Request for Research Funding for FY 2024-2025			
Project Number (Research Center Use Only): MPO-25-01			
Requesting Office	Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC)	**Priority**	1 of 1 (projects may not have the same ranking – no ties)
Proposed Title	A Snapshot of Florida MPOs: MPO Staffing and Organizational Arrangements in Florida		
Justification	State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) are required by federal law to coordinate and work cooperatively with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the state to carry out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) transportation planning process. In Florida, state statute §339.175 requires that MPOs and the Florida Department of Transportation work cooperatively on planning and programming activities. Furthermore, Florida state statutes require that MPOs coordinate with one another on certain activities. These requirements for coordination and cooperation are accomplished most effectively and efficiently when a single document that is easily accessible contains information about the participating organizations. The number of MPOs in Florida makes such a resource particularly useful for the Department as it works with the 27 MPOs in the state to meet the requirements of the 3-C transportation planning process. Florida's 27 MPOs are distinct and unique – they serve a wide range of population sizes, are supported by varying numbers of staff, have differing hosting arrangements, and have diverse board sizes and compositions. Furthermore, the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR 450 Subpart C) require that each MPO review its boundaries after each decennial census. Florida statues (§339.175) requires MPOs in the state to review their apportionment plan after the decennial census and reapportion as needed to comply with state laws. These requirements produce changes that need to be documented to inform planning processes, support information sharing, and advance research. To support these efforts, there is a need for a single comprehensive snapshot that describes each MPO in Florida in a format that is useful for the Department, the public, MPO partners and stakeholders, and among MPOs in the state. This snapshot of MPOs in Florida is a resource that would describe the 27 MPOs at the time the research is conducted and include a map series comparing 2010 and 2020 urbanized areas. The research needed to develop an MPO snapshot document will include deep scans of MPO websites, document reviews, interviews with key staff and leadership of the 27 Florida MPOs, and GIS analysis to develop a series of maps and compare 2010 and 2020 data. This document would, at a minimum, include information such as the population size served by the MPOs, organizational structures, staffing arrangements, board structures, voting structures, contact information for key personnel, and other pertinent components of each MPOs' staffing and organizational arrangements. The maps will include graphical depictions of changes in population and changes in the urbanized areas. The results of this research will be compiled into an interactive PDF document that can be accesses online. Maps developed for this research will be included in the snapshot document, and developed into a standalone document that could be used as a handout or integrated into factsheets or other resources. The proposed document format is similar to documents recently published by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) and other organizations (for example, see the Access Management Communication Toolkit https://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_1032Toolkit.pdf). These interactive PDFs allow users to easily navigate through the document and interact with the content, features that are useful for a document containing information about 27 MPOs.		
Impact	This research will support and improve efficiency for FDOT Central Office and Districts, as well as MPOs, by compiling pertinent information that is not readily available online or currently exists on disparate platforms into a single comprehensive, interactive, and easy to use resource that is available online. The document that is produced through this research effort will streamline efforts by the Department as it works with the MPOs in the state to administer the 3-C transportation planning process as required by Federal and State law.		
Affected Offices/ Districts	Florida MPO Advisory Council, Office of Policy Planning, FDOT District Offices		
Existing Work	MPO Program Management Handbook, 2023. MPO Staffing and Organizational Structure, 2015 A Snapshot of Florida MPOs, 2011.		

Keywords Used In Existing Work Search (Cannot leave blank)	MPO staffing, MPO organizational arrangements		
Related Contracts (Give contract numbers)			
Funding Request	$180,000	Anticipated Duration	18 months
Project Manager	Mark Reichert	Contracting Method	Direct contract with a university
Equipment	N/A	N/A	
Urgency	1	The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations and Florida statues require MPOs to review their boundaries and apportionment plan after the decennial census and reapportion as needed. If funded, this research would be timely and capture the most recent urbanized area boundaries, MPO Board membership structures, bylaws, and other components of the MPO apportionment plans after the 2020 Census. Additionally, a snapshot of the MPOs in Florida was completed in 2011. Since that document was published, the number of MPOs in Florida increased from 26 to 27, underlining the need for an updated snapshot that includes the most recent information for all 27 MPOs in the state.	
Implementability	1	Resulting data and maps, once published, will be immediately useful to the Department (Central and District Offices), MPOs (and their member jurisdictions), the public, and other transportation partners and stakeholders.	

Project Benefits (Succinct, complete explanation)

Federal and State laws that implement the 3-C transportation planning process emphasize coordination, which is supported through effective communication and access to pertinent information. A single comprehensive document with descriptions of each of Florida's 27 MPOs and a map series of urbanized area boundaries in Florida will support the Department in coordinating with MPOs to meet federal and state requirements for the 3-C transportation planning process. Beyond its immediate benefits to the transportation planning process in Florida, the outcomes of this research will serve as a resource that can be used to inform future research on the metropolitan transportation planning process and coordination between transportation agencies.

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
o Materials Enhancement		The proposed research project will provide resources to streamline coordination efforts between the Department and MPOs in the state.
o Financial Impact		Easily accessible information in a single document reduces the burden on Department personnel to search multiple sources, allowing efforts to be redistribution to other tasks, increasing efficiency and cost savings for the Department.
o Time Savings		A comprehensive document with pertinent information about each of Florida's 27 MPOs will save time by reducing the need to search disparate sources for information needed to administer the transportation planning process as required by Federal and State law.
o Lives Saved/Injuries Prevented	N/A	N/A
o Other (Explain)		This snapshot document would provide a comprehensive understanding of MPO structures and comparative maps of urbanized area boundaries to support the Department and partners

		that work with Florida MPOs on the continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process.

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