

**Florida MPO Advisory Council
Meeting of the Governing Board
January 28, 2021
Orlando, Florida
Meeting Minutes**

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

IN-PERSON (GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS – A TOTAL OF 12 WITH 9 MAKING AN IN-PERSON QUORUM):

Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, Chair
Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bill Dozier, Bay County TPO
Commissioner Harvey Ward, Gainesville MTPO
Mr. Charles Klug, Hillsborough MPO
Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO
Commissioner Craig Corry, Marion County MPO
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando
Mayor Richard Rynearson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Councilmember Stephanie Morgan, Saint Lucie TPO
Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Councilmember Andrea Young, Space Coast TPO

IN-PERSON (OTHERS):

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC
John Waldron, MPOAC
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF
Alison Stettner, Florida Department of Transportation
Mark Reichert, Florida Department of Transportation
Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO
Brian Freeman, Indian River County MPO
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA
Tania Gorman, Pasco County MPO
Peter Buchwald, Saint Lucie TPO
Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota-Manatee MPO
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
Brittany Ellers, Emerald Coast Regional Council
Mary Jo Gustave, Emerald Coast Regional Council

VIRTUAL (GOVERNING BOARD – A TOTAL OF 5, DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A QUORUM):

Commissioner Sandy Johnson, Broward MPO
Commission Karen Seel, Forward Pinellas
Councilmember Fred Forbes, Lee County MPO
Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
Commissioner Billie Wheeler, River to Sea TPO

VIRTUAL (OTHERS):

Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration
Jamie Christian, Federal Highway Administration
Cathy Kendall, Federal Highway Administration
Christine Fasiska, Florida Department of Transportation
Jennifer Fortunas, Florida Department of Transportation
Wayne Gaither, Florida Department of Transportation
Cynthia Lorenzo, Florida Department of Transportation
Victoria Peters, Florida Department of Transportation
Scott Phillips, Florida Department of Transportation
Dana Reiding, Florida Department of Transportation
Huiwei Shen, Florida Department of Transportation
Erika Thompson, Florida Department of Transportation
Mary Beth Washnock, Bay County TPO
Paul Calvaresi, Broward MPO
Anne McLaughlin, Collier MPO
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas
Scott Koons, Gainesville MTPO
Marybeth Soderstom, Heartland Regional TPO
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Don Scott, Lee MPO
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
Virginia Whittington, MetroPlan Orlando
Lisa Colmenares, Miami-Dade TPO
Rob Balmes, Ocala/Marion County MPO
Steven Bostel, Space Coast TPO
Laura Carter, Space Coast TPO
Bill Keyrouze, AMPO
Caitlin Cook, AMPO
Casey Grigsby, Florida Ports Council
Sheri Coven, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Juan Flores, Jacobs Engineering

There were an additional 5 people attending virtually who were unlabeled or identified only by a phone number.

CALL TO ORDER

Nick Maddox, Chair, Capital Regional TPA, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and a quorum was determined. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. All in attendance introduced themselves. Those attending online were then given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, made a motion to allow members attending online to participate in the meeting due to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19. A second was made by Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the Agenda as is for the Governing Board Meeting was made by Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando. Commissioner Bill Dozier, Bay County TPO, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 29, 2020 MEETING

Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, moved to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2020 MPOAC Governing Board meeting. Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee 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 showing expenditures and budget for the first and second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2020/2021. MPOAC is currently operating under budget. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and National Association of Regional Council (NARC) memberships are in the process of being paid during the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Mikyska presented a legislative update of bills that MPOAC and the transportation community are tracking through the 2021 Florida Legislative Session. Mr. Mikyska mentioned that he had started producing the MPOAC Weekly Legislative Newsletter for this legislative session and asked the membership to let him know if they would like to see another bill added to the newsletter or would like more information. He also pointed out that we are only in the 2nd week of 5 pre-weeks for early session, making it difficult to determine if companion bills will be submitted for bills already filed in the House or Senate. Mr. Mikyska also pointed out that revenue estimates indicate that we should expect a cut in the overall state budget this year of between \$2 and \$3 billion.

Bills currently being followed:

- **SB 62 – Regional Planning Council (Bradley)** - Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc. RPCs would be able to host MPOs under the bill as currently written.
- **HB 57 – Transportation (Andrade)** - Revises provisions relating to motor vehicle sales tax, competitive solicitations, vehicles displaying flashing lights, annual cap on project contracts, airport restrictions, arbitration of contracts by & membership of State Arbitration Board, borrow pit operation, and performance standards for certain extraction locations.
- **HB 91 – Use of Wireless Communication Devices (Slosberg)** - Revises short title & legislative intent; prohibits operation of motor vehicle while holding or touching wireless communications device; provides exceptions; revises information that may be admissible as evidence in proceeding to determine whether violation has been committed; revises procedures for collection & reporting by DHSMV of information recorded on citation; conforms provisions relating to use of wireless communications devices in school & work zones.
- **SB 138 – Electric Vehicles (Companion Bill Senate Bill 140) (Brandes)** - Revising the Department of Transportation's goals relating to mobility; requiring the department to establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program; providing for the distribution of grants to certain entities to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure; specifying that certain rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may not require specific methods of sale for electric vehicle charging equipment used in, and services provided in, this state, etc.

- **HB 205 – Requirements for establishing or increasing toll** - Requires increase of current toll or development of new toll collection facility in county with certain population to be approved by board of county commissioners. After July 01, 2022 a toll increase or new toll in a county of over 1 million population will require a two-thirds vote of board of county commissioners at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- **HB 229 – Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students (Salzman)** - Comparable Bill SB 178 by Cruz. Requires DOT to develop & adopt standards & criteria to identify hazardous walking conditions; Revises provisions relating to the transportation of students subjected to hazardous walking conditions & funding for such students.
- **SB 278 – Traffic Offenses (Vulnerable Road User Act) (Baxley)** - Creating the “Vulnerable Road User Act”; providing criminal penalties for a person who commits a moving violation that causes serious bodily injury to, or causes the death of, a vulnerable road user; requiring that the person who commits the moving violation pay a specified fine, serve a minimum period of house arrest, and attend a driver improvement course; requiring that the court revoke the person’s driver license for a minimum specified period, etc.
- **SB 566- Motor Vehicle Rentals (Perry)** - Similar to HB365 by Caruso and SB708 by Brandes - Specifying the applicable sales tax rate on motor vehicle leases and rentals by motor vehicle rental companies and peer-to-peer car-sharing programs; specifying the applicable rental car surcharge on motor vehicle leases and rentals by motor vehicle rental companies and peer-to-peer car-sharing programs; specifying insurance requirements for shared vehicle owners and shared vehicle drivers under peer-to-peer car-sharing programs; providing an exemption from vicarious liability for peer-to-peer car-sharing programs and shared vehicle owners, etc.
- **HB 6009 – Traffic Infraction Detectors (Red Light Cameras) (Sabatini)** - Repeals provisions relating to Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Program & authorization to use traffic infraction detectors; repeals provisions relating to distribution of penalties, transitional implementation, & placement & installation; conforms cross-references & provisions to changes made by act.

Mr. Mikyska addressed the Governing Board, per request from the Staff Directors, about Senate Bill 62, Regional Planning Council (RPCs), introduced by Senator Bradley. The MPOAC Staff Directors had a lengthy discussion on this bill, concluding that the bill would create significant changes in the state that would impact MPOs in general and directly affect three of the five Florida Regional Planning Councils that host an MPO. The Staff Directors recommended that the MPOAC Governing Board oppose SB 62 and inform by letter the bill sponsor, the members of the committees of jurisdiction, and legislative leadership.

Carl Mikyska opened the floor to feedback and questions. Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, stated that SB 62 had been a topic of conversation in Palm Beach County

and that he felt the role of the RPCs was very important, including to MPOs, and that he would support a motion to oppose Senate Bill 62.

Commissioner Bill Dozier, Bay County TPO, asked if Carl Mikyska knew what prompted the introduction of SB 62. Carl Mikyska responded by stating that he had been informed that the bill was a Senate leadership priority and that the rationale was rooted in the fact that state funding for RPCs had been eliminated several years ago along with the RPC responsibility for reviewing Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) and that the need to formally recognize RPCs in state statute no longer existed, particularly since RPCs could still exist under an interlocal agreement. He stated that the bill would also remove the requirement for a county to be a member of an RPC. Mr. Mikyska concluded by adding that approval of the bill could complicate the ability of RPCs to be recognized as a government entity, interfering with their ability to receive federal economic development grants.

Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region, TPA, asked which RPCs host MPOs and could be impacted by passage of SB 62. Mr. Mikyska responded by listing the five MPOs in the state that are hosted by RPCs: Florida/Alabama TPO, Okaloosa/Walton TPO, Bay County TPO, Gainesville MTPO, and Heartland Regional TPO. He added that the Gainesville MTPO and Heartland TPO would not be directly impacted as they are formed by interlocal agreement and that they would be able to continue operations under that arrangement. The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) would, however, be more directly impacted.

A motion to accept the Staff Directors recommendation to oppose Senate Bill 62 Regional Planning Councils and other efforts to dispose of Regional Planning Councils and to inform by letter the bill sponsor, the members of the committees of jurisdiction, and legislative leadership of such opposition was made by Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA. A second was made by Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando, asked a question about SB 566 pertaining to sales tax rates on motor vehicle leases and rentals by motor vehicle rental companies and peer-to-peer car-sharing programs (Senator Perry). She wondered who was supporting the peer-to-peer services in their opposition to being taxed in a manner similar to motor vehicle rental companies. Mr. Mikyska responded that it was his understanding that opposition to a tax on shared-sharing program was that the service is nothing more than a platform for peer-to-peer rentals and that, therefore, should not be responsible for paying state taxes in a manner similar to rental car companies. Instead, they argue that responsibility should lie with the individuals who are using the platform.

AGENCY REPORTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Alison Stettner, Director of the Office of Policy Planning, and Mark Reichert, Administrator for Metropolitan Planning, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), updated the members on FDOT activities and brought forward information of importance to the membership.

- Transportation Performance Measures Safety Targets are due from MPOs to FDOT on February 27, 2021, which is a Saturday, thus Safety Targets must be submitted no later than Friday, February 26, 2021.
- Transit Safety Measure Target deadlines have been changed. FTA has extended the deadline date for transit agencies to adopt their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) to July 20, 2021. Once the PTASP has been adopted (which includes the transit agencies safety performance targets), it will start the 180-day clock for MPO target adoption.
- FDOT did not change their PM2 and PM3 (bridge pavement and system performance) performance measurement targets, which are updated every 4 years.
- Macroeconomic Analysis Report – Florida receives \$4 of economic benefits for every \$1 invested in the Departments Work Program. There is a two-page document summarizing the report and this has been provided to the Staff Directors via email.
- Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) will be hosted virtually, February 2, 4, and 5, 2021. FDOT, FWHA and the MPO's will be hosting the event and leading the topic discussions. Secretary Thibault will kick off the FMPP meeting and will host a Q&A session with participants.
- The Office of Policy Planning (OPP) created an online MPO Document Portal. MPOs are asked to please use the portal to upload required documents for review (UPWP, TIP, LRTP, and any amendments to those documents). FHWA and FTA are not using the portal currently, however OPP is having discussions with them to adjust the portal for federal use.
- The MPOAC leadership meeting will be hosted in April at FDOT Central Office in the Burns Building Auditorium. Please submit any ideas for the agenda.
- Consolidated Planning Grant Update (CPG) – OPP has received formal approval from FDOT and is currently working with the FDOT Office of Work Program on the details to implement the CPG.
- FTA 5305(d) transit planning funds match update – FDOT has pulled funding from all programming areas due to budget shortfalls related to COVID-19. The decision was made to no longer provide state funds for a 10% cash match to the 5303(d) funds. Instead, a soft match will now be provided using toll development credits for the full

20% non-federal match (in a manner consistent with the soft match provided for federal planning (PL) funds). If an MPO cannot mitigate the loss of state cash funds, please note your need for additional STBGP funds by reaching out to your FDOT District planning liaison and the Office of Policy Planning.

- Revenue Estimates – The FAST Act (federal transportation authorization) was extended to September 30, 2021. Florida did receive \$1.8 billion in obligation authority from the extension and received an additional \$470 million from the COVID Relief Act.
- Fuel Tax Revenues are still moving downward, however tag fees and documentary stamp tax revenue have offset the fuel tax revenue loss for a positive gain of \$260 million. Future estimates are currently down by \$1 billion, according to the FDOT Office of Work Program and the December Revenue Estimating Conference.
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Download files – a snapshot was taken on January 21, 2021 and that information has been made available to the MPOs. The file that was downloaded is not correct. A new file will be distributed and when the TIP file is ready, the files will have to be downloaded from Work Program into the distribution system. FDOT encouraged the MPOs to please wait, if possible, until the March download files are available to ensure receiving the correct data.
- FDOT Legislative priorities - No update was provided, but they are expected to be available soon.
- Comments from Transportation Research Board (TRB) Meeting – Florida was identified for its best practices at forming a partnership between MPOAC and FDOT for the development of the Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Consensus Document, production of the TPM Fact Sheets, and having a well-developed set of guidance and templates for MPO's to use in the implementation of the federal performance-based planning and programming requirements.
- Annual Planning Awards – 2020 Excellence in Transportation Planning Awards nominations can be made for the following categories: Planning Professional of the Year, Planning Innovation of the Year and Planning Organization of the Year. Please submit nominees by Friday, March 19, 2021. Awards will be presented during TransPlex later this year.

B. FLORIDA DIVISION OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Cathy Kendall, Planning Team Leader, and Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director of Program Development, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA, shared the following with the membership:

- General Announcements
 - FHWA is still on a travel ban, they are currently in stage 1 of 3 of the response to the COVID pandemic for resuming normal operations.

- The Alternative Fuel Corridor program is in Round 5 and FHWA has posted a request for nominations that is due February 24th, 2021. There is an Alternative Fuels Data Center that provides information for preparing nominations. Links can be found in the packet.
- The Highway Information Seminar is planned for the mornings of September 20th-24th, 2021. It will be hosted through an interactive virtual workshop. Topics to be discussed will be related to submitting data to FHWA for areas such as: HPMS, Traffic and Modeling, and Highway Tax Evasion.
- FHWA has hired a new Planner; Carlos Gonzalez, from the FHWA New York Division. Mr. Gonzalez is the new point of contact for the MPOs in Districts 1 and 3.
- FHWA conducted a Planning Accountability Review Report and will be issuing it soon; it will be the first report in a series that focuses on non-TMA LRTP fiscal constraint.
- Award Announcement – The Advanced Transportation Congestion Management Technology Deployment Grant Awards selected the Pinellas County Department of Public Works for a \$4.6 Million award. The project is the Pinellas Connected Community Project.
- Transportation Performance Measures Updates
 - In October 2020, FHWA determined the FL Interstate Pavement Condition measure to be in compliance.
 - In October 2020, FHWA accepted the PM1 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Implementation Plan submitted by FDOT.
 - On November 16, 2020, FHWA accepted (as complete) the FDOT Mid Performance Period Progress Report (MPPR).
 - On January 12, 2021, FHWA determined that the FDOT had made significant progress in meeting the PM2/PM3 targets based on the Mid Performance Period Progress Reports (MPPR) submitted by FDOT.
- 23 CFR 667 Evaluation of Facilities
 - FDOT will be including a statement in each Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendment request for approval which will address this requirement.
 - FDOT is working on adding a radio button in the Online STIP Amendment Tool which will be the final fix for this requirement.
- FHWA Florida Division updated the PM3 Performance Measures tracking for each MPO based on the FDOT Mid Performance Report. MPOs are asked to contact their FHWA planner for additional information, if desired.
- By February 27, 2021, MPOs are required to set their 2021 Safety Targets (PM1).
- When updating the transportation improvement program (TIP), MPOs were requested to remember to address the HSIP Safety Target Implementation Plan in the document.

BUSINESS ITEMS & PRESENTATIONS

A. APPROVAL OF MPOAC LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022

Carl Mikyska presented the proposed Legal Services Agreement to the membership. Paul Gougelman serves as the legal counsel to MPOAC and his one-year contract is renewed annually. The contract, if approved by the MPOAC Governing Board, would be effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Gougelman provided a contract which is the same to the current year contract. Mr. Mikyska expressed his support and desire to retain Mr. Gougelman as legal counsel, pointing out that Mr. Gougelman has served as general counsel for the MPOAC since its inception.

Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, moved to approve the contract for legal services provided by Mr. Paul Gougelman for the coming state fiscal year (FY 2021/2022). Councilmember Stephanie Morgan, Saint Lucie TPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. RESOLUTION REQUESTING MPOAC MEMBERSHIP ON THE FLORIDA TRAFFIC RECORDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Carl Mikyska presented this item. He shared that Florida's 27 MPOs work to address the requirements of the federal Transportation Performance Management (TPM) requirements and specifically the safety related measures. The need for good data to inform transportation planning decisions is vital to the success of the individual MPOs and the Florida DOT. Participation in the Florida Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) will create a key partnership for Florida's MPOs and enhance the ability of MPOs to ensure fulfillment of their data needs. The resolution presented by Mr. Mikyska requests that Florida MPOAC be added as a member of the Technical Committee for the TRCC and a non-voting, advisory member to the Executive Committee of the TRCC. Mr. Mikyska went on to explain that the TRCC uses data to support roadway safety decisions and places emphasis on safety programs which save lives and prevent injuries. The TRCC provides a statewide forum to facilitate the planning, coordination, and implementation of projects to improve the State's traffic records system. The TRCC represents the interests of the agencies and organizations within the traffic records system to outside organizations. The TRCC also reviews and evaluates new technologies to keep the highway safety data and traffic records systems up-to-date.

Mr. Mikyska explained that the TRCC is governed by an Executive Board with representatives from transportation, law enforcement, criminal justice, and the health professions. The Technical Committee meets on a quarterly basis to handle the day-to-day issues related to Florida's Traffic Records System.

Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO, moved to approve MPOAC Resolution No. 2021-01 pertaining to membership on the Florida Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC). Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, then moved to elevate agenda item 6E ahead of 6C in order address the remaining action item. Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The MPOAC bylaws require that the MPOAC Governing Board conduct an election of officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and at large member of the MPOAC Executive Committee) at the first meeting of each calendar year. All three elected positions serve a term of one year. MPOAC will be seeking nominations of members to serve in each of these roles for 2021. The MPOAC Staff Directors' Committee Chair and Vice-Chair serve on the MPOAC Executive Committee along the three members of the MPOAC Governing Board.

Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, nominated Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, to serve as Chair. Commissioner Maddox accepted the nomination. Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River TPO made a motion to close nominations. Councilmember Stephanie Morgan, Saint Lucie TPO, seconded and the motion was carried by unanimous acclimation.

Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee County MPO, nominated Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, to serve as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Weinroth accepted the nomination. Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River MPO, made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, seconded and the motion was carried by unanimous acclimation.

Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River MPO, nominated Commissioner Vanessa Baugh to serve as the At-Large MPOAC Executive Committee member. Commissioner Baugh accepted the nomination. Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River TPO, made a motion to close the nominations. Councilmember Stephanie Morgan, Saint Lucie TPO, seconded and the motion was carried by unanimous acclimation.

D. PRESENTATION BY ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS TEAM

Carl Mikyska introduced this item by pointing out that all twenty-seven Florida MPOs are members of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). Mr. Mikyska

then introduced the AMPO Executive. Director, Bill Keyrouze, and the Technical Programs Director, Caitlin Cook, mentioning that they both were relatively new to their positions (under one year). Mr. Keyrouze and Ms. Cook began their comments by outlining the services AMPO provides for their members. They explained that AMPO has 9 total working groups for this year and they are looking for MPO involvement. If anyone would like to participate, they may sign up on the AMPO website. Quarterly webinars and coffee chats will be hosted online, recorded, and can be listened to at any time. AMPO also recently launched “My AMPO,” a centralized online portal to submit any questions and receive answers for working group you may participate in as a member.

Some upcoming AMPO events were detailed, including:

- The 2021 Planning Tools and Training Symposium planned for May 17th- 20th, 2021 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Mr. Keyrouze shared that AMPO is currently under negotiations with the hotel and this event could be postponed until May 2022.
- The 2021 AMPO Annual Conference is planned to be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, October 4th-10th, 2021.

AMPO staff shared some USDOT updates with the membership:

- President Biden has nominated Former Mayor of South Bend Indiana Pete Buttigieg to be the Secretary of Transportation. On January 27, 2021, his nomination was advanced by the Senate Transportation Committee.
- For policy priorities, the lens through which grants will be reviewed will include:
 - Safety
 - Reducing the impacts of climate change
 - Reducing GHG
 - Expanding electrification infrastructure
 - Higher investments in transit and passenger rail

Next AMPO staff updated the membership on details of the 117th Congress:

- The Senate is still trying to organize under a 50/50 split of Democrats and Republicans.
 - Republicans want a commitment to protect the minority rights to filibuster.
 - Committees are still in Republican Majority until an operating resolution is passed.
- The House has passed rules for conducting business, members have been assigned to committees and are preparing to organize.
- President Biden has proposed a \$1.9 billion emergency relief package. Details are:
 - It includes vaccination programs, financial relief to families and small businesses, extending unemployment benefits, rental assistance, reopening schools, and raising the minimum wage among many other ideas.

- The package includes \$350 billion to state and local governments to keep front line public workers on the job and paid as well as maintaining other vital services.
- There is also \$20 billion for public transportation.

AMPO staff concluded their prepared remarks by providing a status report on federal surface transportation authorization and related legislation:

- The FAST Act was extended until September 30, 2021.
- Congress passed the 2021 appropriations act which included pandemic relief, details are:
 - \$1 billion in BUILD Grants.
 - Adhered to FAST Act spending - \$46 Billion for Highways and \$10.8 Billion in transit formula funds.
 - Capital Investment Grant (CIG) - \$2 Billion in funding.
 - Additional highway general funds of \$2 Billion.
 - \$1 Billion in funding for bridge programs.
 - \$352 Million in suballocated funds distributed by population.
 - Extra transit general funds in the amount of \$516 Million.
 - \$10 Billion for State DOT Coronavirus relief which are eligible to be spent at 100% federal funding.
- The AMPO Policy Committee will revise and update their recommendations for federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation.
 - AMPO Policy/Tech Committees created joint working groups to address broadband and electrification as part of reauthorization.
 - AMPO is preparing a set of state-by-state legislative briefs to distribute to all 535 congressional offices and is willing to testify at Congressional Hearings.
 - Chairman DeFazio will be submitting a bill like the INVEST ACT and hopes to have it approved by August 2021.

AMPO staff then informed the membership that they would be happy to answer any additional questions the group may have and that they can be contacted at their email addresses (Bill Keyrouze, bkeyrouze@ampo.org and Caitlin Cook, ccook@ampo.org).

E. FLORIDA DOT ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE MASTERPLAN

Ms. Jennifer Fortunas, Forecasting and Trends Office, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), shared the efforts of the department in creating a master plan for the development of a network of facilities to serve electric vehicles. Florida Statute, section 339.287, requires FDOT to coordinate, develop, and recommend a Master Plan for the development of electric vehicle charging station infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS).

The goals of the master plan are to support both short-range and long-range electric vehicle travel. Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) and Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) have a range of 40 - 300 miles, depending on the make and model of the vehicle. Some barriers involved with moving toward this production include electric vehicle parity with internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, range anxiety for longer trips, and a lack of a variety of vehicle models available on the market. For example, current registered vehicles in Florida show that approximately 50% are trucks and SUVs. The electric vehicle market seems focused on four door sedans and hatchbacks. The last barrier for adoption is the lack of dealership knowledge and a willingness to make these vehicles available for purchase at Florida dealerships. Other barriers are on the charging side of the equation which include charging speed at home and on the road, the perception that gas is cheap, and the lack of charging sites/stations.

The state would like to encourage the expansion of electric vehicles. The FDOT Forecasting and Trends Office ran an analysis for EV market adoption projections by 2040 and potential revenue loss due to rising EV adoption. They are currently predicting it will be between a 5% - 35% rise in the use of EVs and that on the conservative side the state could potentially lose 8.4% in fuel tax transportation revenues or on an aggressive growth scenario, the state could lose as much as 30% in revenues. The analysis does not include other revenue streams which are assumed to remain unchanged and/or align with revenue estimating conference projections. The status report was submitted to the Governor's Office, President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House on December 1, 2020. It has been made available at <https://www.fdot.gov/planning/fto/ev/default>.

Ms. Fortunas then asked if the membership had any questions and the floor was opened for discussion.

Commissioner Maddox, Capital Region TPA, showed support for Ms. Fortunas and her efforts for finding valuable ways to gain revenue to support the growing electric vehicle market instead of relying on a motor fuels gas tax. That said, he expressed his opinion that there will be some complexities explaining the issue with the public, particularly if proposals include tracking location services and tracking mileage driven. Commissioner Maddox then asked Mr. Mikyska if he was aware if any pilot programs have taken place in Florida looking at replacement strategies for the gas tax. Mr. Mikyska stated Florida has not contributed to a pilot program yet, but that other states have. He indicated that the average amount of collected State Fuel Tax from Florida citizens amounts to \$296 per driver per year. He suggested that this number could be used to determine the level of revenue that would need to be generated from the growing number of electric vehicles to replace the motor fuels tax that they are not currently paying.

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando stated that Orange County had to pull funding from the reserves to deal with the shortage of fuel tax during the COVID-19 Pandemic and showed support for the idea of considering sustainable replacement for the motor fuels tax.

Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Palm Beach TPA, also indicated support for this concept. He mentioned this is a forthcoming adventure for Florida and understands that there will be challenges. Commissioner Weinroth also mentioned that a sales tax tends to be regressive, so he cautioned that we should all be careful when trying to move the state forward with transportation networks, while not over-burdening residents who can least afford it.

Commissioner Maddox stated he would like for MPOAC and partners to be proactive in this area and to work with the state to find other alternatives to the gas tax. He also expressed interest in what work has been done by other states and that perhaps Florida should be considering their own pilot program once there was a better understanding of what other states had attempted in this area. Mr. Mikyska added that the MPOAC could reach out to the Association of MPOs (AMPO) or the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) to see they can speak with the MPOAC on this subject. Mr. Maddox indicated that he would like to see a more in-depth discussion on the subject of a replacement for the gas tax as a source of transportation revenue at a future MPOAC meeting. He authorized Mr. Mikyska to work with MPOAC partners to host a discussion on alternative revenue sources for Florida.

Commissioner Bill Dozer, Bay County TPO, asked if Mr. Mikyska if he knew which states had started pilot programs. Mr. Mikyska stated that he knew that Oregon and California had done so, but that he will investigate other states as well. Commissioner Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO, expressed interest in better understanding the cost associated with charging electric vehicles, because monies paid to the electric company do not support roadways or other transportation infrastructure.

Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), suggested looking to a study previously presented to the MPOAC by Sisinnio Concas, Ph.D. of CUTR for additional information on this subject. He also mentioned that this was not the first time the MPOAC had considered this issue and encouraged the membership to look at the suggestions made as part of the MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study conducted by CUTR in 2012. He indicated that the MPOAC website contains an archive of products from the MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study at <https://www.mpoac.org/committees/special-use-committees/revenue-study-advisory-committee/>

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando, made a motion to direct the MPOAC Executive Director to work with transportation partners to hold a discussion on alternative transportation revenue mechanisms as part of a future MPOAC meeting agenda item.

Commissioner Harvey Ward, Gainesville MTPO seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Carl Mikyska thanked the staff of the Emerald Coast Regional Council for their help with audio visual assistance for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on April 29, 2021 at the Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside Hotel, 7499 Augusta National Drive, Orlando, FL 32822. A meeting notice will be sent out prior to the meeting date.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.