Introduction

It is important for Project Managers to understand the basic planning process used to identify needs and projects undertaken by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The planning process involves working with partners to balance federal, state, regional, metropolitan, and local needs. These chapters provide a brief explanation of the transportation planning process used in Florida.

The ***Florida Transportation Plan (FTP)*** is the single overarching plan guiding Florida's transportation future. Updated every five years, the FTP is a collaborative effort of state, regional, and local transportation partners in the public and private sectors. According to the FTP, Florida's transportation system is expected to serve an increased population of residents and visitors if trends continue into the future. Florida is also expected to become more diverse and has the potential to see dramatic increases in safety, mobility, and accessibility needs. Florida's planning process has been developed to help plan for these needs, now and in the future.

Federal Involvement

The federal government establishes transportation policies and funding for all transportation programs that are eligible for federal transportation funds. Most federal transportation programs in Florida are administered by the following agencies:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Another federal agency that directly affects transportation decision making is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which carries out most federal responsibilities related to the environment, particularly those related to air and water quality.

Statewide Planning

State Comprehensive Plan: The State Comprehensive Plan sets the land use and growth management goals and policies for the entire state. It is Florida's highest-level planning document. The plan is published in its entirety in state law.

Florida Department of Commerce (DOC): The Department of Commerce works closely with FDOT, local and regional agencies, and the private sector on transportation decisions that affect development, the environment, and other issues. The Department of Commerce administers the process of determining whether local government comprehensive plans are following state regulations. Each year the Department of Commerce reviews the FDOT Five-Year Work Program and Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Programs to ensure that they are consistent with local government comprehensive plans.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): The DEP works closely with FDOT and local governments on statewide resource plans and policies for natural resources, air quality, and other environmental issues. The DEP's involvement in the decision-making process occurs early in the project planning process through the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process and continues through project development, design, and construction activities.

Florida Department of Transportation: The FDOT, through the seven districts and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, is responsible for planning, operating, and maintaining the State Highway System. FDOT is the lead agency responsible for

interregional, interstate, and international mobility, but must work closely through shared decision-making with modal partners, other state agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and local governments to meet these needs. Regional entities – ranging from regional transportation authorities to MPO alliances to new types of organizations that may not exist today – play the lead role in identifying and addressing regional mobility needs, in partnership with FDOT and local governments. Local governments have the primary responsibility for identifying and addressing local mobility needs, in partnership with FDOT and regional entities.