



# The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

*Mayor Susan Haynie  
Chair*

## MPOAC Freight Committee Minutes from the July 19, 2017 Meeting

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### **Committee Members**

Greg Stuart, Broward MPO, Chair  
Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando, Vice-Chair  
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO  
Caitlin Cerame, West Florida RPC  
Renee Cross, Palm Beach MPO  
Kevin Fischer, Palm Beach MPO  
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO  
David Hutchinson, Sarasota / Manatee MPO  
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO  
Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA

### **Elected Officials**

Willie Shaw, Sarasota / Manatee MPO

### **Other Participants**

Luis Aguilar, Port Everglades  
Diana Alarcon, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Rodrigo Arboleda, Fastrack Institute  
Eldredge Bermingham, Fastrack Institute  
Todd Brauer, Whitehouse Group  
Karen Brunelle, FHWA  
Tom Byron, FDOT  
Sheri Coven, MARLIN Engineering  
Daniel Crotty, Whitehouse Group  
Arlene Davis, FDOT – District 4  
John Dohm, Infinity Commercial Real Estate  
Michael Escalante, Gainesville MTPO  
Rickey Fitzgerald, FDOT  
Paul Flavien, Broward MPO  
Ingrid Guzman, MARLIN Engineering  
Alex Gramovot, FDOT

Bob Hamm, CDM Smith  
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA  
Jason Klempin, FDOT – District 5  
Jeff Kramer, CUTR  
Thomas Lanahan, TCRPC  
Kent Langley, Fastrack Institute  
Catherine Lawson, University of Albany  
Richard Levinson, Land Solutions Consulting  
Carl Mikyska, MPOAC  
Carmen Monroy, FDOT  
Wiley Page, Atkins  
Rob Palmer, RS&H  
Mira Skoroden, FDOT  
Jeff Weidner, MARLIN Engineering  
Michael Williamson, Cambridge Systematics  
Jim Wood, FDOT

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*Carl Mikyska, Executive Director*

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## Discussion Items

1. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, and Greg Stuart, Committee Chair, welcomed all participants and opened the meeting with introductions.
2. Michael Williamson, Freight Operations Manager with Cambridge Systematics, gave a presentation about the developments to the Proposed Framework for Promoting Urban Freight Priorities:
  - a. The Committee reviewed the proposed Screening Checklist and two (2) illustrative examples of how to fill out the Screening Checklist form as well how to identify whether the project is aligned to the goals of FDOT's Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). Examples reviewed included the Broward MPO's I-95 Managed Lanes and MetroPlan Orlando's SR 423/Lee Road.
  - b. The Committee fielded several comments/questions following the presentation:
    - i. Regarding the requirement of "project readiness," the Committee seemed to agree that proposed projects that have undergone a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study would already meet most of the requirements on the Screening Checklist. It was noted that the phrasing regarding this topic is important because the Prioritization Framework is intended to promote freight projects that could utilize funds immediately.
    - ii. The Screening Checklist questions have not been evaluated to the point where the Committee would be able to identify a project's fatal flaw, which could disqualify it for consideration. Those thresholds, if required, still need to be discussed and developed.
    - iii. The FLFAC currently has two (2) MPOAC Freight Committee representatives (Broward MPO and West Florida RPC). The MPOAC endorsed list will be provided to the FLFAC through those representatives. To date, the FLFAC has been focused on formula funds from the Fast Act, but the goal is that the focus will expand to the other available modal funding sources as well (e.g. the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), Discretionary Intermodal Funds, etc.).
    - iv. The Committee agreed that the term, "urban" should be clarified to be "MPO planning boundary."
    - v. The Committee should focus this process on projects that have completed a PD&E and are ready for funding. A separate process can be developed for projects that still require a PD&E and/or need assistance with other phases of preparing the project for funding.
    - vi. The Committee agreed that "Project applications [should be] reviewed by the MPOAC Freight Committee and any requests for clarifications or additional information [from the MPOs] will be distributed."

3. Rickey Fitzgerald, FDOT Freight & Multimodal Operations Office Manager, tried to give an update on the FLFAC Proposed National Highway Freight Programs Projects, but was interrupted by technical difficulties with the conference call-in connection.
4. Thomas Lanahan, Deputy Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, gave a presentation about the US 27 Multi-Modal Corridor Project:
  - a. The Treasure Coast RPC is looking for opportunities to improve freight corridor connectivity between the Orlando area and the Southeast Coast of Florida. There are many freight-related points of interest along the coast but few dependable freight corridors between them.
    - i. One of the top suggested projects for the Treasure Coast RPC is to widen the US-27 corridor and add a rail component.
    - ii. There have been several FDOT studies conducted to date to analyze the feasibility of the project. One study in particular, the *2012-2013 US-27 Multimodal Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) Study*, was completed but the findings were never promoted and the project lost momentum.
    - iii. The Treasure Coast RPC is now conducting outreach to try see if a multimodal option would be worthwhile for Florida and to determine if it benefits freight stakeholders in Southeast Florida.
  - b. The Committee fielded several comments/questions following the presentation:
    - i. The next steps are to get this project more exposure in South Florida for freight stakeholders to react to. A presentation will be given before the Miami-Dade TPO's Freight Technical Advisory Committee on August 9th.
    - ii. Most of the proposed routes run through very rural and agricultural areas where it is assumed to generate very little traffic congestion.
    - iii. For this project to be cost effective in South Florida, it will need to include Port Everglades because it accounts for approximately half of the freight traffic.
5. The Committee Chair opened the meeting for Administrative Items and Public Comments.
  - a. The Committee is coming up on it's fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) anniversary since it was established July 24, 2014. The Committee's leadership was credited for all that has been accomplished so far, including its membership growth, vision, mission statement and prioritization framework.
  - b. The most recent Activity Report by the National Coalition for Truck Parking<sup>1</sup> was released in June, 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the National Coalition for Truck Parking report, visit <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop17026/index.htm>

- c. The FASTLANE Grant Program has been revised and renamed to the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program.<sup>2</sup>
  - d. National Performance Management Research Dataset is hosting an online seminar on July 20, 2017.
  - e. It was reported that the Committee, with the conclusion of the Prioritization Framework process, will have met every objective that was set forth in the Committee's original report card.
  - f. The Committee has consistently seen a three-fold increase in participation each year, including participation via phone. Perhaps a technology update should be considered to improve quality of participation via phone.
  - g. It is nearly time to identify new objectives for the Committee to pursue.
  - h. The Committee's minutes from the previous two (2) meetings were unanimously approved.
6. The Executive Director announced that the next Committee meeting will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Emerald Coast Symposium in Panama City.
  7. Meeting Adjourned by the Chair.

#### **Action Items**

1. Develop a one (1) page fact sheet that clearly defines the Prioritization Framework process and the elements required for endorsement.
2. Begin to clearly indicate that freight priorities relate to "MPO planning boundaries" rather than "urban areas" in all future representations of the Prioritization Framework.
3. Plan to explore options to improve AV quality for off-site meeting participation, using options such as GoToMeeting.
4. Disseminate changes to the Prioritization Framework and the meeting's presentations to the MPOAC Freight Committee members and participants.
5. Post the meeting minutes on the MPOAC website.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information about the changes to the FASTLANE grant program, visit <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants>