



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SIS POLICY PLAN UPDATE

What is the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS)?

The SIS is a statewide network of high-priority transportation facilities, including the state's largest and most significant airports, spaceports, public seaports, freight rail terminals, passenger rail and intercity bus terminals, railways, waterways, and highways.

These facilities represent the State's primary means for moving people and freight between Florida's regions, as well as between Florida and other states and countries.

What is the SIS Policy Plan?

The SIS Policy Plan establishes the policy framework for planning and managing the SIS during the next five years. It identifies objectives and approaches to address changing trends and position the SIS for future opportunities. The Plan includes policies related to designating facilities as part of the SIS, identifying and establishing investment priorities, and collaborating with partners to plan for the future of the SIS.

Why is the SIS Policy Plan being updated?

Florida Statute indicates "the plan shall be consistent with the Florida Transportation Plan developed pursuant to s. 339.155 and shall be updated at least once every 5 years, subsequent to updates of the Florida Transportation Plan." The current SIS Policy Plan was adopted in March 2016.

How is the SIS Policy Plan being developed?

Florida Statute requires the Department to update the SIS Policy Plan at least once every 5 years following the update to the Florida Transportation Plan. The plan is developed by:

- reviewing the most recent FTP goals and objectives to ensure the SIS Policy Plan aligns with the FTP,
- considering current trends and conditions, including applicable performance measures, to ensure the plan addresses key issues and opportunities for the SIS, and
- gathering input through various partner and public outreach efforts such as partner briefings, social media outreach, virtual information sharing, and website publications.

What is FDOT's process for reaching out to their partners and the public during the update of the SIS Policy Plan?

Florida Statute requires FDOT to provide metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning councils, local governments, transportation providers, affected public agencies, and citizens with an opportunity to participate in and comment on the development of the update. FDOT is gathering input through various partner and public outreach efforts such as partner briefings, brochures, virtual events, and the department's website. There will also be a public comment period for the draft plan.



When will the SIS Policy Plan update be completed?

Following our targeted outreach efforts, we will draft the plan based on the input received. We will review the information with the FTP/SIS Implementation Committee and FDOT management. The draft plan will be available for public comment toward the end of 2021. The final plan is anticipated to be adopted by early 2022.

What are the focus areas for this SIS Policy Plan update?

The 2022 SIS Policy Plan will focus on these 5 areas:

- **Safety** – how does the SIS, as a key element of the state’s transportation system, contribute to our vision of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on Florida’s transportation system?
- **Resilience** – how can we reduce vulnerabilities of SIS infrastructure to risks including extreme weather, sea-level rise, coastal and inland flooding, wildfires, and extreme heat?
- **Technology and innovation** – how do we prepare the SIS for emerging technologies such as automated, connected, electric, and shared vehicles?
- **Urban mobility and connectivity** – how do we address the impact of congestion in both major and developing urban areas while ensuring the efficiency and reliability of the SIS for interregional travel, especially in areas where there are limited options for adding capacity to SIS corridors or limited modal alternatives to SIS highways?
- **Rural mobility and connectivity** – how can the SIS support rural revitalization and economic development and facilitate emergency evacuation and response, while supporting environmental stewardship goals and community visions?

Will there be a public comment period for the draft plan?

A public comment period will accompany the draft final plan. It is anticipated the public comment period will take place at the end of 2021.

How is the SIS Policy Plan update related to the recent update of the FTP?

The Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) is the state’s long-range transportation vision and policy plan for all of Florida, created by, and providing direction to, all organizations involved in planning and managing Florida’s transportation system. The SIS is the state’s highest priority for transportation capacity investments and a primary tool for implementing the FTP.

Will the SIS Policy Plan update change the designation of a facility?

The SIS Policy Plan is the guiding document for policy and investment decisions for the SIS. It is not facility or project specific. The updated plan may identify changes to SIS designation policies; however, designation of a facility happens during the Designation Review process or through a Designation Change Request (DCR).

Why does the SIS not include all transportation facilities?

The SIS was established by the Governor and Legislature in 2003 to enhance Florida’s economic competitiveness by focusing state resources on the transportation facilities most critical for statewide and interregional travel. Other FDOT and partner funding programs can assist with facilities not designated as part of the SIS.

For more information:

Florida Department of Transportation, Systems Implementation Office
(850) 414-4900 | <https://www.fdot.gov/planning/systems/>





Will my SIS facility receive funding as a result of the SIS Policy Plan update?

The SIS Policy Plan is the guiding document for policy and investment decisions for the SIS. It is not facility or project specific. SIS funding is considered through a set of three inter-related sequential documents known as the SIS Funding Strategy which identifies SIS projects in various stages of development.

- The First Five Year Plan illustrates capacity projects on the SIS that are funded by the Legislature in the FDOT Adopted Work Program (Year 1) and projects that are programmed for proposed funding in the next 2 to 5 Years.
- The Second Five Year Plan illustrates projects that are planned to be funded in the five years (Years 6 through 10) beyond the Adopted Work Program. Projects in this plan could move forward into the First Five Year Plan as funds become available.
- The Cost Feasible Plan illustrates projects on the SIS that are considered financially feasible during the last fifteen years (Years 11 to 25) of the SIS Funding Strategy, based on current revenue forecasts. Projects in this plan could move forward into the Second Five as funds become available or backwards into the Unfunded Needs Plan if revenues fall short of projections.

The FDOT Systems Implementation Office also produces a fourth document which is related to, but not part of, the SIS Funding Strategy. The Unfunded Needs Plan identifies transportation projects on the SIS that help meet mobility needs, but where funding is not expected to be available during the 25-year time period of the SIS Funding Strategy. Projects in this plan could move forward into the SIS Funding Strategy as funds become available.

When will implementation of the SIS Policy Plan update begin?

The SIS Policy Plan is being updated over the course of 2021. It is anticipated that the plan will be adopted in early 2022. Following adoption, FDOT Central Office staff will begin the process of implementing the strategies identified in the plan. The timeframe for implementation will be determined following the adoption of the SIS Policy Plan.