Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) Statewide Collaboration

Purpose: The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) come together quarterly to collaborate on transportation planning activities in Florida. The partnership between these entities provides valuable support for funding and program implementation.

Contact: For questions, please contact Donna M. Green via Teams or by phone at 850.414.4610.

Meeting Agenda

Time	Topics	Presenter/Facilitator
8:30 am *(15 mins)*	**Welcome and Introductions**	Donna M. Green, Statewide MPO Administrator *FDOT Office of Policy Planning (OPP)*
8:45 am *(30 mins)*	**Legislative and Other Updates**	Dana Reiding, Director *FDOT OPP*
9:15 am *(60 mins)*	**Breakout Session 1: FDOT / MPO Collaboration**	Everyone
10:15 am *(15 mins)*	**Break**	
10:30 am *(60 mins)*	**Breakout Session 2: Transportation Performance Management (TPM) / Senate Bill (SB) 462 Performance Metrics**	Everyone
11:30 am *(90 mins)*	**Lunch**	
1:00 pm *(30 mins)*	**Safety**	Regina Colson, Systems Performance Manager *FDOT Systems Forecasting & Trends Office (SFT)*
1:30 pm *(45 mins)*	**Breakout Session 3: Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Requirements**	Everyone
2:15 pm *(15 mins)*	**FHWA / FTA Update**	Teresa Parker, Planning Team Leader *FHWA Florida Division Office of Project Development* Michael Sherman, Senior Community Planner *FTA Region 4*

Time	Topics	Presenter/Facilitator
2:30 pm *(30 mins)*	**Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Update**	Amanda Carpenter, Executive Director *MPOAC*
3:00 pm *(15 mins)*	**Break**	
3:15 pm *(60 mins)*	**Breakout Sessions: Group Report Outs**	Everyone
4:15 pm *(15 mins)*	**Next Steps**	Donna M. Green, Statewide MPO Administrator *FDOT OPP*
4:30 pm	**Adjourn**	Dana Reiding, Director *FDOT OPP*

Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) Statewide Collaboration Summary

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) meet quarterly to collaborate on transportation planning activities in Florida. The partnership between these entities provides valuable support for funding and program implementation. The October collaboration provided an opportunity for FDOT, federal entities, and MPO partners to collaborate and provide input on new legislation, upcoming federal activities, and safety.

Legislative and Other Updates

Dana Reiding, Director of the FDOT Office of Policy Planning (OPP), Presenter

- The FDOT budget for Fiscal Year 2026 includes $15.1 billion in transportation investments, $13.7 billion of which is allocated into the State Transportation Work Program.
- Key provisions in Senate Bill (SB) 1662 related to MPOs include:
    - Eliminating high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.
    - Increased financial penalties for jurisdictions that do not comply with the FDOT Design Manual (FDM) and the Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction, and Maintenance for Streets and Highways (2023 Florida Greenbook).
- Key provisions in SB 462 related to FDOT and MPO collaboration, include:
    - FDOT is required to convene MPOs of similar size at least once annually. FDOT will use FMPP to meet this requirement.
    - MPOs may execute an optional five-year agreement with FDOT to establish a cooperative framework for meeting state and federal transportation planning requirements.
        - This agreement does not replace the existing FDOT/MPO Agreement or the Interlocal Agreement for the Creation of the MPO.
        - FDOT does not intend to create an optional 5-year agreement unless an MPO requests it.
    - FDOT must establish, in collaboration with MPOs, quality performance metrics and targets for safety, infrastructure condition, congestion relief, and mobility.
        - FDOT is using the existing federal performance measures to meet the performance metric requirements in Florida Statutes. There will be no new performance metrics.
        - The FDOT Source Book and Performance Data Integration Space (PDIS) websites now include MPO datasheets. FDOT will continue creating these for the MPOs.
        - FDOT annually publishes federal performance measure data on October 31 in the FDOT Source Book.

Safety

Regina Colson, Systems Performance Manager of the FDOT Systems Forecasting and Trends Office (SFT), Presenter

- The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) has shifted its approach to reach a broader audience, emphasizing that safety is everyone's responsibility.
- FHWA Safe Arterials for Everyone through Reliable Operations and Distraction-Reducing Strategies (SAFE ROADS) Initiative. Per US Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy's letter sent on July 1, 2025, State DOTs, working with MPOs, must provide a list of arterial segments with the highest safety, operational, or compliance concerns.
    - There is no additional funding related to the SAFE ROADS Initiative.
    - FDOT identified 320 safety-specific Work Program projects that overlap with the following ongoing safety screening efforts: VRU Tier 1–3 segments, the Signal 4 High Crash List, and FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations Office (TEO) SAFE candidate intersections and segment network screening.
        - Every MPO has at least one project, except the Collier MPO.
        - FDOT will send the list to each of the MPO Executive Directors for review.
    - FDOT will forward its response to Secretary Duffy.
- Florida Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Safety Assessment evaluates safety outcomes for VRUs and outlines data-driven strategies for improvement.
    - Requirements for the updated VRU Safety Assessment include mandatory self-assessment, identification of the highest priority area based on demographics and crash locations, and mandatory consultation with locals in high priority areas.
    - The updated VRU Safety Assessment identifies 18 Tier 1 segments, now representing over a third of Florida's VRU fatalities and serious injuries.
    - FDOT is looking for the MPOs' feedback on high-priority areas during the breakout session.

FHWA/FTA Update

Teresa Parker, Planning Team Leader of the FHWA Florida Division Office of Project Development, Presenter
Michael Sherman, Senior Community Planner of FTA Region 4, Presenter

- FHWA is prioritizing approval of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by September 30.
- Contact information for the FHWA Florida Division Project Development Team staff and their assigned FDOT District is available on their website.
- FHWA announced that the following MPOs will have their upcoming quadrennial Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Reviews in 2025 and 2026:
    - Okaloosa-Walton TPO (November 18, 2025)
    - Gainesville MTPO (February 3, 2026)
    - Lee County MPO (April 2026)

  - Space Coast TPO (May 2026)
  - Florida-Alabama TPO (July 2026)
- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant awards include:
  - City of Apopka: $17.3 million for Ocoee-Apopka Road improvements.
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant awards include:
  - Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART): $23.4 million to support its Maintenance Site Remediation and Facility Modernization Project.
  - City of Sarasota: $12 million for the Rosemary District road improvements.
- Contact information for the FTA Region 4 staff is available on their website.
- FTA continuously coordinates with the FDOT Transit Office to ensure that MPOs are spending down their 5305(d) funds. FDOT does not intend to extend these contracts beyond their current end dates.
- FTA does not approve UPWP amendments that are funded solely with local funds; as such, these amendments do not require FTA approval.

MPOAC Update

Amanda Carpenter, Executive Director of the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC), Presenter

- Amanda outlined her four guiding principles for moving the MPOAC towards meaningful partnerships:
  - Communication,
  - Collaboration,
  - Trust, and
  - Transparency.
- Amanda is visiting each MPO in person to better understand their challenges, concerns, and ideas to strengthen relationships.
- The joint OPP and MPOAC July Best Practices in Community Engagement Workshop at SunTrax is nearly full. Spaces are still available for the August workshop sessions at the District 4/6 Materials Office.

Breakout Sessions

During the breakout sessions, participants were asked to provide actionable input on key planning topics.

- Session 1 focused on identifying successful collaboration practices between FDOT and MPOs and discussing opportunities to strengthen these partnerships.
- Session 2 examined transportation performance measures (TPMs), including those required by SB 462, and considered additional metrics and support needed by MPOs.
- Session 3 centered on VRU safety, where groups analyzed segment data within MPO jurisdictions to identify common challenges, potential systemic solutions, and resource needs.

Breakout Session 1: Collaboration

- Routine coordination meetings between FDOT and MPOs are essential for building trust, sharing updates, and solving problems collaboratively.
- Promote the continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative (3-C) planning process, engage the community, set shared goals, and implement plans through consistent communication between MPOs and FDOT, including regular meetings and leveraging District-wide quarterly meetings to foster transparency and open communication.
- Share a cheat sheet of board approval deadlines with MPOs and District MPO Liaisons.
- Joint development of documents, scopes, and planning tools to improve alignment and accountability.
- Consistency across Districts in both process and practices would benefit the MPOs. District Work Program and local partners should be actively involved in coordination meetings to ensure planning consistency and support.
- Peer exchanges and best practice sharing across MPOs and Districts improve understanding.
- Communication can be more meaningful by balancing technology with in-person interactions, fostering genuine connections beyond just the work.

Breakout Session 2: Performance Metrics

- The FDOT Source Book and PDIS are valuable resources, but MPOs need more training and clearer guidance on their use.
- Federal performance measures are often seen as box-checking exercises. Tying them to capital project implementation and decision-making would make them more meaningful.
- Performance measure templates and TIP checklists are very valuable and useful for MPOs, so it is helpful to have them published as early as possible to support MPO planning and board schedules.
- Talking points and messaging guidance can help MPOs communicate performance data to their boards.
- Guidance for transit agencies, like the Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP), and coordination support are needed to meet TPM requirements.
- Share TPM progress by District and at the site level to improve transparency and local relevance.
- Assess the feasibility of providing travel time and origin/destination data to MPOs as a planning resource.
- Investigate joint data purchases and centralized data sharing, including a repository and access database, to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- MPOs strongly oppose adding new mandated performance measures, preferring to improve support for existing ones and more localized, actionable data.

Breakout Session 3: VRU

- VRU segments are typically urban, high-speed, transit-connected corridors with limited crossing opportunities and constrained right-of-way.

- Common issues include a lack of bike lanes, poor lighting, unsafe crossings, and high crash rates, especially in areas with vulnerable populations.
- Prioritize implementing systemic solutions like separated bike and pedestrian lanes, signal timing adjustments, speed management and enforcement, and education campaigns and policy changes.
- Public awareness builds public and political support for the funding of infrastructure improvements.
- Participants were not surprised by the identified segments, recognizing them as well-known problem areas where communities are eager for change.
- Share VRU data with MPOs to support planning and analysis.
- Design standards should reflect local context, not follow a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Coordinate with MPOAC and establish state-level peer exchanges to address VRU safety collaboratively.
- Shed Florida's ranking as the most dangerous state for pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities.

Appendix A: Poll Results

Table 1. What are your expectations for the day?

What are your expectations for the day?	
Learning/knowledge (21)	Communication/coordination (2)
Collaboration/fellowship (16)	Focus on performance measures (2)
Networking/connections (13)	Legislative changes (2)
Information (10)	Information on smart modeling
Best practices (3)	Focus on core planning products
Conversation/peer exchange/sharing experiences (3)	Focus on safety
Future plans/path forward/growth (3)	Fun
Clarification (2)	Process adaptation

Table 2. How do you save lives on Florida's roadways?

How do you save lives on Florida's roadways?			
Awareness and safe driving (13)	Defensive driving (4)	Advocating for transit (2)	Driving tests for the elderly
Hands-free driving/not using a cell phone (11)	Peer influence (4)	Enforcement (2)	Staying awake
Slow down/reduce speeds (11)	Design (3)	Project prioritization (2)	Strategic planning
Seatbelt (10)	Patience (3)	Autonomous driving	Using mirrors
Education/safety campaigns (7)	Prioritizing safety (3)	Culture change	Victim advocacy

Appendix B: Closing Survey Results

Table 3. Overall Feedback

Overall Feedback	Score					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**4 or 5**
Topics	2%	2%	4%	47%	45%	**92%**
Quality of Presentations	2%	2%	11%	42%	43%	**85%**
Presenters	2%	6%	6%	34%	53%	**87%**
Opportunities for participation/interaction	2%	0%	8%	13%	77%	**91%**
Structure/organization	4%	0%	2%	36%	58%	**94%**

Table 4. Presentation/Breakout Sessions Feedback

Presentation/Breakout Sessions Feedback	Score					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**4 or 5**
Legislative & Other Updates	2%	8%	2%	36%	53%	**89%**
Breakout 1: FDOT/MPO Collaboration	2%	0%	10%	29%	60%	**88%**
Breakout 2: TMP/Senate Bill Performance Measures	4%	2%	9%	36%	51%	**87%**
Safety	0%	8%	12%	35%	46%	**81%**
Breakout 3: VRU Requirements	4%	2%	8%	40%	46%	**87%**
FHWA/FTA Update	0%	2%	12%	44%	42%	**86%**
MPOAC Update	2%	4%	12%	35%	48%	**83%**
Group Report Outs	0%	2%	7%	38%	52%	**90%**