Mentoring the Next Generation

MPOAC Meeting
June 1, 2017

James Cromar, Broward MPO
Motivating Factors for Outreach

- Strengthening our connections with the community
- Implementing our Board’s vision for the agency
- Strengthening our relationships with our partnering agencies
- Helping make education curriculum more career-focused
The Silver Tsunami is coming…

- How can we actively engage the next generation?
- How can we expose students to the world of transportation planning?
- How can we interest students in thinking about long term planning and safety?
Walk to School Day: Elementary School Students

- **Focus:** Promote Pedestrian Safety
- **Annual Event**
- Paired our Board Members with MPO Staff members for the various events all over the county.
Career Days: Elementary Schools Students

- **Focus**: expose students to Transportation Planning field
- We’re starting to receive requests from schools rather than seek out the schools
Construction Career Days: High School Students

• **Focus**: Expose students to Transportation Planning field
• Annual Event
• Work with local DOT district
• Collect teacher information to send them scholarship & grant information
Think Like A Planner: High School Students

- This event provides each student with the opportunity to shadow transportation professionals and conduct their own short group presentations before elected officials.
TRAC & RIDES Program

• Florida is a member of AASHTO’s TRAC (Transportation and Civil engineering) and RIDES (Roadways In Developing Elementary Students) educational outreach program.
TRAC & RIDES Program at the Broward MPO

• The *Summer Physics and Physical Science Workshop* (on flyer) is held annually at the Broward MPO office.

• Our staff worked with the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) staff at Broward Schools.
TRAC & RIDES Program

- Your agency can host an event like this as well! For FREE
- AASHTO sends trainers around the country to lead the training.
TRAC & RIDES Training:
Middle & High School Teachers

• TRAC has eight (8) modules which engage students in solving real-world problems while connecting them to the work world of transportation.

Watch these teachers try out the Bridge Module…
TRAC & RIDES Training: Middle & High School Teachers

- Each module contains the equipment, software and supplies needed to perform up to 75 hands-on activities related to:
  - Bridge Design • Highway Safety • City Planning
  - Magnetic Levitation • Design and Construction
  - Motion • Environmental Engineering
  - Traffic Technology
TRAC & RIDES Training: Middle & High School Teachers

• During this **free**, hands-on free training, teachers are able to try out the educational modules

• Worked with Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) staff at Broward Schools
How can my agency get involved?

1. Contact Chris Ryan, the Florida TRAC & RIDES Representative. He can help you get started.
2. Coordinate with your local School Board’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) department to procure teachers for the training.
3. Host the training at your agency.
4. Share success stories with public, your Board and here at MPOAC!
Major Keys to Work With the Schools in Your Area

Do you have:

• School Board Members on your Board?
• Local Schools with Career Development Department?
• Local Schools with Magnet Schools/ Science Technology Engineering and Math Departments?
Involve your Elected Officials

- Board Members
- Industry Professionals
- Partnering agencies
- Technical staff
- Consultants
Fruits of Our Labor

- Schools begin to approach your agency for:
  - Career day requests
  - Career Fairs
  - Student Mentorship
  - Internships
  - School Board presentations
  - Advisory Board meetings
  - Science Days

- They provide us with opportunities and we reciprocate.
Next Steps | More Information

• Interested in having this FREE training at your MPO/TPO office?
• To get started on hosting your own TRAC Training, please contact the Florida TRAC & RIDES Representative, **Chris Ryan** at (954) 876-0036 | **ryanc@browardmpo.org**.
Contact:
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