate both in-person and online.

Mayor Steven Grant, Palm Beach TPA, asked if there will be any changes to Florida Statue (sect. 344.044(26), F.S.) relating to enhanced landscaping requirements and working with nonprofits to help enhance Florida’s environment and to utilize any available space for storm water management. Secretary Thibault replied that there have not been any changes in regard to the enhanced landscaping.

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 30, 2020 MEETING

Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, moved to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2020 Governing Board meeting. Councilmember Fred Forbes, Lee County MPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

• PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

• EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT AGENCY REPORTS

A. UPWP REPORT

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, presented the UPWP Report showing expenditures and the budget through the end of the State Fiscal Year 2019/2020. Mr. Mikyska noted that expenditures were lower than anticipated, in part due to the lack of travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also discussed accomplishments and expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2020/2021 to date (July through November 2020), indicating that budget expenditures were on track. Summaries of the MPOAC budget were provided in the agenda package.

B. MPOAC STAFF DIRECTORS LEADERSHIP MEETING

Mr. Mikyska provided a report on the MPOAC Staff Leadership Meeting which was held on September 21 and 22, 2020. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Leadership Team is comprised of the MPOAC Staff Directors’ Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, Recent Past Chair, and two other MPO Staff Directors. The MPOAC Leadership Team meeting is held twice per year with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Central Office staff at the FDOT headquarters in Tallahassee, FL.

In general, the objective of these meetings is to discuss topics and issues that affect the metropolitan planning program in Florida, including optimizing communication and coordination of program goals. The meeting also allows MPOAC Leadership to gain access to Central Office staff, providing feedback, and identifying opportunities for efficiencies and innovation and to generally strengthen the partnership between MPOs and FDOT.

Topics discussed at the September 2020 meeting included Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) issues, transportation performance measurement, statewide revenue projections, Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) implementation issues, state managed lanes policies, Federal STBGP-Urban (SU) fund issues, and the 2020 Census.

Mr. Mikyska concluded his remarks by sharing a brief overview on the status of the MPOAC Institute and the newly created Online Orientation for Elected Officials. He directed people to the MPOAC website for more details: <http://institute.mpoac.org/>.

• AGENCY REPORTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Mark Reichert, Administrator for Metropolitan Planning, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began by introducing Mr. Brad Thorburn, the new FDOT Assistant Secretary for Strategic Planning. Mr. Thorburn previously held the position of Chief Planner with FDOT, as well as Planning Director for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA). Mr. Reichert then updated the members on the activities of the FDOT.

- Transportation Performance Measurement (TPM) - The safety targets for MPOs are due February 26, 2021. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a rule extending the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) compliance deadline to December 31, 2020. PTASP performance measurement targets would, therefore, not be due to the state until that time (or sooner). MPOs must submit their PTASP targets within 180 days of when their local transit agency submits their targets to the state. MPOs were encouraged to coordinate with their local transit agencies on this issue. FDOT did not adjust the statewide PM2 targets (bridge and pavement condition) and that MPOs, as a result, do not need to update their targets.
- Clarification was provided on the SUNTrail solicitation notice that FDOT sent to the MPOs a few weeks earlier. FDOT will not be accepting any new SUNTrail project proposals for the new fifth year during the next programming cycle (for FY 2026/2027), not the programming cycle currently underway.
- Automated Connected Electric and Shared (ACES) Guidance was forwarded to all MPOs last week by email.

- The Florida Public Transit Association (FPTA) held a session on MPO-Transit Agency planning coordination focusing on the FDOT report on this subject completed in 2019 by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).
- The next Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) meeting will tentatively be held during the week of January 11, 2021. It will be held virtually over the course of 3 separate days.
- The new MPO document portal will go live on Sunday, November 1, 2020. Only people who completed training and the associated survey will be able to use the new portal.
- Minor adjustments have been made to the joint planning process certification review for 2020 relating to risk assessment. FDOT will reach out to MPOs in December on this subject.
- A summary of the MPOAC Leadership meeting in September was provided.
- FDOT is currently quantifying the benefits of a proposed Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) process for MPOs in order to clarify to FDOT leadership why a CPG process would be a good idea for Florida.
- A draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) template is currently being reviewed by federal agencies and a survey for MPOs will be released soon to collect MPO perspectives on the template. This will streamline budget tables, provide task status updates and UPWP Amendments and modifications.
- There will be a reduction to the statewide federal planning grant (PL) allocation as a result of having to hold TX and CO at a 95% return on revenue generated from gas tax collections (all states are entitled under the federal FAST Act to receive at least 95% of the gas tax revenues collected from their state the previous year). This has resulted in a reduction of \$13 million of all federal funds coming to FL, including PL funds. FDOT intends to cover the PL funds shortfall by using the PL fund carried balances that a few MPOs have been carrying for years.
- The statewide planning process findings were discussed including that there were 12 recommendations (several involving MPOs), but no corrective actions.
- The draft final Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) Policy Plan was presented to the FTP Steering Committee last week and will be released for public comment in November. It is expected to be adopted as final in December. Work on the FTP Implementation Plan will begin next calendar year.
- 23 CFR 667 requires that states conduct a periodic evaluation of certain facilities to determine if there are reasonable alternatives to roads, highways and bridges that repeatedly require repair due to events that have a state declared "State of Emergency". FDOT took part in the first evaluation on November 23, 2018. The evaluation will include alternatives to the root cause, cost of achieving the solution, the duration of the solution and consideration of recurring damage cost and future repair. FDOT must conclude an evaluation for a repeatedly damaged non-NHS facility before any project relating to that building can be included in the TIP.

- FDOT will hold a public webinar on November 13, 2020 from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM. Topics of discussion will be to review the Draft FTP Policy Element, review of the Draft Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Invitations will be sent out next week.

Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, made a comment about the reduction of PL funding resulting from having to bring Texas and Colorado up to their minimum guaranteed allocation of federal funds.

B. FLORIDA DIVISION OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Cathy Kendall, Planning Team Leader, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), shared with the membership the following:

- Staff from FHWA and FTA are unable to travel due to travel limitations. Both agencies are under a travel ban due to COVID-19.
- Stacie Blizzard/Teresa Parker are now the FHWA staff contacts for FDOT District 1 MPOs and Jim Martin/Cathy Kendall are the contacts for District 3. Other district contacts are: District 2 - Teresa Parker; District 4 - Stacie Blizzard; District 5 - Jim Martin; and District 6 - Stacie Blizzard.
- A document entitled Tips for Social Media Outreach on TMA Certification Reviews was distributed in Feb. 2020 and was included in the agenda package.
- The Florida Federal Planning Finding Annual Assessment results were released in Sept. 2020 (included in the agenda packet). There were zero corrective actions for this past year. However, FHWA did make eight overall recommendations for improvements in Florida planning practices. They included recommendations for FDOT to address in the following areas:
 - Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and other non-PL funds tracking.
 - UPWP template development and UPWP amendment monetary threshold identification.
 - Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) documentation (descriptive materials and flexibilities in fiscal constraint).
 - FDOT MPO document review portal (clarify policy, prioritize portal improvements, provide training).
 - Transportation performance measurement (specifically related to the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and the Transit Asset Management (TAM) federal final rule requirements).
 - FDOT Stewardship and Oversight (specifically over MPO planning products and annual certification reviews).
 - Partner Communication (focusing on enhancing communication strategies with federal partners and MPOs).

- Consultation with MPO partners (focusing specifically on the cooperative planning process in metropolitan areas).

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director of Program Development, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), shared the following announcements and awards:

- Hillsborough County received \$25 Million for the I-75 Big Bend Road Mobility and Access Project.
- The City of Tampa also received \$24 Million for the Tampa Multimodal Network and Safety Improvements project, this will help complete work for 12 miles of continuous multimodal path separated from vehicle traffic with complete streets and traffic calming improvements.
- MetroPlan Orlando, FDOT, and the River to Sea, Space Coast, Polk, Hillsborough, and Sarasota/Manatee MPOs/TPOs received a State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive Program Award of \$100,000 for coordinated Transportation Systems Management and Operations planning activities in the I-4 corridor.
- FDOT received \$10 Million for I-4 Regional Advanced Mobility Element for the FRAME project under the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies deployment.
- Congress enacted a 1-year extension of the FAST-ACT (federal transportation program authorization legislation) and a continuing resolution through December 11, 2020 for federal transportation funding programs

Ms. Karen Brunelle, concluded by sharing the following updates on transportation performance management issues and updates:

Spring 2020:

- February 27, 2020: MPOs set 2019 Safety Targets
- April 24, 2020: FHWA determines FDOT progress for 2018 safety targets
 - FDOT did not meet target expectations, implementation plan is required
 - All Safety Target position determinations can be found at https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/spm/state_safety_targets/

Summer 2020:

- July 31, 2020: FHWA determined the TAMP measures to be consistent
- August 31, 2020: FDOT set Safety Targets to “0”
- August 31, 2020: FDOT submitted Safety (PM1) Implementation Plan (Currently under review by FHWA)

Recent Updates/Activities:

- Oct 1, 2020: FDOT submitted Mid Performance Period Progress Report (MPPR)

- Currently under review by FHWA
- Applies to Systems Performance, Bridge, and Pavement Targets (PM2 and PM3)
- Non-Interstate NHS system reliability baseline is reported
- FDOT option to adjust the FDOT 4-year targets are reported
 - FDOT to coordinate target adjustment decisions with MPOs
 - FDOT is not adjusting their targets. No further action by MPOs

Upcoming Activities:

- November 02, 2020: Mid Performance Period Progress Report Finalized
- November 23, 2020: 23 CFR 667 Evaluation of Facilities
 - 11/23/2018: 23 CFR 667:
 - Evaluation for All NHS Routes
 - Update After Every Emergency Event
 - Concluded Findings for 2018: 1 Route in District 6, Monroe County, needed repair due to Hurricane Wilma and Erma, after 2 or more occurrences
 - 11/23/2020: 23 CFR 667:
 - Evaluation for All Routes not previously included in 2018
 - FHWA will periodically review FDOT’s compliance
 - FDOT must make evaluations available to FHWA upon request
- February 27, 2021: MPOs set 2021 Safety Targets

New TPM Guidance

- FAQs with Pavement Data Collection and reporting can be found at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/faq.cfm/>
- TPM Essential and Guidance videos can be found at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/videos/>

New TPM training opportunities

- NHI 138021 – Data for TPM
- NHI 138022 – Making the Connection between HPMS Data Items and TPM
- NHI 138023 – Communicating and Reporting on TPM
- NHI 138024 – Monitoring and Adjustment for TPM
- NHI 138025 – Investment Decision Making and TPM
- Courses can be found at: <https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/> (All training opportunities are free)

● BUSINESS ITEMS & PRESENTATIONS

A. APPROVAL OF THE MPOAC UPWP FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 & 2022

Mr. Mikyska described the contents of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), noting that a draft of the UPWP had been presented at the January meetings of the MPOAC and again at the September meeting of the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee where it was recommended for approval. He also discussed how the MPOAC budget for the current fiscal year had been adopted by FDOT as part of the State Planning and Research (SPR) program. The reason he was asking that the UPWP be adopted by the MPOAC was to provide an additional avenue for federal approval of funds to operate MPOAC if the SPR would later be determined ineligible and to give the Board (and the Staff Directors) the opportunity to make amendments to the document during the life of the UPWP. With that, he asked the MPOAC Governing Board to adopt the UPWP as final.

A motion to approve the FY 2020/2021 & 2021/2022 UPWP was made by Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, and a second was made by Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO MPOAC BYLAWS

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, led a discussion of proposed MPOAC bylaw amendments and provided background for the suggested amendments. The major suggested changes focused on providing a mechanism for decision-making during unexpected interruptions such as, but not limited to, the current pandemic. The remaining suggested changes were a combination of cleanup and clarification to existing Bylaws clauses. Mr. Mikyska then described suggested edits made by the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee at their September 16, 2020 meeting in Orlando, noting that those suggestions were incorporated into the amendments under consideration. Peter Buchwald, Staff Director, St. Lucie TPO, affirmed that the Staff Directors had approved the amendments to the bylaws with conditions (primarily that any actions taken during unexpected interruptions would be retroactively approved by the MPOAC Governing Board). Mr. Mikyska concluded his remarks by requesting that the MPOAC Governing Board approve the suggested amendments to the MPOAC Bylaws, as recommended by the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee.

A motion to approve amendments to the MPOAC Bylaws with the addition of recommendations from Staff Directors was made by Councilmember Fred Forbes, Lee County MPO. A second was made by Commissioner Suzy Sofer, Forward Pinellas. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, led a discussion on the proposed MPOAC Legislative Policy Positions for the 2021 Florida legislative session. Mr. Mikyska pulled up

the proposed 2021 Legislative Policy Positions in a Word document so as to both discuss and amend them, one proposed policy position at a time. He noted that the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee had workshopped the positions at their September 16, 2020 meeting and that the positions had been revised based on the discussion held at that meeting and then reaffirmed at their meeting held immediately before today's Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Mikyska then presented each of the revised policy positions to the membership:

- The first policy position considered for approval seeks to expand transportation revenue sources and stabilize funding levels. Mr. Mikyska noted that staff and the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended that policy position 2 (TRIP Funding) from the 2019 positions be deleted and instead be rolled into the text of Policy Position 1, as presented to the Board at this meeting and included in agenda package. Discussion ensued on whether the position should remain the number 1 policy position of the MPOAC.

A motion to approve the policy position (incorporating old Policy Position 2) and make it the number 1 policy position of the MPOAC was made by Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. A second was made Councilmember Fred Forbes, Lee County MPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

- The second policy position considered for approval seeks to regulate distracted driving by prohibiting the handheld use of electronic wireless communication devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a motor vehicle on any roadway. This had been a 2019 policy position and the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended that it be made the second MPOAC policy position.

A motion to approve the policy position and make it the number 2 policy position of the MPOAC was made by Councilmember Geoff McConnell, Bay County TPO. A second was made by Commissioner Suzy Sofer, Forward Pinellas. The motion was approved unanimously.

- The third policy position considered for approval seeks to add provisions to Florida's Sunshine Law to allow all government entities to hold virtual meetings during a declared emergency plus a period of 90 days past the declared emergency dates. This is a new policy position and the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended that it be made the third MPOAC policy position.

A motion to approve the policy position and make it the number 3 policy position of the MPOAC was made by Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. A second

was made Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

- The fourth policy position seeks to allow Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) program funds to be used on roads, transit, and other transportation facilities designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS. Staff recommended approval with a minor revision to the 2019 policy position language (as recommended by the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee) which removed the statement "... and are part of the federal TPM system" (a reference to facilities covered by the federal transportation performance measurement process) as a way to make the funds more flexible should this policy recommendation be enacted. The MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended that it be made the fourth MPOAC policy position.

A motion to approve the policy position and make it the number 4 policy position of the MPOAC was made by Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, MetroPlan Orlando. A second was made Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

- The fifth policy position seeks to establish 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). The MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended that the position also include language provided by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) suggesting changes in state law that would ease the impact of the pandemic on the provision of transit services in Florida by providing temporary flexibility in certain transit grant programs.

A motion to approve the policy position and make it the number 5 policy position of the MPOAC was made Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO. A second was made by Councilmember Geoff McConnell, Bay County TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

- The sixth policy position seeks to amend state law to recognize that federal metropolitan transportation planning funds shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure. This was recommended for approval by staff and the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee without change.

A motion to approve the policy position and make it the number 6 policy position of the MPOAC was made Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. A second was made by Mayor Dick Ryneerson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

- The seventh policy position supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies that promote creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, while simultaneously protecting citizens from malicious tampering with such technologies by making tampering a punishable offense. This was recommended for approval by staff and the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee without change.

A motion to approve the policy position and make it the number 7 policy position of the MPOAC was made by Mayor Dick Ryneerson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO. A second was made by Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE 2021 MPOAC MEETING DATES

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, led a discussion to define a methodology for setting future MPOAC meetings. Typically, the MPOAC has held quarterly meetings of the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee and the MPOAC Governing Board during the months of January, April, July, and October. For quite some time the MPOAC met on the third Thursday of each of those months. This approach was changed a few years ago and the MPOAC experimented with alternate dates and locations and found that attempting to hold a meeting on the fifth Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of the month in Orlando worked best for MPOAC members. This largely avoided MPO meetings as well as Municipal or County meetings. However, Mr. Mikyska noted that the fifth weekday of the month in January and October 2021 were Fridays and that similar problems existed in 2022.

For the purpose of simplifying and standardize setting MPOAC meeting dates in the future, MPOAC staff were asked to propose a meeting date methodology that can be used year after year. At their September 16, 2020 meeting, the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended approving the following methodology for setting MPOAC meetings in 2021 and beyond:

In order of priority –

1. Hold the meeting on the 5th Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in the months of January, April, July and October.
2. If there was no 5th Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday available in the months of January, April, July or October, then MPOAC would move to the 4th Thursday of January, April, July and October.

Based on the recommended meeting date methodology, the staff and MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee recommended that MPOAC meetings be held in calendar

year 2021 on January 28, April 29, July 29, and October 28. Additionally, it was recommended that all MPOAC meetings be held in Orlando in order to facilitate convenient statewide travel and to allow MPOAC staff to negotiate favorable long- term meeting facility contracts.

A motion to approve holding meetings in Orlando, FL on the 5th Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of January, April, July and October, if possible, or otherwise set meetings on the 4th Thursday of January, April, July and October was made by Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. A second was made Mayor Dick Rynearson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

• MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Kathy Meehan informed the membership that this would be her last MPOAC Governing Board meeting and that she had enjoyed her participation with the group over several years. Commissioner Nick Maddox, Chair, thanked her for her commitment and wished her well in her future endeavors.

• ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board will be January 28, 2021. A meeting notice will be sent out at least one month prior to the meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.