

**Florida MPO Advisory Council  
Meeting of the Staff Directors  
January 28, 2021  
Orlando, Florida  
Meeting Minutes**

**Staff Directors in Attendance:**

**IN-PERSON (STAFF DIRECTORS – A TOTAL OF 11 WITH 9 MAKING AN IN-PERSON QUORUM):**

Lois Bollenback, Chair, River to Sea MPO  
Gary Harrell, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO  
Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO  
Brian Freeman, Indian River County MPO  
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando  
Rob Balmes, Ocala/Marion TPO  
Tania Gorman, Pasco County MPO  
Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO  
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO  
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA

**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  
Brittany Ellers, Emerald Coast Regional Council  
Mary Jo Gustave, Emerald Coast Regional Council

**VIRTUAL (STAFF DIRECTORS – A TOTAL OF 15 THAT CANNOT CONTRIBUTE TO A QUORUM):**

Donald Scott, Vice Chair, Lee County MPO  
Mary Beth Washnock, Bay County TPO  
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO  
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA  
Scott Koons, Gainesville MPO  
Steve Diez, Hernando/Citrus County MPO  
Michael Woods, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Chandra Fredrick, Polk TPO  
Brandy Otero, Collier County MPO

Beth Alden, Hillsborough County MPO  
Dawn Schwartz, Okaloosa-Walton TPO  
Marybeth Soderstrom, Heartland Regional TPO  
Wilson Fernandez, Miami-Dade TPO  
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO  
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas

**VIRTUAL (OTHERS):**

Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel  
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO  
Paul Calvaresi, Broward MPO  
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA  
Lisa Colmenares, Miami-Dade TPO  
Karen Brunelle, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration  
Cathy Kendall, Florida Division, Federal Highway Administration  
Christine Fasiska, Florida Department of Transportation  
Scott Phillips, Florida Department of Transportation  
Bill Keyrouze, AMPO  
Erika Thompson, Florida Department of Transportation  
Laura Carter, Space Coast TPO  
Steven Bostel, Space Coast TPO  
Sheri Coven, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Caitlin Cook, AMPO  
Victoria Peters, Florida Department of Transportation  
Casey Grigsby, Florida Ports Council  
Wayne Gaither, Florida Department of Transportation  
Cynthia Lorenzo, Florida Department of Transportation  
Huiwei Shen, Florida Department of Transportation  
Jennifer Fortunas, Florida Department of Transportation  
Dana Reiding, Florida Department of Transportation

There were an additional 2 people attending virtually who were unlabeled or identified only by a phone number.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Lois Bollenback, Chair, River to Sea TPO, called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm 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.

A motion to allow online members to participate in the meeting due to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19 was made by Gary Harrell, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO, and seconded by Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 29, 2020 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2020 meeting of the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee was made by Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando, and seconded by Rob Balmes, Ocala/Marion MPO. The motion was approved 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 did point 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 asked if there were any questions. Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, made a remark regarding the passed and signed federal funds from December and asked if the funds will be allocated into the state budget. Carl Mikyska responded indicated that the funds are committed to categories, and he believes the state will be distributing those funds and that the MPOs should see how they are being used soon.

Mr. Hutchinson also asked about the change in policy by the state to provide a soft-match for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5305(d) transportation planning funds using toll credits instead of a hard-match (cash) and whether it would be appropriate for the MPOAC to update legislative positions to ask for the hard match to be provided going forward. Ms. Lois Bollenback, River to Sea TPO, indicated that she did not believe that it was a legislative issue and that it should be addressed through continuing conversation between the FDOT and MPOAC. Mark Reichert, FDOT, indicated that he would address this issue as part of the agency comments later in the agenda.

Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, asked for an update on the MPOAC Institute for 2021. Carl Mikyska responded that the MPOAC and CUTR had created the MPOAC Online Orientation that features multiple online modules that MPO Board members can view at their own pace. Recurring online Q&A sessions will also be provided via Zoom where members registered for the Online Orientation can ask MPOAC Institute instructors about the wide range of MPO issues discussed during the training. Mr. Mikyska also mentioned that there will also be two virtual MPOAC Weekend Institutes held during the spring (in March and April) that will be like the original hosted MPOAC Weekend Institute. The cost is \$175 per elected official.

Lois Bollenback, Chair, River to Sea TPO, made a general comment to the other Staff Directors on SB 62 (relating to Regional Planning Councils (RPCs)), stating that the River to Sea TPO does not support the bill and asked if other MPO's/TPO's were also opposed to the bill. Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando MPO, added that his MPO Governing Board has not met on the matter, but that he assumes it will come to their attention. Extensive conversation followed on the details of SB62, including having Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO, and Scott Koons, Gainesville MTPO, providing more detailed explanations of the impact the legislation would have on their organizations. Mr. Koons pointed out that, as currently written, the bill would still allow RPCs formed under interlocal agreements (including the Heartland Regional TPO and the Gainesville MTPO) to continue operating and to provide staffing services for MPOs. Mr. Mount pointed out that the dissolution of RPCs could endanger the receipt of a variety of federal funds, including federal economic development funds.

Scott Koons, Gainesville MPO, made a motion to make a recommendation to the board to add opposition to SB62 to the MPOAC legislative policy positions and to have the MPOAC notify the members of the committees of jurisdiction of this position. Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, seconded the motion.

Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA, suggested that it was not appropriate to amend the legislative policy positions, as a forward looking document, to oppose currently proposed legislation. Instead, he felt that it was appropriate for the MPOAC to express opposition to a specific legislative proposal as a standalone action.

Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA, made a motion to amend the original motion to remove the portion of the motion that would amend the MPOAC Legislative Policy Positions, but to retain the formal opposition to SB62 and to express it in a letter to the members of the committees of jurisdiction. Scott Koons supported the amendment to his motion as did Dave Hutchinson. Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, seconded the motion. The amendment to the motion was approved unanimously. The amended motion to recommend that the MPOAC Governing Board oppose SB62 and inform by letter the members of the committees of jurisdiction was approved unanimously.

## 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, FHWA 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.

Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, asked if the Macroeconomic Report takes the impacts from COVID into consideration? Mr. Reichert replied that he does not believe that it does, but that the issue will be addressed in the future. Gary Harrell, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO, asked if increased documentary stamp revenue from increased home and car purchases will result in increased funding for programs like the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) and SunTrail. Mark Reichert was not sure what the impact might be on those programs at this time.

Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO, expressed his complements to the FDOT for managing the complicated budget issues brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and for moving ahead with the Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) program which he felt would benefit Florida MPOs. He also discussed the rural transportation planning grant his agency received from the FDOT to carry out a more robust transportation planning program in rural parts of the Panhandle.

Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA, asked if there will be a new grant agreement for the conversion of the cash match from the FTA 5305(d) funds. Mr. Reichert indicated that the STGBP grant has been revised and the next PTGA grant will have the updates. He also stated that more details on this issue will be provided at the upcoming FMPP meeting.



## 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando TPO, asked if the TPM reports are for informational purposes only or is there an expectation? Karen Brunelle, FHWA responded that the reports are for information only.

## 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.

Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, asked if hourly rates have changed on the contract. Carl Mikyska answered that they had not.

Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA, made a motion to recommend approval of the contract for legal services provided by Mr. Paul Gougelman for the coming state fiscal year (FY 2021/2022) to the MPOAC Governing Board. Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, 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.

Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, asked how long the TRCC has been in existence. Mr. Mikyska stated he was not sure, but has an understanding that the TRCC has existed for more than five years. Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA, acknowledged that he requested that Mr. Mikyska place this item on the MPOAC Agenda and that he would like to see the MPOAC establishing a place on the committee to primarily standardize and centralize the collection of crash records.

Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPA, made a motion to recommend to the MPOAC Governing Board approval of the attached resolution No. 2021-01 pertaining to membership on the Florida Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC). Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## C. 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 17<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, commented on how many of the transportation funding programs in current federal law that are pegged to 2000 Census data and that he

would like to see if AMPO can work to ensure that any new transportation reauthorization bill base funding programs on new census figures.

Mark Reichert, FDOT, asked about funding included in the FAST-Act extension for the 6 largest TMAs in the country and what the process will be for making those funds available. Bill Keyrouze indicated that he was not familiar with that issue, but that he would investigate it and get back with the group. Greg Stuart, Broward MPO, provided additional details on that issue, indicating that the funding was forthcoming. He indicated that the relevant information had been forwarded to FDOT District 4 staff and that he can also send it to Mark Reichert.

Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas, asked for the bill number and sponsor of a bill that AMPO staff mentioned during their presentation that would increase the percentage of suballocated funds to MPO areas under the STBG Program. AMPO staff stated that the bill was sponsored by Representative Brownley from California, but that it was so recently introduced that it had not yet been assigned a bill number. AMPO staff will forward more details to the MPOAC once a bill number has been assigned.

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](mailto:bkeyrouze@ampo.org) and Caitlin Cook, [ccook@ampo.org](mailto:ccook@ampo.org)).

#### D. 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.

Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO, asked if FDOT had any initial thoughts on locating charging stations on publicly owned right-of-way versus on private property. Ms. Fortunas indicated that the Department will make case-by-case decisions for the most appropriate locations for electric charging stations and whether to site the station on public or private property. Mr. Buchwald also asked who would be paying for the electricity provided at the charging stations. Ms. Fortunas stated that electricity would be paid for through a small user fee when drivers stop to get their car charged.

Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando, provided additional comments on the complexities of siting charging stations, stating that it's a huge undertaking and noting that recharging is not like fueling an internal combustion engine vehicle and that the differences need to be accounted for in siting EV charging stations.

Donald Scott, Vice Chair, Lee County MPO, asked if charging stations be sited at Interstate rest areas? Ms. Fortunas stated that current law prohibits electric charging stations to be sited at Interstate rest areas. Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, commented that it was timely for Florida to be considering the issue of infrastructure to support electric vehicle roll-out given the push for electric vehicles on a national level.

## E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The MPOAC bylaws require that the Committee conduct an election of officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) at the first meeting of each calendar year. The MPOAC Staff Directors' Committee Chair and Vice-Chair serve on the MPOAC Executive Committee along with the

Chair and Vice-Chair of the MPOAC Governing Board and a third member of the Governing Board to create a five-member committee. MPOAC staff asked for nominations of members to serve in each of these roles for 2021.

Lois Bollenback, River to Sea MPO, current chair of the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee, relinquished the Chair position to Mr. Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, who introduced the election of officers for the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee. Mr. Mikyska noted for the record that the election was for a one-year term to begin immediately. Mr. Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, clarified that seconds are not required as part of the nomination process.

Greg Stuart, Broward MPO, nominated Donald Scott, Lee County MPO, to serve as Chair. Mr. Scott accepted the nomination. Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, made a motion to close nominations. The motion was unanimously approved and Mr. Scott was appointed Chair for 2021.

Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, nominated Beth Alden, Hillsborough MPO, to serve as Vice-Chair. Ms. Alden declined the nomination. Beth Beltran, Martin MPO, nominated Dave Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Hutchinson accepted the nomination. Greg Stuart, Broward MPO, nominated Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO, to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Mount declined the nomination. Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando, made a motion to close nominations. The motion was unanimously approved and Mr. Hutchinson was appointed Vice-Chair for 2021.

## MEMBER COMMENTS

Carl Mikyska stated this will be Mark Reichert's last MPOAC meeting as he is retiring in April. This was corrected by Mr. Reichert who stated that he will still be working at the time of the April MPOAC meetings and hopes to attend.

Rob Balmes, Ocala/Marion TPO, stated Ocala Marion TPO is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Greg Stuart, Broward TPO, congratulated Lois Bollenback on her service as the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Chair. He also congratulated Don Scott and Dave Hutchinson on their elections to Chair and Vice-Chair.



## ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the MPOAC Staff Directors will be held at 12:00 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 2:55 p.m.