

Request for Research Funding for FY 2022-2023

SPR Subpart B Project: MPO-23-01

Requesting Office	Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC)	Priority	1 of 1
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Proposed Title	MPO List of Project Priorities Development Practices
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Justification	<p>The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required by Florida Statute (s. 339.135(4), F.S.) to annually prepare a tentative work program, “including the ensuing fiscal year and the successive 4 fiscal years for the State Transportation Trust Fund and other funds managed by the department ... The tentative work program shall be based on the district work programs and shall set forth all projects by phase to be undertaken during the ensuing fiscal year and planned for the successive 4 fiscal years.” Per Florida Statute (s. 339.135(4)(c)(2), F.S.), “the district work program shall be developed cooperatively from the outset with the various metropolitan planning organizations of the state and include, to the maximum extent feasible, the project priorities of metropolitan planning organizations ...” To ensure that MPOs submit their priorities to the FDOT in a timely fashion, Florida statute (s. 339.175(8)(b), F.S.) states that “each M.P.O. annually shall prepare a list of project priorities and shall submit the list to the appropriate district of the department by August 1 of each year.” The List of Priority Projects is also known as the LOPP.</p> <p>Florida statutes provide MPOs with a few high-level prevailing principles (s. 339.175(8)(a), F.S.) and selection criteria (s. 339.175(8)(b), F.S.) for developing the LOPP and the MPO Program Management Handbook (Chapter 5, p. 5-13) provides a reminder that projects to be included in the LOPP should be screened through the Efficient Transportation Decision-Making (ETDM) process programming screen prior to being submitted. Additionally, the MPO Program Management Handbook (Chapter 5, p. 5-14) provides additional guidance that, “It is assumed by the Department that the projects listed on each LOPP are in sequential order of priority; and will be programmed in priority order by the District’s Office of Work Program to the maximum extent possible.”</p> <p>As a result of the relative lack of specific guidance for preparing the LOPP, MPOs across the state have developed a wide range of development practices and prioritization methodologies. Some of these practices and methodologies result in LOPPs that provide the Districts with clear direction to use when developing the District Work Program while others are somewhat less clear. Through a literature review, surveys, questionnaires, interviews, document review, and analysis of the resulting data, this project proposal seeks to identify the various practices and methodologies used by Florida’s 27 MPOs to develop their LOPP and what characteristics of those LOPPs are most effective for clearly communicating MPO priorities to FDOT District Offices. Various aspects of LOPP development practices will be documented including prioritization methodologies, coordination with MPO member jurisdictions and neighboring MPOs, public engagement practices, and LOPP format and structure approaches. Regional LOPP development practices will also be reviewed in this research. The results of this research will be captured in a report that will outline existing LOPP practices and identify those practices that are noteworthy for enhancing communication and cooperation between MPOs and FDOT District Offices. The resulting deliverables will include a literature review, database of current MPO LOPP development practices and a draft and final report containing a summary of statewide practices, a list of noteworthy practices, and suggestions for improved statewide practice.</p>
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Impact	This research will assist the MPOs to improve project programming by identifying current and noteworthy LOPP development practices and suggesting improvements for MPOs across the state to consider implementing as part of their own LOPP development process. This will result in clearer communication and improved cooperation between MPOs and FDOT District Offices, allowing projects to be programmed that best meet the needs of Florida’s citizens, visitors, and businesses.
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Affected Offices	Florida MPO Advisory Council, Office of Policy Planning, Office of Work Program and Budget, FDOT District Offices
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Existing Work	<p>Transportation Equity Scorecard: A Tool for Project Screening and Prioritization; Center for Transportation, Equity, Decisions & Dollars (CTEDD); May 2020.</p> <p>Integrating Equity into MPO Project Prioritization; Center for Transportation, Equity, Decisions & Dollars (CTEDD); December 2019.</p> <p>MPO Guidebook for Using Safety as a Project Prioritization Factor; Federal Highway Administration; September 2016.</p> <p>Additional existing work will be identified as part of a brief literature review</p>
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Keywords Used In Existing Work Search (Cannot leave blank)	MPO Project Prioritization; MPO List of Project Priorities		
Related Contracts (Give contract numbers)			
Funding Request	\$160,000	Anticipated Duration	24 months
Project Manager	Mark Reichert	Contracting Method	Direct contract with a university
Equipment	N/A		
Urgency	1	MPOs and the FDOT are required by Florida statute to cooperatively develop the District work program through the submission of a LOPP by each MPO in the state to their respective District Office. There is currently a lack of understanding of the most effective LOPP practices to ensure that MPO priorities are clearly communicated and acted upon by FDOT District Offices. It will benefit all parties immediately if noteworthy and effective practices are available for all MPOs across the state, but it first requires a clear understanding of current practice.	
Implementability	1	Resulting data and products, once published, will be immediately useful to the MPOs (and their member jurisdictions) and the Department (Central and District Offices).	
Project Benefits (Succinct, complete explanation)			
A comprehensive and thorough study of MPO LOPP practices in Florida will provide a basis for understanding how MPOs and District Offices can improve the cooperative project programming process. This will result in more efficient expenditure of federal and state resources by enhancing the ability of MPOs and District Offices to deliver transportation projects and services that best meet the needs of the Florida's residents, visitors, and businesses. By improving the project programming process, MPOs and FDOT will save time, money, and lives.			
Project Benefits (Select all that apply and explain)	Quantifiable Benefits (units, dollars, etc...if applicable)	Methodology or Data Sources Used to Determine Quantifiable Benefits. If not applicable, please give justification of project benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials Enhancement		The proposed research project will provide a basis for improving the cooperative project programming process and result in clearer communication between MPOs and FDOT District Offices.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials Savings		The proposed research project would result in material savings to the state work program through an enhanced project programming process that results in the implementation of projects and services that meet Florida's transportation needs and avoids programming projects and services that do not.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Time Savings		The proposed research project will result in a more effective project programming process, saving time and money for all parties involved.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives Saved/Injuries Prevented	N/A	To the extent that an improved project programming process takes into account safety and security as conveyed by MPOs to the District Offices through their LOPPs, this research project will result in saved lives and injuries prevented.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain)	N/A		

*Comments should explain and support urgency, financial benefit, and implementability scores