

Florida Planning Emphasis Areas 2021

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Office of Policy Planning develops *Planning Emphasis Areas* on a two-year cycle in coordination with the development of metropolitan planning organizations' (MPOs) respective Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs). Emphasis areas set planning priorities, support the Florida Transportation Plan, and give importance to topic areas which MPOs are encouraged to address as they develop their planning programs. Implementation of the seven (7) goals of the Florida Transportation Plan requires embracing innovation; extensive collaboration across jurisdictions, modes and disciplines; an emphasis on customer service; data and performance feedback; and strategic investments for the efficient and effective allocation of resources.

Florida MPOs should consider emphasizing the following four (4) planning topics when updating their UPWPs.

Safety

The Florida Transportation Plan and the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan place top priority on safety, with a state target of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries. In addition to adopting safety targets, the MPOs must show how their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and priority projects in their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) support progress toward those targets. The UPWP should consider enhancements to data analyses and community involvement to better inform the identification and prioritization of safety projects.

Equity

Executive Order 14008, [*Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*](#), created the "Justice40 Initiative" that aims to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities. This initiative supports Executive Order 13985, [*Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*](#), outlines federal policy and defines equity as the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of individuals. The Florida Transportation Plan seeks transportation choices that improve accessibility and equity by including a key strategy to enhance affordable transportation, service, and information access options for all ages and abilities and throughout underserved communities. The MPOs are key to identifying and implementing improvements based on data-driven project prioritization that considers not only impacts of transportation projects on a community, but also benefits of projects that can enhance opportunities for a community. The UPWP should address approaches to furthering transportation equity.

Resilience

With the passage of the FAST Act, resilience was introduced as a federal planning factor: "Improve the resilience and reliability of the transportation system and mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation." Resilience is defined as the ability to adapt to changing



conditions and prepare for, withstand, and recover from disruption. These conditions can encompass a wide variety of environmental, technological, economic, or social impacts.

MPOs can address resilience within their planning processes by leveraging tools such as the *FHWA Resilience and Transportation Planning Guide* and the *FDOT Quick Guide: Incorporating Resilience* in the MPO LRTP. It should be noted that while these documents focus primarily on the development of MPO LRTPs and TIPs, addressing resilience should be a consideration within every planning document prepared by an MPO. MPOs should place a particular emphasis on coordination with agency partners responsible for natural disaster risk reduction, or who may be developing local resilience planning initiatives. Additionally, MPOs should consider the additional costs associated with reducing vulnerability of the existing transportation infrastructure. Proactive resiliency planning will help the MPO develop planning documents that are ultimately more realistic and cost-effective.

Emerging Mobility

Advances in communication and automation technology result in new mobility options, ranging from automated and connected transport, electric vehicles, ridesharing, and micro-mobility, to flying cars and space travel. These changes may be disruptive and transformational, with impacts to safety, vehicle ownership, travel capacity, vehicle miles traveled, land-use, transportation design, future investment demands, supply chain logistics, economy, and the workforce. Implementation of all seven goals of the Florida Transportation Plan can be furthered through both the transformation of major corridors and hubs and the expansion of transportation infrastructure to embrace and support the adoption of emerging mobility.

The UPWP should recognize the important influence of emerging mobility on the multi-modal transportation system and include related planning studies, collaboration efforts, research, or other activities.

Contact Information:

Abra Horne, FDOT, Metropolitan Planning Administrator

850-414-4901

Abra.Horne@dot.state.fl.us