

**Florida MPO Advisory Council
Meeting of the Governing Board
April 28, 2022
Orlando, Florida
Meeting Minutes**

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

IN-PERSON (GOVERNING BOARD – A TOTAL OF 17 WITH 9 MAKING AN IN-PERSON QUORUM):

Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Bill Dozier, Bay County TPO
Commissioner Sandy Johnson, Broward MPO
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Commissioner William McDaniel, Collier MPO
Commissioner Robert Bender, Florida-Alabama TPO
Commissioner David Eggers, Forward Pinellas
Commissioner Terry Burroughs, Heartland TPO
Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, Hernando/Citrus MPO
Councilmember Fred Forbes, Lee County MPO
Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando
Commissioner Craig Curry, Ocala/Marion County TPO
Mayor Dick Rynearson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Mayor Fred Pinto, Palm Beach TPA
Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
Commissioner Chris Cloudman, River to Sea TPO

IN-PERSON (OTHERS):

Mark Reichert, MPOAC Executive Director
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Lisa Stone, MPOAC Executive Assistant
Mike Neidhart, Florida Department of Transportation
Alison Stettner, Florida Department of Transportation
Erika Thompson, Florida Department of Transportation
Cathy Kendall, Federal Highway Administration
Melissa Wandall, Alert Today Florida
Dale Allen, the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
Karen Klena, the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
Paul Calvaresi, Broward MPO
D’Juan Harris, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO

Marybeth Soderstrom, Heartland Regional TPO
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
Rob Balmes, Ocala/Marion TPO
Valerie Neilson, Palm Beach TPA
Parag Agrawal, Polk TPO
Ryan Brown, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
David Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
Kim Smith, Space Coast TPO
Don Willis, Space Coast TPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO
Wade Carroll, Metro Analytics
Ned Baier, Volkert, Inc.

VIRTUAL (GOVERNING BOARD – A TOTAL OF 2 THAT CANNOT CONTRIBUTE TO A QUORUM):
Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, Chair
Commissioner Mary Alford, Gainesville MTPO

VIRTUAL (OTHERS):
Tia Boyd, CUTR/USF
Siaosi Fine, Florida Department of Transportation
Britney Moore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Gail Holley, Safe Mobility for Life Coalition
Stephanie Hartsfield, Safe Mobility for Life Coalition
Paul Flavien, Broward MPO
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA
Scott Koons, Gainesville MPO
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Gary Kramer, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Steven Bostel, Space Coast TPO
Steve Moore, SEPI
Todd Brauer, Whitehouse Group

1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and a quorum was determined. All were asked to rise 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 Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando, and seconded by Commissioner William McDaniel, Collier MPO, The motion was approved unanimously.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 27, 2022 MEETING

The minutes of the January 27, 2022 Meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board were approved as written by unanimous consent.

3 PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

Mr. Mark Reichert, MPOAC Executive Director, provided an update of his first six months as the MPOAC Executive Director. Mr. Reichert's update included the following items:

- Attended numerous meetings, webinars, and conferences
 - Legislative meetings
 - The Safe Mobility for Life annual meeting
 - The Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) Implementation Committee meeting
 - Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA, has stepped down as the MPOAC representative. Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO, will now serve as the MPOAC representative.
 - Met with Peter Polakovic from SkyToll
 - Attended and moderated a session at the Trails for Transportation Summit
 - Met with CDM Smith on Road-Usage Charging (RUC)
- Worked on the MPOAC bylaws
- Defended a research project to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The proposed project will study the list of priority project (LOPP) methodologies used by the Florida MPOs. The proposal was selected and will be moving forward in the new fiscal year.

- Completed the MPOAC Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FDOT commented on the UPWP and a response to comments has been submitted
- Prepared for the upcoming MPOAC meetings

B. OIG INVESTIGATION/BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Reichert presented the status of the FDOT Office of Inspector General's (OIG) investigation and budget report.

The OIG investigation report was released. Mr. Reichert discussed the following items:

- The FDOT Credit Union account and the PGI account
 - The Credit Union and PayPal accounts related to the MPOAC Institute are closed, the PGI account is in the process of being closed.
- The MPOAC institute registration fees, their purpose, and how they were used
- The 2022 MPOAC Weekend Institutes were cancelled. The MPOAC Institute contract has been halted. There will be an opportunity to discuss how the MPOAC would like to proceed with the MPOAC Weekend Institute at the July 2022 meeting.
- The MPOAC support services contract ends June 30th, 2022 and the MPOAC FTA contract ends August 2022. There will be further discussion in the July 2022 MPOAC meeting. In the interim, the MPOAC will make use of the consultant contracts with FDOT.

Budget

- The state uses 4 accounting systems.
- All bills are paid and invoices are being paid as they are received.
- There are plans to de-obligate \$80,000.
- The MPOAC has a liaison with FDOT Central Office, Romero Dill, who is working with Lisa Stone, MPOAC Executive Assistant.
- Mr. Reichert has returned \$7,500 in local funds to MPOs and instead used the previously collected funds in the account reserved for legislative activities during the 2022 legislative session. Moving forward, there is no plan to collect local funds for legislative activities.
- Chairm Maddox decided the MPOAC Executive Committee will act as the Financial Policies and Procedures Committee.
- There will be funds left over in the budget because there was no Executive Director or Executive Assistant in 2021.
- Dues are as follows:
 - Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) \$106,646
 - National Association of Regional Commissions (NARC) \$80,000
 - Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) \$1,000

- Florida Public Transit Association (FPTA) \$500
- ITS Florida \$420
- Mileage-Based User Fee Alliance (MBUFA) \$5,000

Mr. Reichert made a request to modify the MPOAC’s MBUFA membership to allow all 27 Florida MPOs to receive membership. This modification will increase the dues to \$7,500.

Commissioner Troy McDonald, Martin MPO, made a motion to approve the modified MBUFA membership and dues in the amount of \$7,500. Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Reichert shared federal and state legislative activity of interest to the MPOAC membership. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) tracked 269 bills of interest, 35 were somewhat related to MPOs or MPOAC policy issues. If the appropriations bill is signed by the Governor, the FDOT budget will be \$12.7 billion, which is approximately 11 percent of the total state budget.

D. MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2023

Mr. Reichert presented the proposed MPOAC meeting dates for 2023. These dates were January 31st, April 27th, July 27th, and October 31st. The meeting attendees were reminded of the meeting methodology approved on October 29, 2020, which was to:

- Set meeting dates to fall on the 5th Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in the months of January, April, July and October.
- If the months of January, April, July or October do not have a 5th Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday then staff will use the 4th Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in those months.

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando, made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting calendar, and to look into the October 2023 date to determine if it conflicts with the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) conferences. Commissioner William McDaniel, Collier MPO, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

- The July 2022 MPOAC Staff Directors’ Advisory Committee and Governing Board meetings will be held as a joint retreat in Gainesville at the FDOT State Materials Lab. More information will be provided soon.
- The MPOAC Executive committee voted to develop a Policy and Procedures manual as requested by FDOT to accompany the bylaws. Both documents will be brought to the MPOAC Governing Board in October.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando, made a motion to support the freight priority list. Mayor Dick Ryneerson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO, made a motion to approve the slate of members for the Noteworthy Practices Working Group and recommendations for reviewing, selecting, and recognizing noteworthy practices. Commissioner William McDaniel, Collier MPO, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5 AGENCY REPORTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Alison Stettner, Office of Policy Planning Director, presented the Florida transportation trends that may affect the Work Program and FDOT projects. Ms. Stettner's presentation included emerging trends, performance measures, and emphasis areas.

B. FLORIDA DIVISION OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Cathy Kendall, Planning Team Leader, updated the members on the activities of the Florida Division Office of FHWA and brought forward information of importance to the membership including:

- General Announcements
 - The FY22 Omnibus funding bill provides a full year of funding for FY22.
 - The Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) - INFRA/MEGA/RURAL NOFO was issued on March 23rd, 2022. The application deadline for the MPDG opportunity is May 23, 2022. More information can be found at: www.transportation.gov/grants
 - Urban Area Criteria for the 2020 Census was published in the Federal Register on March 24th, 2022.
 - The federal Voting Access Executive Order requires agencies to develop an action plan to encourage voter registration and increase voter access. FHWA's actions are to address congestion at polling places and construction on polling day. MPOs are encouraged to discuss historical and potential future problems for voting access with local governments.
 - The FY22 Program Accountability Results (PAR) Summary Report outlines fiscal constraint findings for non-TMA MPOs.
 - There were several changes to the FHWA Florida Division Planning Team
- TPM Updates
 - The 2nd TPM performance period began in 2022.
 - On February 27th, 2022 MPOs set their 2022 safety targets.

- The FMPP discussion of TPM and coordination of target setting was on April 4th, 2022.
- FDOT has shared data with the MPOs for target setting.
- PM2 and PM3 targets will be reported to FHWA in October 2022.
- The full performance report and baseline are due to FHWA in October 2022.
- Information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding programs for MPOs is available at the following links:
 - FHWA website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>
 - Discretionary Grant NOFO Schedule: <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/upcomingnotice-funding-opportunity-announcements-2022>

C. FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

No presentation was provided for this agenda item.

6 BUSINESS ITEMS & PRESENTATIONS

A. VISION ZERO

Ms. Melissa Wandall and Ms. Kim Smith presented on what it means to reach the Vision Zero goal. The presentation provided an explanation of the difference between Vision Zero and Target Zero, a description of the Safe System approach, myths and facts related to automated enforcement, and the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act (s. 316.0083, F.S.). The presenters shared strategies to building a successful Vision Zero Action Plan, a list of potential members of the action plan advisory task force, and a roadmap to adopting Vision Zero to developing and implementing the Vision Zero action plan. The following resources were shared during the presentation:

- FDOT Target Zero Page: <https://www.fdot.gov/agencyresources/target-zero/>
- Alert Today Florida: <https://www.alerttodayflorida.com/>
- National Coalition for Safer Roads: <https://ncsrsafety.org/>
- Driving Down Heartache: <https://www.drivingdownheartache.org/>
- Space Coast TPO Vision Zero Toolkit: <https://www.spacecoasttpo.com/what-we-do/planning/vision-zero/vision-zero-toolkit>

B. SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE COALITION

Ms. Stefanie Hartsfield and Ms. Gail Holley presented on the activities of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. The presentation provided information on the focus area, goals, strategies and milestones of the coalition. Ms. Hartsfield and Ms. Holley also shared opportunities for collaboration and the call to action. The link for the Safe Mobility for Life dashboard is being developed and will be shared with meeting attendees at a later date. More information is available at <http://safemobilityfl.com/> and <http://safemobilityfl.com/contact.htm>

C. FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS FOUNDATION

Mr. Dale Allen, President of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, discussed themes and opportunities for connecting local paved trails into a statewide transportation system. Mr. Allen suggested the MPOAC consider forming a committee or identifying forums that would allow them to consider how trails and greenways affect transportation planning at the regional level. Wildlife corridors were recognized as a legislative priority and funding is available for connecting conservation land into a comprehensive system. Meeting attendees were urged to consider how the trails system can support these efforts.

D. MPOAC DOCUMENT REVIEW

Mark Reichert, Executive Director of the MPOAC, presented the Draft MPOAC FY 23/24 UPWP.

Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO, made a motion to approve the MPOAC FY 23/24 UPWP. Mayor Fred Pinto, Palm Beach TPA, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The MPOAC Bylaws have been revised and shared with the members for review. No comments on the revised bylaws were received from the MPOAC membership, but FHWA sent comments. No action was pursued on the bylaws at this time. Governing Board members were encouraged to review the bylaws before the July, 2022 MPOAC meeting and share comments at that time.

E. MPOAC FUTURE DIRECTION

There was no discussion for this agenda item.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The response letter to FDOT on Specific Conditions and the status letter to FDOT on Specific Conditions were included in the agenda packet.

8. MEMBER COMMENTS

The AMPO Technical Symposium will be hosted by the Broward MPO in May 2022 in Ft. Lauderdale. The MPO Staff Directors have information about the symposium and Mark Reichert, MPOAC Executive Director, will also share the information with the MPOAC Governing Board members.

MPOAC Governing Board members thanked the speakers for their presentations.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board will be July 28, 2022. A meeting notice will be sent out at least one month prior to the meeting date.

Adjournment 5:08 pm