

Florida Planning Emphasis Areas-2018

The Florida Department of Transportation Office of Policy Planning develops *Planning Emphasis Areas* on a two-year cycle in coordination with the development of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' respective unified planning work programs. Emphasis areas set planning priorities, support the Florida Transportation Plan, and give importance to topic areas which MPOs are encouraged to address as they develop their planning programs. Implementation of the seven goals of the Florida Transportation Plan requires embracing innovation; extensive collaboration across jurisdictions, modes and disciplines; an emphasis on customer service; data and performance feedback; and strategic investments for the efficient and effective allocation of resources.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations should consider the following topics when updating their Unified Planning Work Plan.

Rural Transportation Planning

MAP-21 defined the structure and responsibilities of designated regional transportation planning organizations in federal regulations for the first time. Florida Statutes include several provisions that require coordination with local governments including those in rural areas. Some rural communities in Florida face significant development pressures and need transportation investments to handle growing populations and economic activities. Others simply struggle to maintain their existing transportation system and with providing services to a spread-out community. MPOs are encouraged to plan for and coordinate with rural governmental entities both within their planning boundaries as well as those areas outside of the current boundaries that are impacted by transportation movements between regions.

Transportation Performance Measures

FHWA has finalized six interrelated performance rules to implement the transportation performance measures framework established by MAP-21 and the FAST Act. Collectively, the rules address challenges facing the transportation system, including: improving safety, maintaining the condition of the infrastructure, reducing traffic congestions, improving the efficiency of the system and freight movement, protecting the environment, and reducing delays in project delivery. The rules established national performance measures. State DOTs and MPOs must establish targets for each measure. Planning documents will identify the strategies and investments used to reach the targets. Progress towards meeting the targets will be reported through new and existing mechanisms. MPOs need to account in their UPWP for the effort necessary to satisfy the federal requirements. As MPOs and Florida DOT venture into this first round of target setting and adopting performance measures into our planning products, more emphasis will be placed on this topic area. The cooperative efforts of Florida's MPOs and DOT to insure this new planning tool will be effective and well-coordinated will need to be shown in the upcoming UPWPs.



ACES (Automated/Connected/Electric/Shared-use) Vehicles

According to the Federal Highway Administration, “Transportation is in the midst of disruptive change from new technologies (automated and connected vehicles); new institutions (shared mobility firms); and changing attitudes (reduced car ownership). Across the nation, transportation planners are under pressure to develop performance-oriented policies, plans, and investment decisions that consider an increasingly complex transportation landscape. In the process, planners need to consider, but cannot yet reliably predict, the potential impact of disruptive and transformational Connected Vehicle (CV) and Automated Vehicle (AV) technologies on safety, vehicle ownership, road capacity, VMT, land-use, roadway design, future investment demands, and economic development, among others. While some forms of CV and AV are already being deployed across the United States, significant unknowns exist regarding the rate of technology adoption, which types of technologies will prevail in the marketplace, the interaction between CV/AV vehicles and various forms of shared mobility services, and the impacts of interim and widespread levels of CV/ AV usage.”

Adopting and supporting innovative technologies and business practices supports all seven goals of the Florida Transportation Plan and the federal planning factors found in the FAST Act. ACES may lead to great improvements in safety, transportation choices, and quality of life for Floridians, our visitors and the Florida economy. Though there is a great deal of speculation and uncertainty of the potential impacts these technologies will have, MPOs need to determine how best to address the challenges and opportunities presented to them by ACES vehicles.

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