

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION SUBJECT BRIEF



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## What is an MPO?

Metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) are entities comprised of representatives from local governments and transportation authorities that are responsible for regional transportation planning in urbanized areas with populations of over 50,000.

The 27 MPOs in Florida each have their own geographical boundary and board of voting members. An MPO planning area can include one county, multiple counties, or even urbanized areas that do not encompass an entire county.

## Why are MPOs Important?

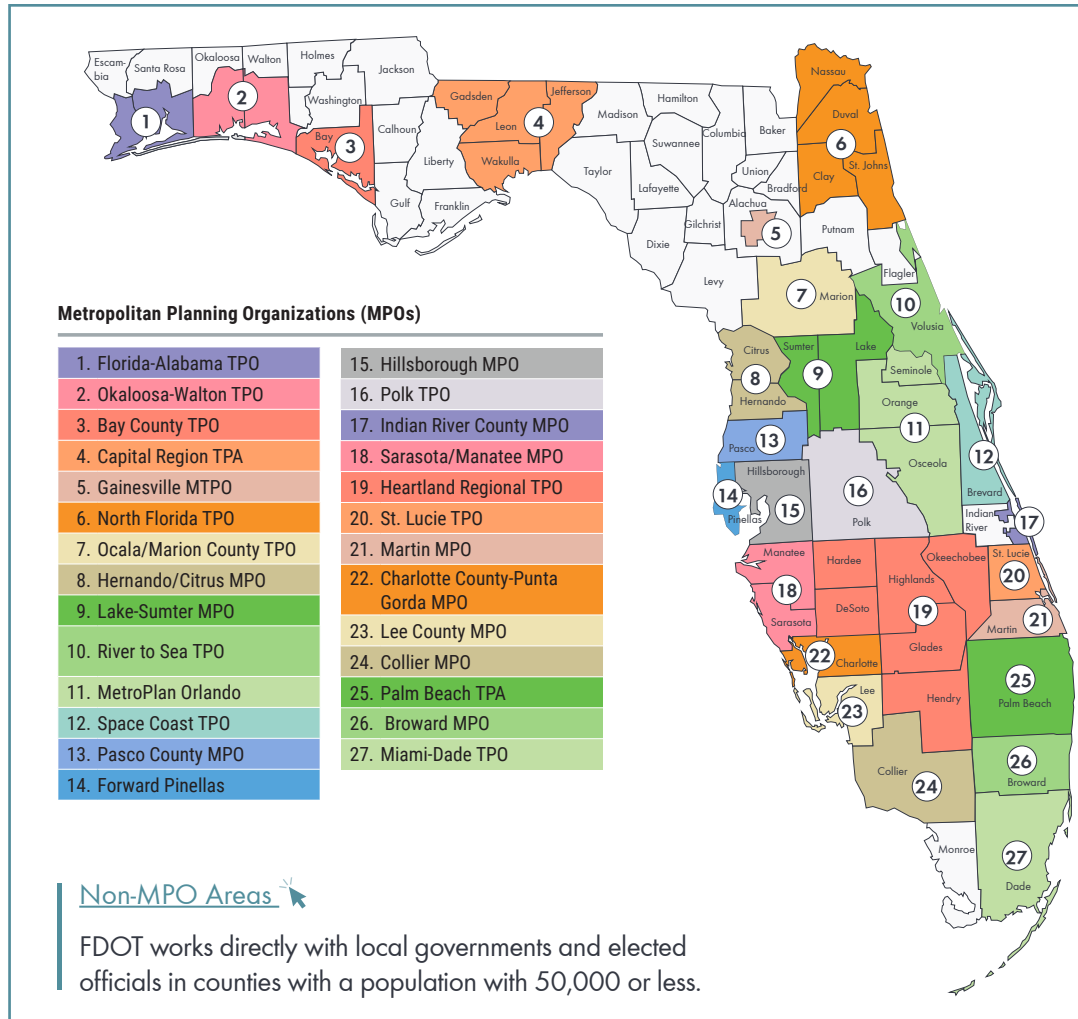
MPOs develop and maintain transportation plans for metropolitan areas that encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of surface transportation systems. These systems serve the mobility needs of people and freight and foster economic growth and development within and through urbanized areas of Florida, while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The plans and programs developed by MPOs identify transportation facilities that should function as an integrated metropolitan transportation system, giving emphasis to facilities that serve important national, state, and regional transportation functions.

## How do MPOs and FDOT work together on transportation planning?

FDOT and MPOs are partners in transportation planning, with FDOT responsible for coordinating the State's long range transportation plan, the [Florida Transportation Plan \(FTP\)](#), and MPOs responsible for coordinating regional long range transportation plans that support the FTP. The projects identified and prioritized by MPOs, through coordination with its local governments and public involvement, are the basis of FDOT's Work Program and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The MPOs and FDOT staff collaborate on project identification and development, regional and local issues, priority projects, and planning processes. FDOT relies on MPOs to provide insight on transportation needs, provide planning studies to address specific issues or trends, and conduct regional planning supported by community involvement. MPOs rely on FDOT to provide the state's vision for transportation (FTP), guidance on funding and planning requirements, and technical expertise.



### Non-MPO Areas

FDOT works directly with local governments and elected officials in counties with a population with 50,000 or less.

### Did you know?

Florida has the most MPOs of any state, with 27 of the 408 MPOs nationally.

## How do MPOs and FDOT work together to meet state and federal requirements?

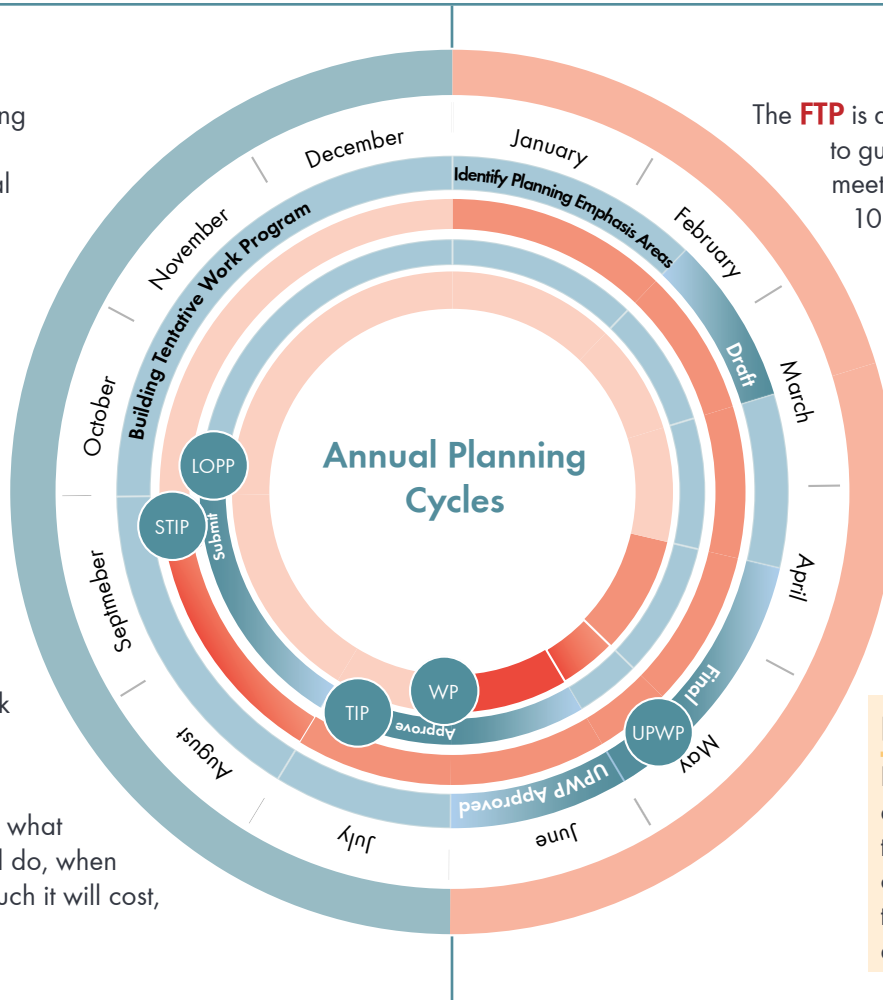
FDOT's Office of Policy Planning (OPP) provides guidance and direction about state and federal regulations to the MPOs and FDOT districts, particularly as they relate to planning requirements, transportation performance measures, and federal funding. OPP is the liaison to the Florida Division of the Federal Highway Administration as it relates to MPOs and to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) and MPO leadership.

MPOs are supported by FDOT's District MPO liaisons, who provide technical assistance and ensure compliance with federal and state regulations for planning and programming of projects.

### MPO Planning

The **MPOs** develop their Long Range Transportation Plan (**L RTP**) to implement national and state goals for their metropolitan area. Projects are developed and must be included in the L RTP to be considered for funding. The List of Priority Projects (**LOPP**) is used to inform the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (**TIP**), which must be consistent with the L RTP. The projects included in the TIP are funded and completed through the Work Program (**WP**).

The Unified Planning Work Program (**UPWP**) describes what planning work the MPO will do, when it will be completed, how much it will cost, and how it will be paid for.



### Statewide Planning

The **FTP** is a long-term plan that sets goals to guide transportation decisions to meet the needs of Florida. The next 10 years of funding for programs are identified in the Program and Resource Plan. All 27 TIPs are combined together, along with FDOT's other non-metropolitan statewide projects to form the STIP. To be eligible for federal funding, projects must be included in the L RTP, TIP and STIP. Projects are funded and completed through the WP.

### Did you know?

In Florida, MPOs are also referred to as transportation planning organizations (TPO) and transportation planning agencies (TPA).

## Where Can I Learn More?

### Federal Regulations

Establishes nationwide regulatory framework for metropolitan planning organizations.

### Florida Statutes

Provides framework for the operation and development of metropolitan planning organizations in Florida.

### Federal Highway Administration

Provides information on metropolitan planning through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or "FAST" Act.

### Center for Urban Transportation Research

This research center developed a [snapshot of Florida MPOs](#).

### Federal Transit Administration

Provides an overview of metropolitan planning organizations and their role in transit planning.

### MPO Advisory Council

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



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LINKS

[Partnering with FDOT: A Resource Guide for Local Governments](#)