

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT BRIEF

WHAT IS AN MPO?

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are federally required for Census designated urban areas that have more than 50,000 people. These organizations are responsible for transportation planning within their metropolitan region and are comprised of representatives from local governments and transportation authorities.

Florida has 27 MPOs, each with its own planning boundary and board of voting members. An MPO's planning area may cover a single county, multiple counties, or urban areas that span only part of a county.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Florida, some MPOs are also referred to as **Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs)** and **Transportation Planning Agencies (TPAs)**.

WHY MPOs MATTER

MPOs play a central role in shaping how people and goods move across Florida. Their planning process is continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C), ensuring that decisions reflect the shared priorities of local governments, the state, and the public. Through this approach, MPOs help to:



Improve
Safety



Minimize
Congestion

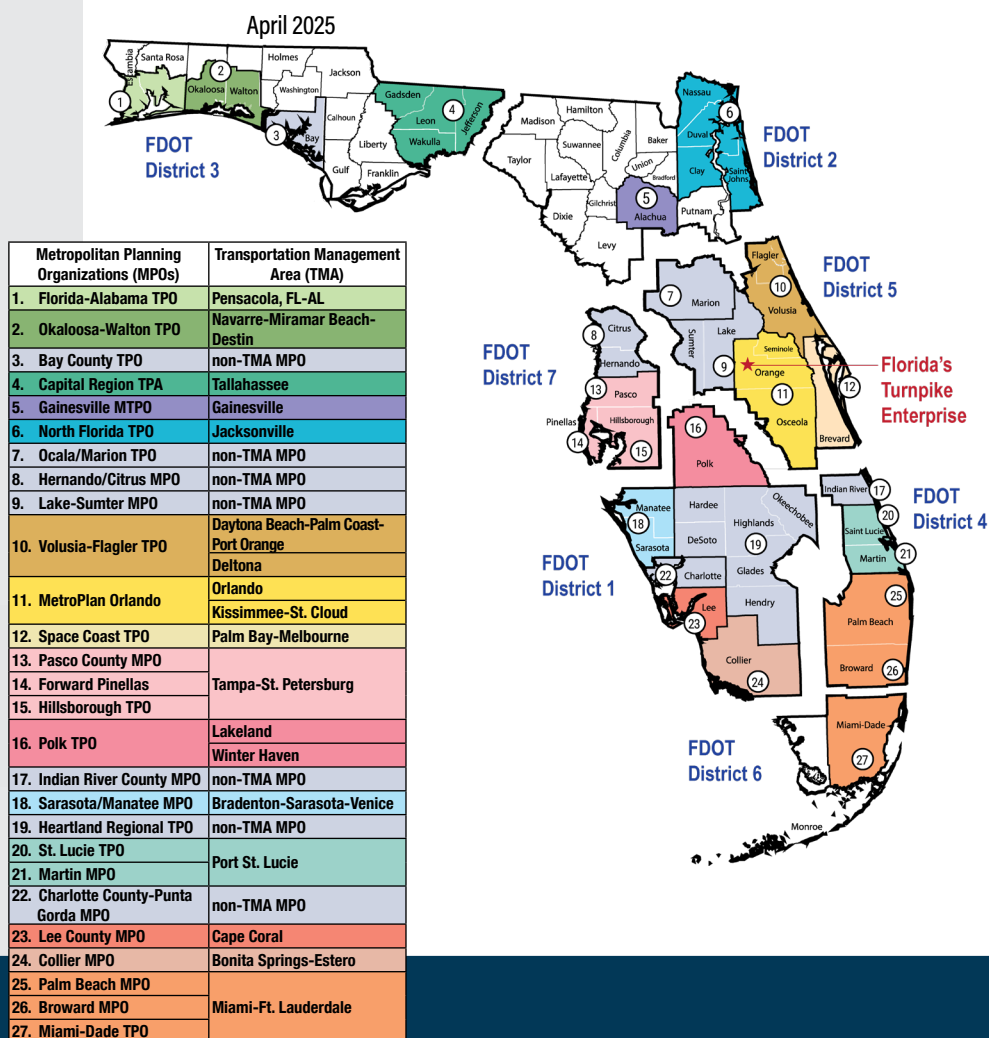


Connect
Communities



Support Economic
Growth

FLORIDA MPO/TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREAS (OCTOBER 2025)



MPO CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Each MPO is required to develop four core planning documents, forming the foundation of the planning process.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Establishes a twenty-plus-year vision for the region's transportation system, identifying future goals, strategies, and needs.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

A four-year program of funded highway and transit improvements that is updated annually. In Florida, an additional fifth year is included for planning purposes.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

A two-year plan that outlines the MPO's planning work, timeline, budget, and funding sources.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Describes how the MPO engages the public and stakeholders in transportation planning processes.

27
MPOs

DID YOU KNOW?

Florida has the most MPOs of any state, with 27 of the 459 MPOs nationwide.



HOW DO MPOs AND FDOT WORK TOGETHER?

MPOs and FDOT partner in a coordinated planning process that links local and regional priorities with statewide goals.

- Long-Term Planning (20+ Years)
- Short-Term Planning (5-10 Years)

Long-Term

FDOT develops the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), the state's long-range plan

MPOs develop LRTPs, aligning with the FTP

Short-Term

MPOs prioritize transportation needs through the List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

The LOPP informs the TIP, the five-year project list

MPO TIPs are combined to create the State TIP (STIP)

Projects are programmed in the FDOT Work Program – to receive federal funds, projects must be in the LRTP, TIP, and STIP

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Federal Regulations

Establishes the national framework for statewide and metropolitan planning:

- 23 USC 134: Metropolitan transportation process and MPO Board structure and responsibilities
- 23 CFR Part 450: Statewide and metropolitan planning policies

MPO Program Management Handbook

Outlines required MPO planning procedures, timelines, and coordination with FDOT under state and federal law.

Florida Statutes (FS)

Describes how MPOs are formed and operate in Florida:

- Section 339.175, FS: MPO roles and planning process
- Section 339.175(3) and Section 339.176, FS: MPO voting membership

MPO Advisory Council

Created by Florida Statute to support a cooperative, statewide transportation planning process with Florida's 27 MPOs.