

Draft Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Joint Meeting of Governing Board & Staff Directors' Advisory Committee
April 24, 2014

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Vice-Chair
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO
Councilmember Delores Madison, Capital Region TPA
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Councilman Sam Saad, III, Collier MPO
Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO
Commissioner Robert Hutchinson, Gainesville MTPO
Councilmember Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO
Mayor Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO
Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Goodgame, Lake-Sumter MPO
Councilman Jim Burch, Lee County MPO
Councilman Dick Rynearson, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Commissioner Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
Councilman Jim Bennett, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO
Councilman Wengay Newton, Sr., Pinellas County MPO

Staff Directors

Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs
Peter Buchwald, Vice-Chair, St. Lucie TPO
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Lucie Ayer, Collier MPO
Michael Escalante, Gainesville MTPO
Ray Chiamonte, Hillsborough County MPO
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO
Donald Scott, Lee County MPO
Gary Huttman, METROPLAN Orlando
Greg Slay, Ocala-Marion County TPO
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach MPO
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO

Others in Attendance:

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
Jeff Kramer, USF/CUTR
Karen Seggerman, USF/CUTR

David Hawk, FHWA
Karen Brunelle, FHWA
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA
Carl Mikyska, FHWA
Stacie Blizzard, FHWA
Shakira Crandol, FHWA
Carey Shepherd, FHWA
Bob Romig, FDOT
Jim Wood, FDOT
Yvonne, Arens, FDOT
Ed Lee, FDOT
Regina Colson, FDOT Policy Planning
Sean Santalla, FDOT, Policy Planning
Jennifer Hibbert, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Keith Malton, FTA
Elizabeth Paris Orr, FTA
Joanna Turnek, National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
Erich Zimmerman, NARC
Lindsey Riley, NARC
Mayor Rocky Randals, Space Coast TPO
Debbie Chiaramonte, Hillsborough County MPO
Sheri Coven, Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA)
Heather Murphy, Safe Routes to School National Partnership-FL
Hal Beardall, FCRC Consensus Center
John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics
Wiley Page, Atkins
Dick Glaze, Glaze Associates
Mike Neidhart, Gannett Fleming
Richard Dreyer, Tindale-Oliver & Associates
W. Dale Allen, FL Greenways & Trails Foundation
Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission
Samantha Browne, DEP/OGT
Darrell Drummond, President, Council on Aging of St. Lucie

1. Call to Order

Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The Chair welcomed those in attendance. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that she was filling in as Chair for Mayor Kaplan whose wife is ill and offered condolences to Brigitte Messina on the loss of her husband.

Madame Chair presented Mary Bo Robinson with a plaque in recognition of her service as Chair of the Staff Directors' Advisory Committee. She also stated that a similar plaque would be presented to Mayor Kaplan, likely at the Broward MPO Meeting due to that fact that he will be unable to attend the July MPOAC meeting as well.

Madame Chair proposed a change in the agenda to move Item 9 after Item 6 and to remove Item 8 due to speaker schedules. A motion was made by Councilman Jim Burch, Lee County MPO to approve the agenda changes and seconded by Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Rocky Randals, Space Coast TPO made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2014 meetings. Councilman Jim Burch, Lee County MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, provided a status report on the MPOAC budget referring to Attachment 1 of the MPOAC agenda package under the Executive Director's Report. He noted that approximately 69% of the budget has been spent through the 3rd quarter. He also noted that the MPOAC, once only a member, is now an ex officio member on the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) Board. The FPTA is a transit association whose mission is "to continuously support improved public transportation in Florida through advocacy, innovation, education, and partnerships."

He then presented the draft FY 2014/2015-2015/2016 MPOAC Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) referring to Attachment 2 of the MPOAC agenda package under the Executive Director's Report. He highlighted items of particular interest including the work of the newly-created Freight Committee and work related to the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

Commissioner Gene Valentino, Florida-Alabama TPO moved to approve the UPWP as presented, and Councilman Jim Burch, Lee County MPO, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glassman presented the Legal Services Agreement for General Counsel Paul R. Gougelman (FY 2014-2015) referring to Attachment 3 of the MPOAC Agenda Package under the Executive Director's Report. He explained some of the activities of the General Counsel including responding to questions from individual MPOs. Mr. Gougelman expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with everyone. In response to a question regarding how Mr. Gougelman is paid, it was stressed that MPOs should work through Mr. Glassman if they have questions for the General Counsel for budget control purposes.

Councilman Sam Saad, III, Collier MPO, moved to approve the Legal Services Agreement and Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glassman presented the Revised Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds Distribution formula, Item 4 under the Executive Director's Report (distributed to members at the meeting). He noted that the Policy Committee that met on April 4th in Jacksonville made the recommendation that was currently before

the MPOAC Governing Board for consideration. The formula under consideration was simplified from the current formula by removing the regional allocation and combining it with the population allocation in the current formula. FDOT confirmed that the populations used in the allocations were obtained from the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) in response to a question. It was also noted that funds for the newly formed MPO would be taken from the PL reserves and not the PL funding allocation that would go to the existing MPOs.

Councilman Sam Saad, II, Collier MPO, moved to approve the Revised Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds Distribution formula with the understanding that the population numbers would be verified and Councilman Delores Madison, Capital Region TPA, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glassman then presented the State Legislative Status Report, Item 5 under the Executive Director's Report. He referred members to the handout – MPOAC Summary of State Legislation. Members expressed frustration at the lack of money for infrastructure, particularly as it relates to existing revenue streams (the tag fee) being eliminated which potentially could be allocated to the Highway Trust Fund. Members also questioned the status of bills related to rail safety, the use of wireless communication devices while driving, and preventing buses from blocking traffic.

Mr. Glassman then explained the handout – MPOAC Draft Federal MAP-21 Reauthorization Principles – which was developed based on MPOAC policy positions. These principles can be used by members when speaking to legislative delegations and other local or statewide organizations regarding federal reauthorization proposals.

He announced that the next MPOAC Institute Weekend will be May 30-June 1 in Tampa.

Mr. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, discussed the repeal of MPOAC Administrative Rules. He explained that the intent is to provide the MPOAC with flexibility by repealing the existing rules and replacing them with adopted bylaws, an action permissible for the MPOAC under state law. He stated that a draft of the bylaws will be sent to each MPO for review and comment. The MPOAC will then advertise the repeal of the rules followed by action by the MPOAC to adopt the new bylaws. The draft bylaws are expected to go out in about one month and action will likely be at the fall meeting.

Mr. Greg Stuart, Broward MPO, summarized the Freight Committee Meeting that occurred earlier in the day. Mr. Stuart stated that the fourth meeting of the committee included an historical presentation on the Panama Canal and a discussion of the potential activities of the Committee as a result of the rapid advancement of freight initiatives across the state resulting, in part, from ongoing changes to the Panama Canal. In response to a question, Mr. Stuart indicated that completion of the Panama Canal has been delayed for about 18 months due to some political issues.

5. Agency Reports

a. FDOT Agency Report

Mr. Jim Wood, FDOT, provided an update of Department efforts.

Mr. Wood thanked everyone for their participation at the Statewide FDOT/MPO/FHWA/FTA Meeting held in Jacksonville earlier in the month. Presentations from the meeting may be viewed at www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/metrosupport (click on "Events"). He noted that discussions included the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Strategic Plan updates that are being addressed in a combined process through both the Steering Committee and the public involvement process. The FTP will be completed first as the umbrella plan, with completion of the SIS Strategic Plan to follow. During the combined process, the vision component will be forward thinking and consider alternatives with common issues that feed into goals and objectives – the policy component of the plan. FDOT expects to hold a summit in the fall and Steering Committees will be convened in 2015 to focus on the policy component. He stressed that MPO participation and input is important to these efforts. The FTP is expected to be completed in mid/late 2015 and the SIS Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by late 2015.

In regard to the Future Corridor study areas, stakeholder participation is ongoing in the Tampa-to-Northeast Florida corridor. There is strong support for short-to mid-term improvements to I-75 as well as to an I-75 reliever corridor. The improvements in progress include improvements to interchange at I-75 and the Turnpike; managed lanes on I-75; and, Suncoast II. These actions will set the stage for longer term projects connecting to Gainesville and northeast Florida. The Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study area work is focusing on a Pilot Study Area between Orlando and Brevard Counties. Technical discussions have occurred and the East Central Florida Task Force process is underway. Progress may be followed at www.ecfcorridor taskforce.org.

Mr. Wood addressed legislation under consideration including the broad FDOT Package (HB 7175 and SB 696) a Toll by Plate bill (HB 7007) and a bill that would fund the completion of the Coast to Coast Connector worth \$15.5 Million (SB 2514 and SB 218). He noted that 26 MPO Reaffirmation Plans have been approved and that the plan for the new MPO is still under development (Highlands (Sebring/Avon Park), Hardee, DeSoto, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee). Finally, he noted the FDOT's continuing work regarding automated vehicles and the working groups that have been formed including Policy, Modal Applications, and Technology/Infrastructure. A second summit will be held December 15-16 in Orlando (The first was held in November 2013, with more information available at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/agencyresources/meetings/automatedvehicles.shtml>).

Members voiced concerns and comments regarding the need to preserve right-of-way for the corridor from the Suncoast Parkway to Gainesville, as well as for considering conservation issues. In addition, it was noted that if a bypass is considered, there is a need to consider plans for the community as traffic is drawn away from it.

b. FHWA Agency Report

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Project Development introduced David Hawk, FHWA Division Chief Operating Officer. He mentioned the ongoing MAP-21 rulemaking that FHWA considers transformational and urged members to look at the rules and to make comments. He also mentioned USDOT and FHWA efforts to accelerate innovation in planning practices

7. Florida Greenways and Trails Priority System (previously Item 9)

Mr. Dale Allen, President of Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc. presented the Florida Greenways & Trails Priority System. He began by describing that the Close the Gaps Initiative will be starting with the Coast-to-Coast connector which is a 275-mile multi-use trail with only 7 major gaps. He stated that MPOs play a critical role in supporting transportation efficiency and safety, noting that Florida is statistically an unsafe place to ride a bike. Mr. Allen noted that 70% of the gaps in the Coast-to-Coast connector can be closed by building trails on abandoned rail corridors. He stated that most big gaps are county boundaries and there needs to be a regional mindset and coordination efforts to close these gaps. Trails that are shorter than 30 miles are considered one day trails, trails that are between 30-100 miles are considered weekend trails, and those that are 100-200 miles are considered destinations and attract national and international tourism. Mr. Allen noted there would be significant public health benefits as well as tourism-related economic benefits with the completion of the Close the Gaps Initiative. He then discussed the Northeast Coast Connector and the Southwest Coast connector and noted that these two trails could join with the Coast to Coast connector, making a complete trail from the Georgia boundary to Naples. Mr. Allen noted various funding sources for completing this project and mentioned that building public awareness is an important next step in moving forward with these projects.

Members thanked Mr. Allen for his presentation, discussing some of the economic benefits already being seen because of existing trail systems. Members noted that trails should be planned in an aesthetically-pleasing way. Members also suggested there is a need to look further into the future and consider an annual, international statewide trail race to encourage tourism. Mr. Allen then noted that local governments would be responsible for funding safety and monitoring once the trails are completed. Members asked if Florida MPOs are currently represented on the board. Mr. Allen responded by stating that the MPOs are not members of the board and that the Greenways and Trails Foundation is supported through private funding with a volunteer board. He stated that the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is responsible for the maps developed for the Close the Gaps Initiative.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO, that the MPOAC chairperson send a letter acknowledging the legislators, including Senator Andy Gardiner, who made the Coast to Coast funding available. Councilman Sam Saad, III, Collier MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. FDOT Freight Mobility and Trade Plan Investment Element & State Freight Network (previously Item 7)

Mr. Ed Lee, Administrator for Rail/Motor Carrier Planning & Safety at FDOT, presented the FDOT Freight Mobility and Trade Investment Element & State Freight Network, referring to Attachment 1 of the MPOAC Agenda under FDOT Freight Mobility and Trade Plan Investment Element & State Freight Network and Attachments 2 and 3 (distributed).

The Freight Mobility and Trade Plan is being developed in two phases, each with their own purposes. The Policy Element establishes a policy framework for the network, identifies responsibilities for implementation of various portions of the network, and meets requirements of Florida 2012 House Bill

599 (§339.044(33)FS). FDOT approved the Policy Element on June 19, 2013 and then delivered it to the Florida Legislature.

The Investment Element builds on the Policy Element and is specifically intended to identify freight needs across the state, identify criteria for state investments in freight, prioritize freight investments across modes, and meet requirements of federal law

Mr. Lee noted that FDOT has been working on the Investment Element for the past year, which included two Business Forums and the 2nd Annual Freight Leadership Forum. To facilitate private and public sector involvement in the development of the Policy Element, FDOT conducted 10 events of direct engagement across the state including 6 Regional Listening Sessions, the 1st Freight Leadership Forum and 3 Business Forums. "Business Forum II: Plan Review" was held April 2, 2014 in Orlando, and allowed stakeholders a chance to comment on the draft Investment Element and review all identified freight needs.

Members asked Mr. Lee if there were projects to mitigate potential impacts from the movement of freight. Mr. Lee stated that there is a potential for projects that could mitigate those impacts as long as it supported the goals and objectives of the Policy Element. Members also asked if this effort was in response to FDOT's National Freight Network. Mr. Lee responded by stating that this effort is supportive of the national network, but that the Department's focus is on Florida's freight network.

9. Pedestrian Safety Through Environmental Design (previously Item 8)

This presentation was postponed to a later meeting.

10. TRAC & Rides in Florida

Mr. Carey Shepherd, FHWA Civil Rights Program Coordinator for the Florida Division Office, presented the TRAC & Rides Program, referring to Attachment 1 of the MPOAC Agenda under TRAC & Ride Systems in Florida.

Mr. Shepherd presented a PowerPoint beginning with the history of TRAC & Rides in Florida. He described the Special Outreach Advisory Group (SOAG) and noted current activities and achievements of TRAC & Rides in Florida. He concluded the presentation with an assessment of the program and an outline of TRAC & Ride Systems activities in 2014, noting that there have been 3 waves of TRAC & Rides marketing, 3 construction career days, and various presentations to minority institutions of higher education. He noted that there are currently no performance measures or follow up mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and that the funding is running out. He stated that if these programs could be put into some of these schools there could be a younger, more diverse group of people working in transportation.

Members asked if this program was strictly reserved for women or were young men targeted as well. Mr. Shepherd mentioned that young men are also included in this program, but that the focus was on women because of their historically reduced participation in the transportation industry. Members were

a little unsure that MPOs were the appropriate entity for this program. Mr. Shepherd noted that access to information, including what exactly an MPO is and what they do, is one of the most important factors in environmental preservation.

Councilman Jim Burch, Lee County MPO, made a motion to request that FDOT continue to fund the TRAC & Rides Program for the amount of \$7,000. Councilmember Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

11. Communications

Mr. Howard Glassman noted the communications for the quarter were included in the agenda packet - a letter from Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, MPOAC Chair written to Senate President Don Gaetz and House Speaker Will Weatherford regarding Traffic Infraction Detector legislation, dated March 7, 2014.

12. Member Comments

Ray Chiaramonte, Hillsborough County MPO, stated that he enjoyed the presentation at the national American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conference on the millennial generation to better plan transportation systems for the next generation. Councilman Wengay "Newt" Newton, Sr., Pinellas County MPO, clarified that we are the Department of Transportation not the "Department of Roads" highlighting the responsibility to plan for all modes of transportation.

The next meeting will be July 24, 2014 at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott Resort in Fort Myers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.