

Approved on April 7th, 2011

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council
Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Meeting
January 27, 2011**

Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, Chair
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, Vice-Chair
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO
Lorraine Lantz, Collier MPO
Donald Scott, Lee County MPO
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO
Jeff Sheffield, North Florida TPO
Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO
Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA
Ray Chiaramonte, Hillsborough County MPO
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Greg Slay, Ocala/Marion County TPO
Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO

Others in Attendance:

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC Assistant
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel
David Grovdahl, METROPLAN Orlando
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO
Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia TPO
Alex Bond, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Bob O'Malley, CSX Transportation
Jon Weiss, FDOT District 5
Denis Eirikis, Florida Public Transportation Association
Wiley Page, PBS&J
Michael Dorweiler, Lochner

Others in Attendance continued:

Jennifer Stults, FDOT District 1
Billy Hattaway, VHB
Ned Baier, Jacobs
Shannon Estep, FDOT Turnpike
Trish Thompson, Lockwood Andrews Newman, Inc.
Diane Quigley, FDOT Transit Office
Pamela Richmond, Lake-Sumter MPO
Stephen L. Reich, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Keith Melton, Federal Transit Administration
Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration
Karen Brunelle, Federal Highway Administration
Debbie Hunt, Florida Department of Transportation
Bob Romig, Florida Department of Transportation
Zafar Alikhan, Jacobs
Lynda Mifsud, Jacobs
Deborah Chiaramonte, Public
Carol Suarez, Public

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Mary Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Self introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, to approve the October 28, 2011 minutes. A second was received from Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, gave his report. He stated that budget was on target. Revenue Study costs will begin to appear in the next quarter. He discussed an audit report from FDOT certifying the MPOAC's purchasing card activity was in full compliance with FDOT procedures.

He noted that the legislative policy statements were almost finalized, and copies will be sent out upon completion. Mr. Glassman explained a Regional Transportation System Surtax expansion that is being proposed by the MPOAC. A Senate sponsor has been found, but the House has expressed opposition. The Florida Association of Counties has picked up this idea as a priority. The MPOAC will continue to proceed with it, but the probability of passage is not favorable. Four other items are being monitored at the state level. Revenue reductions could force reductions on several budget streams. Medicaid reform may impact Medicaid transportation. There will be bills on concurrency, and the MPOAC will address those as they occur. The MPOAC will also continue to push transportation safety legislation.

A compendium of basic information on MPOs has been finalized and is being distributed. A study of the Charter County Surtax referenda is under way. The study will also look at Duval, Miami-Dade, Georgia, and Charlotte, NC to see how those initiatives have been successful. Both of these items were

requested by the Governing Board. Mr. Glassman reminded the group of the MPOAC Institute Training dates and registration.

Madame Chair asked for comments and questions on the model staff services agreement. Greg Stuart, Broward MPO, offered a motion to accept the current draft as the final product. Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO, seconded the motion. Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA, asked if this document compelled MPOs to change anything in their organization. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, said that this document was simply a model and nothing is required of the MPOs. Mr. Whitfield asked why local match is not addressed. Mr. Gougelman said that methods for securing this money varied so widely that no example could be considered. Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO, asked if the District and FDOT provided the match for local funds. Bob Romig, FDOT, said he will check into this but believes there is a soft match. The motion to accept the final draft was approved unanimously.

Due to the annual AMPO Conference, the scheduled date of the MPOAC Board meetings for October 27, 2011 are being considered for change. Karl Welzenbach and Ray Chiaramonte, Hillsborough County MPO said they supported a date change. Mr. Glassman was instructed to change the meeting date by acclamation. Mr. Glassman reminded the group that FDOT will be hosting a Safety Focus Group on Friday, and all MPO Directors are invited to attend.

Greg Stuart discussed the Surtax proposal and said that he would like to insert legislative language that would give approval authority to the local MPOs. Mr. Chiaramonte said that the priorities in the MPO plan were chosen for funding under the Surtax proposed in Hillsborough. Mr. Welzenbach said that although he wanted to keep MPOs involved in the process, he felt that requiring the MPO's approval may go too far. MPOs should not be involved in small collectors and other projects. Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando made a motion to refer this matter to the Policy Committee. Ray Chiaramonte offered a second. The motion approved unanimously.

T.J. Fish, Chairman, Lake-Sumter MPO arrived and assumed chairmanship of the meeting. Mr. Chiaramonte said that his staff is studying the failure to pass the Surtax and will report their findings. Mr. Gougelman suggested looking at the turnout at various elections and how that could affect passage.

4. Election of Officers

The Chair assigned the election of officers to Paul Gougelman. Mr. Gougelman asked for nominations for the position of chair, Harold Barley, METROPLAN Orlando offered a nomination of Mr. T. J. Fish. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Barley offered a motion to close the floor for nominations. A second was offered by Greg Slay, Ocala/Marion County TPO. Nominations were closed without objection. T.J. Fish was re-elected by acclamation.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Karl Welzenbach offered a nomination of Mary Robinson. No other nominations were offered. A motion to close the floor for nominations was given by Harry Reed. A second was given by Ray Chiaramonte. Nominations were closed without objection. Mary Robinson was re-elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

5a. FDOT Report

The FDOT report was given by Debbie Hunt, Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development. She started with a discussion of the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). Over 1,200 comments were

received. She gave an overview of the document structure, including the goals and areas of emphasis. Based on comments, a set of goals relating to the transportation disadvantaged were added. FDOT is beginning to implement the plan, and she invited Mr. Glassman to discuss how the MPOAC will also implement the plan. Mr. Glassman explained that in the last FTP, the MPOAC created an action plan to assist in implementing MPO related activities and made several statewide changes as a result. Mr. Glassman stated that he hoped the MPOAC would do the same this cycle. The policy committee would work on this action plan. Ms. Hunt said that FDOT would be drafting a set of performance measures, and she would like to see a set of performance measures created by all of its partners, including the MPOAC and individual MPOs.

Ms. Hunt discussed a Florida Trade and Logistics Study. There were three major findings from this study. The first was to use more freight brought into Florida's ports within the state. Second, Florida should increase the amount of goods being exported. Last, the state should use freight infrastructure to create jobs and build wealth. Other findings include expanding at least one port to accommodate post-Panamax ships and have a direct-to-rail connection. Currently the Port of Miami has federal approval for dredging. The Port of Jacksonville and Port Everglades have both applied for permits for a deeper channel although no ports have funding to actually perform dredging. FDOT also found that Miami International Airport should continue to expand its capacity as a freight hub. A statewide network of distribution hubs related to the SIS should be identified and targeted for investments.

Ms. Hunt discussed changes to the SIS designation criteria. Several thresholds for inclusion have changed. All Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS) facilities were absorbed into the SIS, and all new designations must meet the SIS criteria. The Emerging SIS has been retained. A new process for un-designating facilities from the SIS was discussed.

Ms. Hunt discussed the results of the 2010 Census. Urbanized areas will be identified by 2012, and subsequent to that discussions will begin on MPO boundaries. The PL and 5303 formulas will be reopened at that time. A training program will be offered on PL funding sometime this year.

Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO, asked a question about Executive Order 11-02, which required all state agencies to use E-Verify, specifically if the MPO is liable for certifying the employees of the consultant. Ms. Hunt said that E-Verify applies only from this point forward, and that includes the hiring of consultants.

Chairman Fish asked about the transition and any staff changes with the resigning of Secretary Kopelousos. The Florida Transportation Commission is reviewing Secretary applications with interviews occurring in February. Ms. Hunt also announced Bob Romig's return to the Department.

Mr. Barley asked to reopen the issue of one and two year UPWPs. He said that the 2-year UPWP seems to work well for smaller MPOs, but it does not work well for all. He asked the Department to allow some MPOs to have a one year UPWP. Mr. Barley said that the process is more difficult for his staff, due to how METROPLAN's finances flow. Ms. Hunt said that she would look into the issue, and asked MPOs that prefer the 2-year UPWP to send her an email.

Several members said they had recent interactions with FDOT staff where they claimed an inability to attend meetings and make statements without approval from Central Office or the Governor's Office. Ms. Hunt said that she would look into this issue and distribute any new Department policies.

5b. FHWA Report

Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA, Director, Office of Project Development gave the FHWA report. She discussed Federal legislation and a SAFETEA-LU extension is in place through March 4th. She stated that FHWA is hoping for an extension through the end of the fiscal year. An air quality standards announcement has been pushed back to July. She announced several TMA certification report site visits. Chairman Fish asked about the timeline for reapportionment of MPOs. Urbanized Areas are announced in 2012, and apportionments are due one year from the announcement.

Next, Ms. Brunelle announced a new FHWA initiative called Every Day Counts. The purpose of the initiative is to improve performance, innovation, and speed of project delivery. The FHWA Florida Division will be setting up an implementation team to look at how Florida is instituting the efforts described in the report. For 2011, Florida is doing well, and has implemented 7 of 10 recommended initiatives.

5c. FTA Report

Mr. Keith Melton, Office of Planning and Program Development presented the Federal Transit Administration report. He described the FL-GA joint office, that each team has a planner, a grants manager, and an engineering/program manager. Their duties are to focus on target cities and build better rapport with transit providers and MPOs. A near-term goal is to assist Florida planners with new/small starts grant applications and corridor plans. The teams will also be more responsive on UPWPs, LRTPs, and Certification reviews. He pointed out that 5307 funds can be flexed into transportation planning funding, although several steps are required to do so. He announced several deadlines for submitting information and reports to FTA. He stated that Florida received 82 grants worth \$344 million in FY 2010. He informed the members that MPOs are being encouraged to program carry-over funds. He noted that all JARC and New Freedom funds should be in the TIP, but the description can be general. All ARRA funds have been obligated. Over \$2 billion has been awarded nationwide in 2010, and he discussed several projects awarded in Florida.

Mr. Welzenbach said that the current situation is difficult, because each extension of SAFETEA-LU brings the threat of rescission. Funds that are carried over year-to-year had previously not been programmed. He said it was difficult to program multi-year projects due to the threat of rescission and asked for help on this matter. He described how funds are boxed in his UPWP, and how this type of programming could potentially be subject to rescission.

Mr. Melton and Lee Ann Jacobs of FHWA, gave a presentation on Livable and Sustainable Communities. This presentation was in response to a request made by the MPOAC's last meeting. The presentation discussed the new DOT-EPA-HUD partnership, livability principles, incorporating these concepts into transportation planning, and next steps for practitioners. The six livability principles: providing transportation choices, expanding housing choices, improving economic competitiveness of neighborhoods, targeting funding toward existing communities, aligning federal policies to remove barriers, and enhancing the unique characteristics of all communities. An example was given where in Atlanta transportation costs have risen higher than housing costs for the first time. The FHWA Division and FTA Region will act as a trainer, resource center, and partner in grant applications. FHWA did a livability scan of MPOs in Florida. The results were positive – 18 of 26 MPOs were advancing livability concepts. Challenges to livability were discussed, which includes local government capacity, resistance

to change, and bias in funding sources and eligibility. The next steps include training, technical assistance, and arrangement of a peer exchange.

6. Benefits of Fixed Route Transit in Florida

Ms. Diane Quigley, FDOT Transit Planning Administrator, gave a presentation on the findings of a recent study conducted by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), on the benefits of fixed route transit in Florida. The study looked at all 29 urban fixed route agencies for all fixed route modes (bus, rail, street car, etc.). The focus of the study was only on federal formula grant-funded programs. The purpose was to identify the benefits derived from funding both capital and operating. She discussed jobs, cost savings to transit users and cost/time savings for highway users and hours of delay saved. Fuel savings and emissions were also reviewed. The study also looked at safety and mobility benefits for transportation disadvantaged populations. The draft final report is currently under review and will be distributed for comment online in the spring of 2011.

7. Transit Public Education Campaign and ULI Transit Study

Mr. Dennis Eirikis of Clear Light Communications gave a presentation on behalf of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA). In particular, FPTA is seeking to partner with MPOs on the IM4Transit Campaign. He discussed the state of the transit systems across the country and in Florida. There are also several groups that have organized anti-transit campaigns. FPTA has been rebranded and has produced a number of new materials. He offered assistance in MPO public involvement campaigns. He said that USPIRG and T4America have decided to open offices in Florida to advance a transit agenda. ULI has issued a report called "Connecting Florida." FPTA surveyed Floridians over the past year to gauge interest in the topic. A wide majority are in favor of transit, and many pro-transit volunteers were identified. He described a number of incentives for volunteers and organizers. He asked for participation by MPOs during the IAM4Transit campaign. Ray Chiaramonte made comments that the campaign should attempt to win over all people, including those who come from an opposing point of view. T.J. Fish encouraged MPO leaders to include all people in the effort, and for MPOs to participate.

8. MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study

Mr. Steve Reich, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), delivered an update on the MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study. He recounted the membership of the Revenue Study Advisory Committee, including the addition of three new members. He gave updates on the first two meetings of the RSAC. A draft paper is under way, and a set of recommendations should be prepared by January 2012. He discussed the results of ballot initiatives related to transportation across the United States. The Florida Transportation Commission has prepared a draft resolution of support in the project. Also several associations have expressed their willingness to promote legislative initiatives. He gave highlights of the Florida funding situational analysis document. The expected revenue from federal and state sources are expected to continue to decline. The population growth and income growth will be heavily focused in metropolitan areas. Mr. Reich also discussed several shortfall studies from FDOT, MPOAC, and the USDOT.

Chairman Fish made a comment that he felt this project was helping to gain momentum on the funding crisis. Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO made comments that transportation will always have to compete with other needs for a limited revenue base. He says that failure to repair and invest can cause

America to fall behind. He feels that the study and the RSAC is doing good work and that it will yield several important answers to the problem.

9. Communications

Chairman Fish directed attention to the communications in the packet and stated they were self explanatory.

10. Member Comments

During member comments, Bob Romig clarified that toll credits are used to meet the PL local match. Chairman Fish welcomed Bob Herrington as the new Director of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjourn

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.