



Public and Partner Engagement Plan

for Carbon Reduction Strategy

November 2022



Introduction

The purpose of the new Carbon Reduction Program is to reduce transportation emissions. This program, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), will provide a total of \$320.4 million to Florida over five years for eligible projects. In accordance with the IIJA, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will consult with the state's 27 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) when developing a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) for reducing emissions. FDOT will also coordinate with other external partners for additional input. The plan is due by November 15, 2023; however, program funds became available beginning in federal FY 2022.

This Public and Partner Engagement Plan (PPEP) outlines the strategies that will be used to communicate with external partners and the public during the development of the CRS. The purpose of the outreach is to share information on the CRS with interested parties and receive valuable feedback.

IIJA Requirements

The State of Florida will work in collaboration with MPOs to develop and integrate strategies for reducing transportation emissions. The IIJA directs states to develop their carbon reduction strategies as an integral part of their transportation planning processes. This can be accomplished by either (1) integrating strategies into both the state's and MPOs' long range transportation plans, or (2) by developing a separate document that is incorporated by reference into the long range transportation plans. This PPEP serves as the tool for stakeholder engagement for CRS development and implementation.

Goals and Expectations

The goals listed below are consistent with state and local transportation planning initiatives. They support Florida's long range transportation plan, the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), and FDOT's mission. The goals of this PPEP include the following:

- Goal 1: Provide transparency on the public and stakeholder engagement process
- Goal 2: Provide a sound understanding of the purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program
- Goal 3: Receive valuable stakeholder feedback that helps identify strategies reducing carbon consistent with the FTP and align with the needs of Florida

Federal and State Requirements

Public engagement will be conducted in accordance with federal and state requirements, including Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and all nondiscrimination laws. The PPEP meets the guidance criteria outlined in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Carbon Reduction Program guidance for public participation. These are set forth in

Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Federal and State Requirements for Partner and Public Involvement Related to Statewide Planning

Federal and State Requirements	
Requirement (Regulation Citation)	Actions to Accomplish the Requirement
Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act	Requires nondiscrimination in public participation on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or family status.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (ADA)	Requires public accommodations to provide equivalent access to individuals with disabilities.
23 CFR, Part 450	Requires opportunity for public review and comment, including from underserved and underrepresented groups, during the state transportation planning process.
Limited English Proficiency (Executive Order 13166)	Improves access to services for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and ensures people with LEP will have meaningful access to programs and activities of agencies receiving federal financial assistance.
Section 286.0114, F.S.	“Florida Sunshine” requirements for meetings of boards and commissions.
Section 339.155, F.S.	Provides procedures for public participation in transportation planning.
Florida Executive Order, Plain English Initiative	Requires clear language using the active voice and containing only necessary information presented in a logical sequence.

Stakeholders

In the development of CRS, FDOT will coordinate with MPOs, Transportation Planning Organizations, Regional Planning Councils (RPCs), and other partners of the FTP.

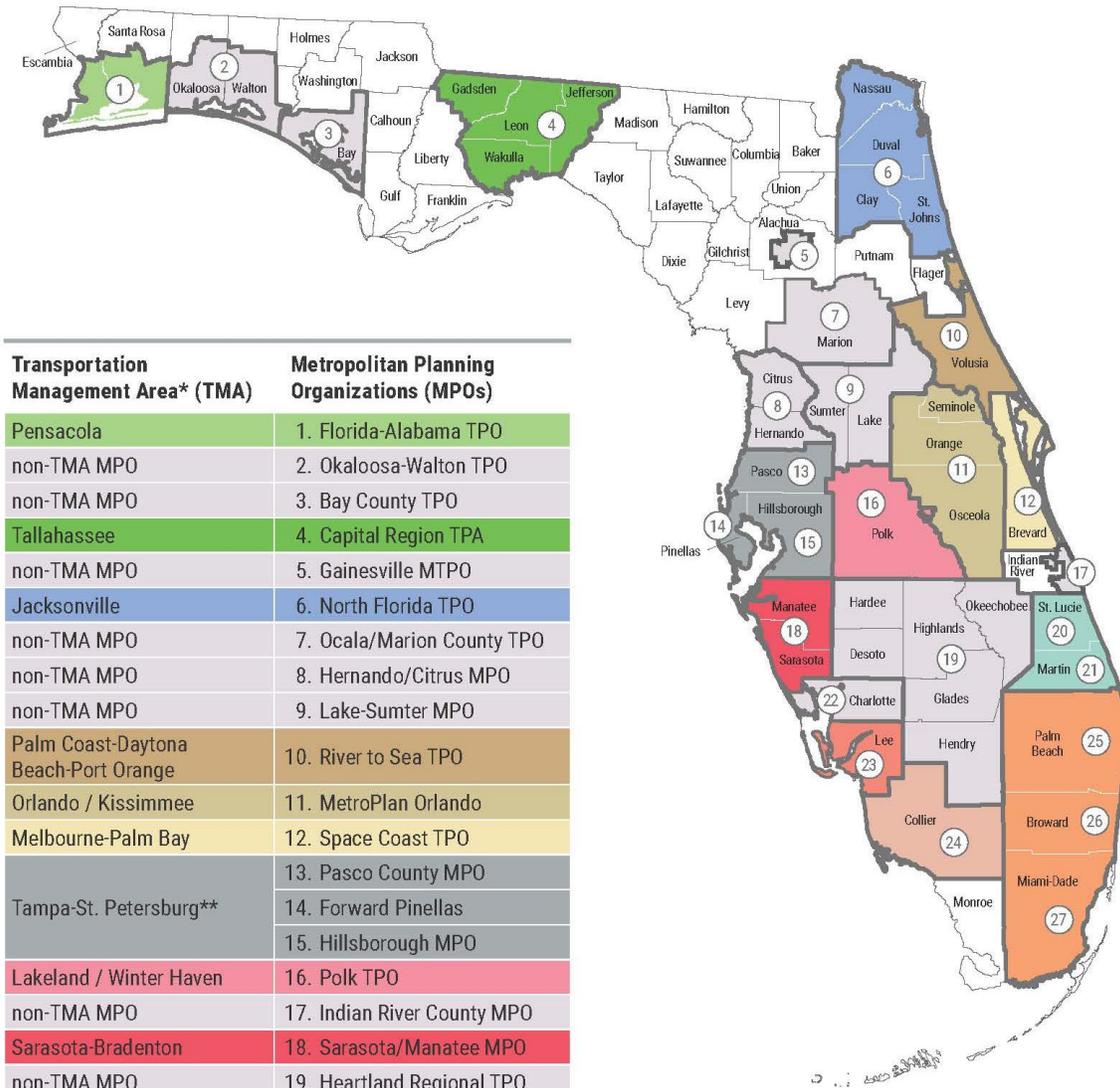
Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

MPOs are federally mandated transportation planning organizations comprised of representatives from local governments and transportation authorities. The MPO's role is to develop and maintain the required transportation plans for a metropolitan area in order to ensure federal funds support local priorities. In Florida, MPOs are also referred to as Transportation Planning Organizations and Transportation Planning Agencies. There are 27 MPOs in Florida representing all or parts of 39 counties, as shown in

Figure 1.

One of the primary responsibilities of an MPO is to develop and maintain a long range transportation plan that identifies needs and priorities over a 20-year planning horizon. Project consistency with an MPO's long range transportation plan is required for CRS funding eligibility. Incorporating CRS into long range transportation plans is important to ensure alignment with the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and Florida's approach to reducing transportation emissions. The development and implementation of CRS will help FDOT and MPOs further reduce transportation emissions while delivering solutions to make our roadways more efficient and resilient.

Figure 1: Florida MPOs and TMAs



Transportation Management Area* (TMA)	Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
Pensacola	1. Florida-Alabama TPO
non-TMA MPO	2. Okaloosa-Walton TPO
non-TMA MPO	3. Bay County TPO
Tallahassee	4. Capital Region TPA
non-TMA MPO	5. Gainesville MTPO
Jacksonville	6. North Florida TPO
non-TMA MPO	7. Ocala/Marion County TPO
non-TMA MPO	8. Hernando/Citrus MPO
non-TMA MPO	9. Lake-Sumter MPO
Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange	10. River to Sea TPO
Orlando / Kissimmee	11. MetroPlan Orlando
Melbourne-Palm Bay	12. Space Coast TPO
Tampa-St. Petersburg**	13. Pasco County MPO
	14. Forward Pinellas
	15. Hillsborough MPO
Lakeland / Winter Haven	16. Polk TPO
non-TMA MPO	17. Indian River County MPO
Sarasota-Bradenton	18. Sarasota/Manatee MPO
non-TMA MPO	19. Heartland Regional TPO
Port St. Lucie**	20. St. Lucie TPO
	21. Martin MPO
non-TMA MPO	22. Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Cape Coral	23. Lee County MPO
Bonita Springs	24. Collier MPO
Miami**	25. Palm Beach TPA
	26. Broward MPO
	27. Miami-Dade TPO

* Urbanized population over 200,000

** Tampa-St. Petersburg, Port St. Lucie and Miami TMA's contain multiple MPOs.



Regional Planning Councils

There are ten Regional Planning Councils in Florida that are publicly funded agencies that help connect local governments and their planning efforts for a coordinated future of the state. Each Council represents a multi-county area that generally shares resources, characteristics, and issues.

Regional Planning Councils include full counties and areas not within an MPO planning area. As such, the participation of Regional Planning Councils is critical to statewide coordination. The Regional Planning Councils are shown in Figure 2 and listed in

Table 2.

Figure 2: Florida Regional Planning Councils

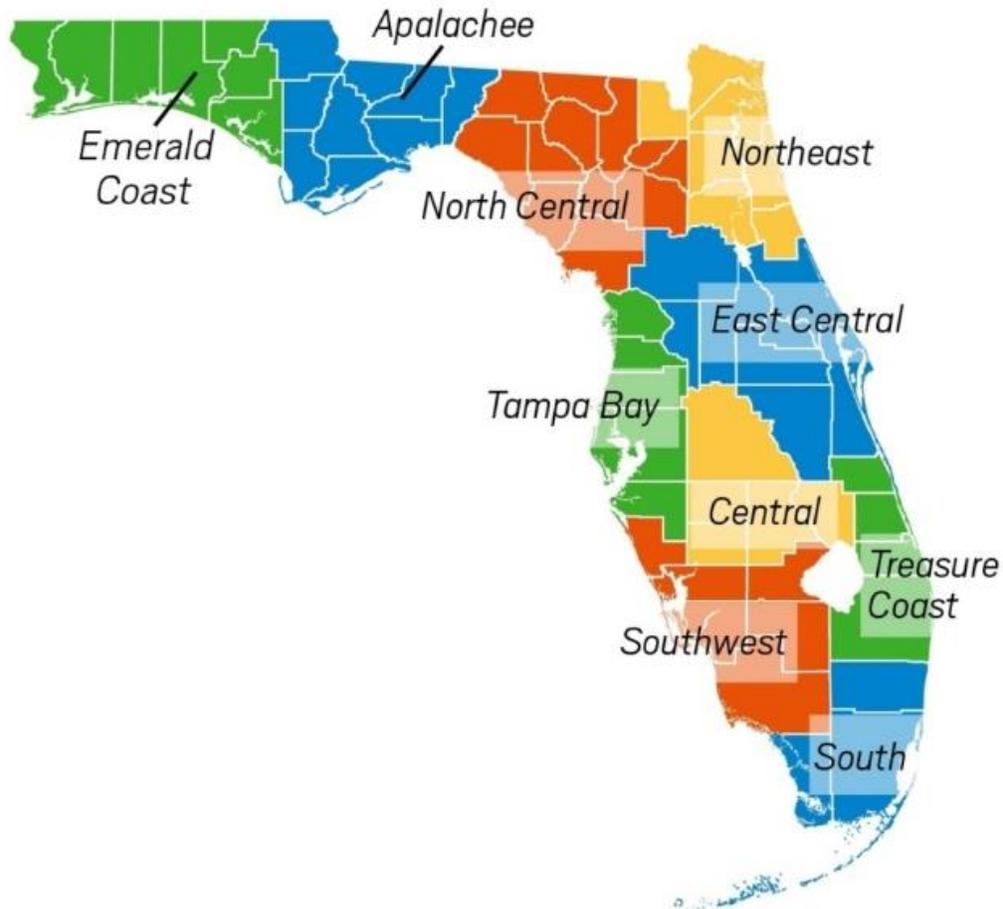


Table 2: Florida Regional Planning Councils

Regional Planning Council		Counties
Apalachee Regional Planning Council	ARPC	Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla
Central Florida Regional Planning Council	CFRPC	DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council	ECFRPC	Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia
Emerald Coast Regional Council	ECRC	Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council	NCFRPC	Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor, Union
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council	NEFRPC	Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns
South Florida Regional Planning Council	SFRPC	Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council	SWFRPC	Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council	TBRPC	Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council	TCRPC	Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie

Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) Partners

The FTP was developed in consultation with multiple partners representing state agencies, MPOs, Regional Planning Councils, local governments, transit providers, economic development organizations, and other statewide, regional, and local organizations. Committees and subcommittees on a variety of cross-cutting topics were formed and continue to meet as updates to the FTP are made. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet with a variety of partners whose feedback could help shape Florida’s approach to CRS. Additional information about the FTP partners, including committee and subcommittee members, is available through the [FTP website](#).

Overview of Public and Partner Engagement Activities

Engagement activities will focus on outreach with the MPOs and other external partners to solicit their input and feedback. Opportunities for public participation include regional information sessions and review of materials posted on FDOT’s website.

MPO Targeted Outreach

Outreach opportunities with the MPOs will include meetings, discussions, and interactive sessions utilizing a variety of formats such as Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) workshops, MPO Advisory Committee (MPOAC) meetings, and individual virtual meetings. The Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership and MPO Advisory Committee are ongoing partnership meetings held regularly throughout the year and attended by all MPOs. In addition, individual virtual meetings with the MPOs will be scheduled. The purpose of these engagement activities is to receive input and feedback from the MPOs throughout the development of CRS. Specifically, meetings and interactive sessions will be held to discuss and receive input on the following:

- Incorporating CRS into LRTPs
- Goals and objectives
- Trends and conditions
- Proposed strategies

Multiple opportunities in various formats will be provided to ensure a robust engagement process with the MPOs. Input will be sought through a variety of methods including surveys, questionnaires, presentations, group discussions, and document reviews.

Regional Planning Council Engagement

FDOT will provide updates to the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) and solicit feedback.

Statewide Events

Statewide events include presentations at FTP committee and subcommittee meetings. Other opportunities may include industry conferences and workshops.

Regional Information Sessions

To promote the CRS effort and share information about funding opportunities afforded by the IIJA, information on CRS will be available for review and feedback at nine Regional Information Sessions hosted by FDOT's Office of Policy Planning. These sessions are open to the public with local agencies and MPOs as the primary audience.

Polling, Surveys, and Questionnaires

Targeted outreach in the form of polling, surveys, and questionnaires will be considered to help understand community needs and industry opportunities. This approach may be conducted at selected stakeholder meetings and may provide valuable feedback for implementation.

Website/Online Public Engagement

An FDOT-hosted website (<https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/carbon-reduction-strategy>) will serve as the central source of information for partners and the public. The website will ensure full transparency of the CRS development.

Opportunity for Public Review of Draft CRS Document

An opportunity for public comment on the Draft CRS document will be provided prior to its submittal to the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is expected that this draft will be available to the public in September 2023. A notice will be placed on FDOT's Public Notices website directing people to the CRS website where the draft document will be posted for public review and comment.

