

Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council
Noteworthy Practices Working Group
April 27, 2022
Orlando, Florida

- Meeting Minutes -

ATTENDEES:

IN-PERSON (MPOs):

Beth Alden, Chair, Hillsborough TPO
D’Juan Harris, Charlotte/Punta Gorda MPO
David Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Elizabeth Watkins, Hillsborough TPO
Paul Calvaresi, Broward MPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO
Ryan Brown, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Scott Philips, Collier County MPO
Valerie Neilson, Palm Beach TPA
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas

VIRTUAL:

Scott Koons, Gainesville MTPO
Bob Esposito, Hernando Citrus MPO
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
Carl Mikyska, Pasco County MPO

IN-PERSON (OTHERS):

Alison Stettner, FDOT
Cathy Kendall, FHWA
Daniel Crotty, SEPI Inc.
Ericka Thompson, FDOT
Lisa Stone, MPOAC
Mark Reichert, MPOAC
Ned Baier, Volkert Inc.
Wade Carroll, Metro Analytics

1. CALL TO ORDER

Beth Alden, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Wade Carroll, AICP of Metro Analytics made a presentation to the group entitled “Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Strategies for Future Success.” This is a guidebook which was developed in response to a survey and research of MPO Best Practices throughout the country. The survey included 129 MPOs, DOTs, transit agencies, etc. This process also included eight regional roundtable discussions and 12 information forums. The purpose was to get a feel of unique challenges, opportunities, and new ideas to share and implement. The guidebook will be published on the TRB website in the near future as “RR-1002” (recently NCHRP 08-122).

Florida was one of the eight roundtables. It was noted that the Florida MPOAC is recognized as a Best Practice, with very few states having anything close to this. Most states have an association of MPOS that only meet on an annual basis. Florida is ahead of the curve on coordination. Coordination of Metroplan’s and Forward Pinellas’ work with local governments using PL funds for studies, corridor studies, land use, transportation coordination activities, and multi-MPO was also noted.

A Best Practices toolkit (highlighting the areas that are more easily accessible) has also been developed by Metro Analytics to address the 12 areas of research. Publication should be made the end of April or early May on the NCHRP website (RR-1002). An implementation phase will be provided at some point in the process. Additional ideas and/or input can be shared directly with Wade.

4. WORKING GROUP PROCEDURES

a. Results of Staff Directors’ Poll (Mark Reichert)

During the January 27, 2022, Noteworthy Practices Working Group Meeting, the Chair requested that Mark send a poll out to the Staff Directors with some of the Best Practices ideas presented during the meeting, along with what the Group has done in the past, and ask which ideas would be most beneficial to the organization. We need to find out what themes people are interested in and if everyone wants the best practices grouped by Planning Emphasis Areas. We would also need to determine how we want to share the information and how often we do that.

Mark sent out a poll with questions related to: (1) where we are as a working group, (2) our successes, and (3) where to go from here. The responses (21) were received and a

summary of the responses was provided in the April 27, 2022, Noteworthy Practices Working Group meeting packet.

It was also suggested that a half hour be set aside at each Staff Directors meeting to have a “Show and Tell” of any new best practices and once a year expand that time to include best practices from other organizations.

Beth stated that the next steps for the Noteworthy Practices Working Group will be to: (1) settle on a membership slate for this calendar year and update the membership every year in January, (2) voting members will select Noteworthy Practices on an annual basis during public meetings, voting members should be physically present but exceptions can be made for remote participation if a quorum is physically present, and (3) meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.

b. Slate of Members for 2022 (Beth Alden)

Membership of the Noteworthy Practices Working Group needs to be identified and confirmed. The membership should be composed of some small, mid-sized, and large MPOs as well as geographic representation around the state. The voting members of the Group held a discussion of potential members and will recommend the following slate to the MPOAC Staff Directors on April 28, 2022, for approval:

Beth Alden, Chair, Hillsborough TPO
Austin Mount, Florida-Alabama TPO
Craig Curry, Ocala/Marion County MPO
D’Juan Harris, Charlotte/Punta Gorda MPO
Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
Jeff Sheffield, North Florida TPO
Marybeth Soderstrom, Heartland Regional TPO
Paul Calvaresi, Broward MPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie MPO
Ryan Brown, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Scott Koons, Gainesville MPO
Valerie Neilson, Palm Beach TPA
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas

c. Proposal for Noteworthy Practices Quarterly Award Process (Beth Alden)

The plan for the Quarterly Award Process going forward is to make it simple, replicable and sustainable over time. At the January meeting, Noteworthy Practices planning emphasis areas were reviewed that have been proposed by FHWA and FDOT, we need to look at what we want to add to those.

We will continue to receive applications on an ongoing basis and at each quarterly meeting we will review the applications received within the last 12 months. We will focus on those applications that match up to the emphasis areas for the year. The Working Group will select one application for the quarter to present at each MPOAC Staff Directors' meeting (brief to raise awareness of what the MPO brought forward). Beth will provide a certificate or some type of recognition for that MPO.

The Group will talk more about how applications are selected at a future meeting. It was noted that we need to also look at the application form and the questions being asked to see if they need to be updated.

All applications could be posted on the website (Best Practices "library"), by category, for review by all MPOs. In preparation of the Noteworthy Practices Working Group quarterly meeting, a month or so before each meeting, Mark will send out an email asking the Staff Directors to take a look at the categories and let us know what areas they would like to hear more about, then schedule the details to be presented.

5. QUARTERLY NOTEWORTHY PRACTICES AWARDS SUBMITTALS – SUMMER 2022

The 2022 Noteworthy Practices applications were discussed. Beth requested that Working Group members read through all applications currently received. Those applications will be reviewed at the July meeting and one will be chosen and presented at the next Staff Directors Advisory Committee meeting.

6. FUTURE MEETING PLANNING

Meet in conjunction with the regularly scheduled MPOAC quarterly meetings.

7. ROUND ROBIN – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Beth submitted a proposal to APA Florida. She will provide an update at a future meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the MPOAC Noteworthy Practices Working Group will be July 27, 2022. A meeting notice will be sent out at least one month prior to the meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.