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. The partnership between these entities provides valuable support for funding and program implementation.

MPOAC Update

Amanda Carpenter, Executive Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), Presenter

- Since becoming MPOAC Executive Director in April 2025, Amanda has visited all but three Florida MPOs.
    - During these visits, she met with executive directors and board members, attended board meetings, and visited several project sites.
- The most recent MPOAC Institute was held on October 10, 2025, at the Palm Beach MPO in West Palm Beach, Florida.
    - 12 attendees were present, including elected officials, MPO staff, and FDOT staff from around the State of Florida.

FHWA/FTA Update

Teresa Parker, Planning Team Leader, FHWA Florida Division Office of Project Development, Presenter

Michael Sherman, Senior Community Planner, FTA Region 4, Presenter

- FHWA and FTA recently approved FDOT's 2025 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and finalized the Federal Planning Findings Report.
    - FHWA and FTA identified no corrective actions. FTA made one recommendation to ensure that transit projects are included in the annual listing of obligated projects.
- Upcoming Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certifications include:
    - Okaloosa-Walton TPO - November 18, 2025.
    - Gainesville MTPO - February 3, 2026.
    - Lee County MPO - April 14, 2026.
    - Space Coast TPO - May 2026
    - Florida-Alabama TPO - July 2026.
- The FTA grant system, the Transit Award Management System (TrAMS), will be open within the next few weeks.
- FTA shared updated Regional Geographic Assignments.

Process Updates

Dana Reiding, Director, FDOT OPP, Presenter

- OPP has been updating training and resources for MPOs.
  - The January 2026 FMPP meeting will be centered around training sessions.
  - OPP is working with the MPOAC to provide training at the MPOAC Institute.
  - Previous Federal Planning Finding recommendations included increasing collaboration between FDOT and the MPOs. In response, OPP conducted outreach and developed a resource: FDOT-MPO Partnerships: Enhancing Collaboration and Communication.
  - OPP also recently updated the FDOT Local Government Resource Guide, which guides local governments on how to partner with FDOT.
  - OPP collaborated with the FDOT Safety Office to develop safety briefing sheets on proven roadway safety solutions. The safety briefing sheets are available on the OPP MPO Resources website.
    - The safety briefing sheets provide a plain language explanation of safety countermeasures that can be used to communicate with local partners and MPO board members.
- FDOT's Target Zero program is adopting a more systematic, data-driven approach to improving safety.
  - The Target Zero program will invest more in statewide initiatives.
  - FDOT intends to update the FDOT Design Manual to be more prescriptive about specific safety countermeasures for certain types of roadway characteristics and users.
- FDOT has been working with its federal partners to identify and implement process improvements, including potential adjustments to amendment thresholds.
- OPP is updating the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Checklist to be more streamlined and user-friendly. The new UPWP checklist should be finalized by December 2025.
- The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently published an interim final rule regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.
  - The rule is effective October 3, 2025.
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) adoption due dates cannot be changed. MPOs should establish contingency plans for emergencies, such as hurricanes.
- OPP intends to host the next Transportation Planning Exchange from July 27-29.

Breakout Session 1: UPWP Best Practices and Process Improvements

During the breakout session, participants provided actionable input on best practices for UPWPs and suggested ways to improve processes. Main takeaways include:

UPWP Tips and Tricks

- Hold a kick-off meeting with MPO, FDOT, and federal partners in December or January.
- Communicate clearly about funding amounts, regional tasks, and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments.

- Streamline UPWP tasks for efficiency and to reduce amendments.
- For undetermined projects or general studies, provide enough detail for approval while maintaining flexibility.
- Create an Executive Committee that can approve amendments for ratification at the next board meetings.
- Phase projects to align with funding timelines and deobligated funds as needed.
- Understand how to use the Grant Application Process (GAP) System effectively.
- Include grants in the UPWP when required.

UPWP Suggestions

- Update amendment thresholds to allow higher percentages or dollar amounts.
- Offer training on amendments and invoicing.
- Develop a cloud-based UPWP budget table template.

Process Improvements

- Improve communication regarding TIP amendments.

Work Program Update

Kendra Sheffield, Director, FDOT Office of Work Program and Budget (OWPB), Presenter

- Kendra showed the FDOT Work Program Overview video.
- OWPB sets statewide policy and financial framework, while the Districts implement and deliver projects locally.
- Statewide, regional, and local plans drive project selection.
- Will the February amended TIP Snapshot be made available to MPOs?
    - Yes, but there will be adjustments based on April updates.
- Why are de-obligated funds sometimes not available until October?
    - FDOT must be granted the obligating authority before OWPB can make these funds available.
- Why were all SU funds changed in the Tentative Work Program from SU to ACSU?
    - OWPB has a new policy with advanced construction, which prevents the Work Program from having to do fund swaps and constant rebalancing. Labeling all SU funds as ACSU reduces the number of steps required.
- Must the TIP and STIP be identical?
    - Yes.
- Each time a member project is proposed or approved, it forces FDOT to offset existing funding even if the project is later vetoed.

Breakout Session 2: UPWP Best Practices and Process Improvements

Participants highlighted local projects. Main takeaways include:

- Maintain ongoing support to ensure the project remains a top priority in local and regional plans.
- Use real-life examples and local stories to highlight the project's impact and relevance.
    - Tailor project messaging to resonate with local communities.
- Foster strong working relationships with FDOT District staff and local government partners.
    - Schedule regular meetings and updates to ensure alignment of project goals and timelines.
- Collaborate with municipalities to advance shared initiatives and leverage local expertise.
    - Jointly identify priorities and coordinate resources for maximum impact.
- Work closely with the District to explore and secure diverse funding sources, including state, federal, and local funds.
    - Stay informed about new grant opportunities and funding programs.
    - Align efforts and timelines among all partners.
    - Find innovative solutions to challenges and funding gaps.
- Consistent advocacy, strong collaboration and coordination, and creativity are key components of successful projects.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

- OPP will share electronic copies of the printed handouts and the presentation.
- Anticipate that the next federal reauthorization will reemphasize formula funding over discretionary funding.
- The January 2026 FMPP will focus on training, while the April 2026 FMPP meeting will likely focus on legislative updates.
- Dana closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

Appendix A: Poll Results

Table 1. As we prepare for the January 2026 FMPP, we would like your feedback on potential training topics.

Please rank these topics in order of importance to you.	
1st	Project Development
2nd	Community Planning
3rd	Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS)
4th	Florida's Legislative Process
5th	Federal Aid
6th	Local Agency Program (LAP)
7th	Title VI

Table 2. Were your expectations met today?

Were your expectations met today?	
Yes	28
No	1
Unsure	4

Table 3. Do you plan to attend the January 2026 FMPP in person?

Do you plan to attend the January 2026 FMPP in person?	
Yes	23
No	0
Unsure	6

Table 4. Please provide recommendations for future FMPP topics.

Please provide recommendations for future FMPP topics.	
Funding (6)	GAP
Legislation and Policy Updates (5)	Invoicing
Planning Innovations and Partnerships (3)	Revenue Forecast
Modeling (2)	Regional Task Coordination
List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Development (2)	Revenue Forecast
Planning Consistency (2)	UPWP Revisions and Invoicing
Technology and big data	80/20 Rule