

Unified Planning Work Program

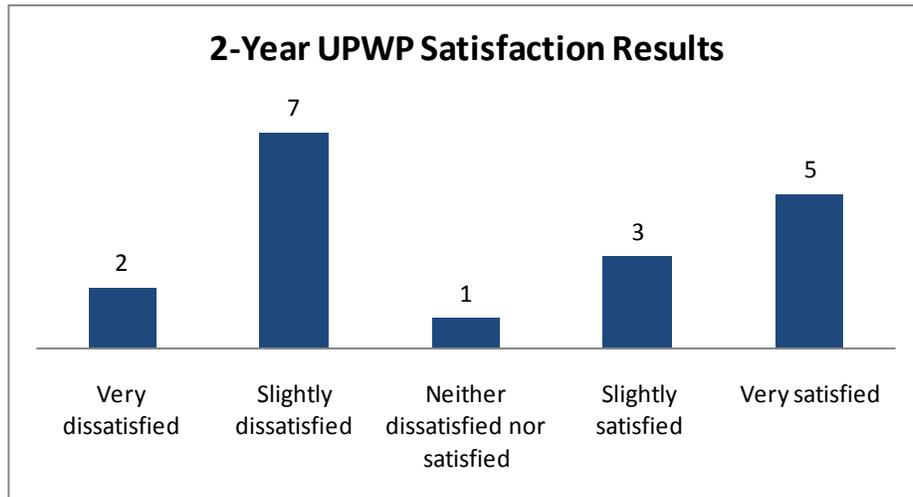
Survey Results



Issue Background

Federal regulations published in late 2007 allowed an MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to be one or two years in length. Previously, all UPWPs were one year in length. After the rulemaking, all of Florida's MPOs agreed to adopt a two-year long UPWP spanning FY 08/09 to FY 09/10. At the October 2009 meeting of the MPOAC, the Staff Directors Committee and the Governing Board voted to authorize another 2-year cycle of UPWPs in the state, spanning FY 10/11 to FY 11/12. However, the MPOAC membership asked for a survey to further explore the issue. An online survey was conducted in December 2009 through January 2010. Of Florida's twenty-six MPOs, responses were received from eighteen. The results of the survey are contained in this report.

1) How would you rate your experience operating with a 2-year UPWP?



Respondents were asked their level of satisfaction with the two-year UPWP on a scale from one to five, with one being very dissatisfied, and five being very satisfied. The mean overall response was 3.1. However, only one response was neutral — all other respondents had a satisfied or dissatisfied experience. The responses were divided into MPOs with large and small populations, with a cutoff for being a large MPO set at 500,000. Most independent MPOs also fall into the large MPO category. Smaller MPOs were strongly satisfied with a two-year UPWP, with a mean response of 4.3. The five smallest MPOs (all non-TMAs) all reported being “very satisfied.” As a group, large MPOs reported being dissatisfied with a two-year UPWP, with a mean of 2.4. The results were also divided into independent MPOs and hosted MPOs. Hosted MPOs generally indicated satisfaction with a two-year document (mean = 3.5), while independent MPOs generally indicated dissatisfaction with the two-year document (mean = 2.3).

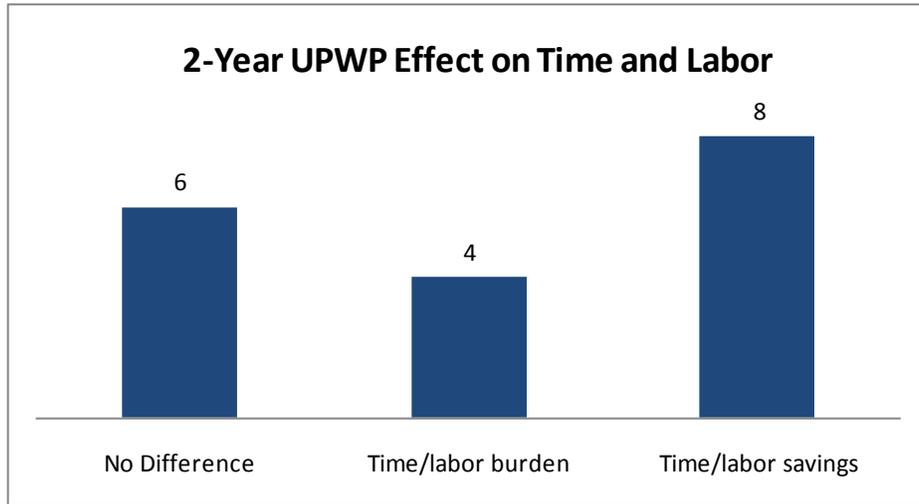
Common Positive Satisfaction Responses:

- Fewer administrative tasks
- Can accommodate projects that span more than one year
- Less labor intensive to complete one document

Common Negative Satisfaction Responses:

- Difficult to align data with auditor requirements
- Many amendments required in year two
- Difficulty rolling funds over from year one to year two
- Overhauling the UPWP for year two took equal or more time as completing a new UPWP
- Revenue estimates for year two were incomplete or uncertain

2) In terms of time and labor expenditure, has operating with a 2-year UPWP been a time/labor savings or burden?



Hosting status and population size appear to have no impact on the result of this question.

3) How many MPO staff full time equivalents (FTE) were devoted to developing and managing the UPWP between July 1, 2008 and December 30, 2009?

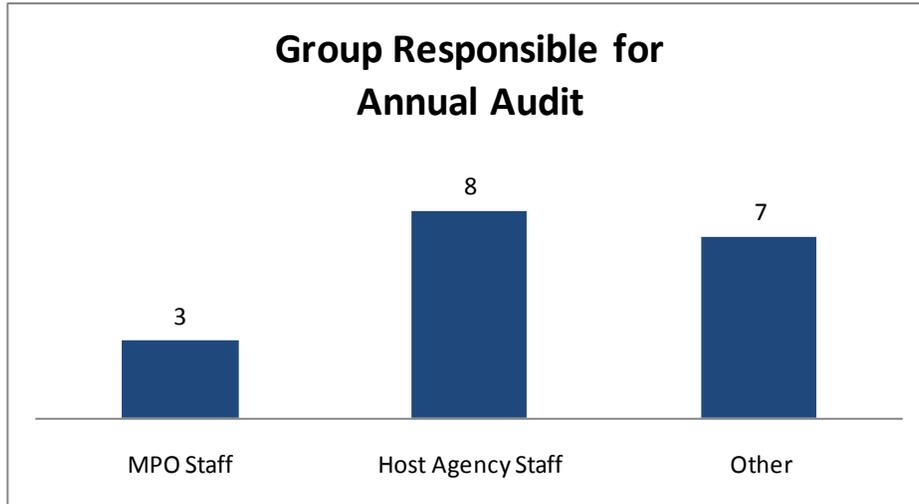
12	Less than 1 FTE
6	1 or more FTE

The number of FTEs devoted to the UPWP management is not correlated with the level of satisfaction with a two-year document.

4) Is the person(s) responsible for developing and amending the MPO UPWP considered a member of the MPO staff or the host agency staff?

17	Full-time MPO Staff
1	Full-time Host Agency Staff
0	Shared Staff

5) Who handles the annual audit of the MPO?



The “Other” category includes responses of: an independent auditor, a certified public accountant, the clerk of the county, and a member of the local government.

6) How large is your total 2-year UPWP?

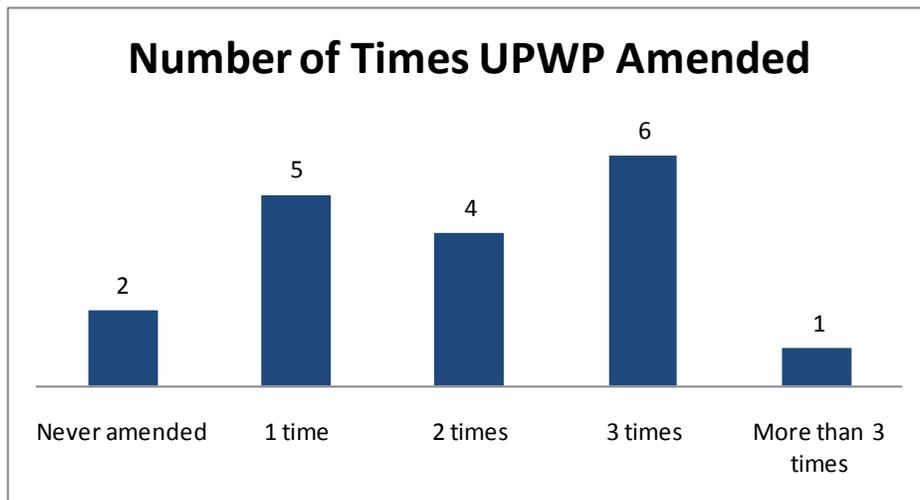
Dollar Amount	Budgeted Tasks
\$12,592,787	40
9,083,309	128
6,687,285	29
5,099,594	23
3,324,142	68
3,175,595	18
2,753,463	36
2,439,105	16
2,208,588	16
2,081,000	12
1,922,422	13
1,600,000	28
1,318,485	24
1,317,320	18
1,311,000	7
970,000	12
500,000	7
470,000	7

Note: The amounts shown are derived from the total UPWP value minus any informational items.

Mean Number of Tasks = 27.8
 Mean Dollar Amount = \$3,691,000

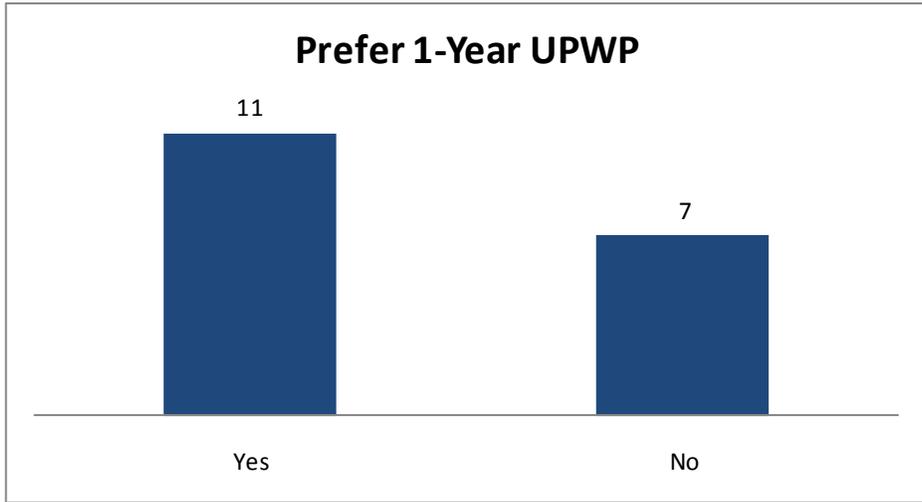
MPOs indicating satisfaction with a two-year UPWP had an average of 16 tasks and \$4.1 million available to be spent internally. Meanwhile, MPOs dissatisfied with a two-year UPWP had an average of 39 tasks and a \$3.4 million internal budget. These results may indicate that MPOs with fewer tasks are generally more satisfied with the two-year UPWP. However, no conclusions can be drawn based on the internal budget of the MPOs. Even when large outliers are discarded, more tasks are equated with dissatisfaction with the two-year UPWP.

7) For the period between July 1, 2008 and December 30, 2009, how many times have you amended your UPWP?



The average MPO amended its UPWP a total of 2.3 times over the past 18 months. Two MPOs did not amend the UPWP at all. MPOs that reported being satisfied amended their UPWP twice, once, or not at all. Meanwhile, most of the MPOs dissatisfied with the two-year UPWP amended their document three or more times. Some MPOs reported in narrative comments that multiple amendments are grouped and passed as a single action item, which reduces the number of overall amendments without saving any effort.

8) If you had the opportunity to adopt a 1-year UPWP next cycle, would you?



9) Do you feel that all MPOs in Florida must adopt a UPWP that is the same length?

