

**Item Number 2  
Approval of Minutes**

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council  
Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 7, 2011  
Tallahassee, Florida**

**Staff Directors' Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:**

T. J. Fish, Chair, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Mary Bo Robinson, Vice-Chair, Bay County, Florida-Alabama, and Okaloosa-Walton TPOs  
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO  
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO  
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO  
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO  
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO  
Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO  
Dennis Dix, Hernando County MPO  
Marci Larson, North Florida TPO  
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO  
Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO  
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA  
Gregory Stuart, Broward MPO  
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO  
Kelly Teague, METROPLAN Orlando

**Others Present:**

Howard Glassman, MPOAC  
Alex Bond, CUTR  
Jeff Kramer, CUTR  
Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO  
Stephen Reich, CUTR  
Krista Brown, FDOT  
Anita Vandervalk, ITS Florida  
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC  
Sally Petrenos, Florida Transportation Commission  
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO  
Commissioner Jennifer Hill, Lake-Sumter MPO  
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO  
Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia TPO  
Councilman Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO

Mike Neidhart, Gannett Fleming, Inc  
Stacie Blizzard, FHWA  
Carl Mikyska, FHWA  
Yvonne Arens, FDOT  
Terry Joseph, West Florida Regional Planning Council  
Lorin Krueger, Public  
Tamara N. Christion, FHWA  
Bennett Lipscomb, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
DeLania Hardy, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission  
Hal Beardall, FSU Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium  
Bob Jones, FSU Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium  
Huiwei Shen, FDOT  
Jennifer Fortunas, FDOT  
Kathleen Neill, FDOT  
Bob Romig, FDOT  
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA  
Elizabeth Parris Orr, FTA  
Keith Melton, FTA

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO, called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, moved to approve the minutes. Karl Welzenbach, Volusia TPO, offered a second. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

### **3. Executive Director's Report**

Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, began the Executive Director's report. He discussed the MPOAC budget, which is 73% spent through the first three quarters. He thanked MPO directors for sending local funds to support government affairs efforts. Mr. Welzenbach asked about the costs of the MPOAC Institute and Mr. Glassman said everything is on target.

Next Mr. Glassman gave the state legislative status report. He first discussed the growth management bill, HB 7129. The bill as proposed revises requirements for transportation elements of local government comprehensive plans. There is a proposed amendment to allow sector plans of 15,000 acres to have expedited review, be exempt from DRI review, and be subject to MPO input. Mr. Welzenbach asked what a sector plan is. Chairman Fish answered they are developments much larger than a traditional DRI. Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO, said that current DRIs would be grandfathered. There is also a bill to limit state comments on certain projects. A proposed bill would establish a 10-year plan which includes multimodal

connection facilities to seaports (HB 399). This would not intrude too heavily on MPO long range plans, and may supply superior information to the MPO planning process. Top-down project selection bills (multiple Senate and House versions) appear to have lost steam and probably will not pass this session. Mr. Welzenbach, Mr. Kamm, and Chairman Fish said that top-down project selection appears to violate federal law. Mr. Glassman said that the top-down project selection process bills, which bypasses the traditional state/MPO project selection process is going to be a two-year effort and will likely appear again next year.

Mr. Glassman discussed the consolidation of toll authorities with the Turnpike Enterprise, SPB 1798. Mr. Kamm and Mr. Welzenbach made comments about this bill. The bill has passed the Senate, but does not yet have a House companion bill. Mr. Glassman summarized the transportation corridors bill, the Pinellas MPO bill, and the red light-running repeal bill.

Mr. Glassman discussed a proposed bill, HB 7207, to direct documentary stamp tax proceeds into the Governor's Office of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development (OTTED). The total amount could be \$470 million. Up to \$170 million could come from the State Transportation Trust Fund. Mr. Glassman expressed concern that the change could result in dramatic reductions in transportation funding, and may not be used effectively for transportation by the OTTED office. Mr. Welzenbach clarified that the TRIP, New Starts, and some SIS money will be taken away if this bill passes. Chairman Fish asked for discussion on HB 7207 regarding redirection of documentary stamp funding to the STTF. He said that the potential redirection of funding will be detrimental. Mr. Glassman said that the effort places project selection authority with OTTED and bypasses the established planning process. He pointed out the TRIP is a dollar-for-dollar match with local governments. Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, said the value of local government contributions should be a major talking point for the MPOAC.

Keith Melton, Federal Transit Administration, asked about the impact on New Starts. Mr. Welzenbach explained that this is a parallel state program not the federal program. Chairman Fish said that the top down approach destroys the collaborative process that MPOs undertake. Mr. Kamm said that this bill closely mirrors the Governor's policy on job creation, but he felt that it circumvents the MPO process- thereby eliminating the MPO review. Mr. Kamm said that OTTED is a very difficult agency to work with.

Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA, said that rural counties depend on the SCOP program, which will be effectively defunded. Chairman Fish said that MPOs should be clear that they are willing partners on analyzing return on investment in transportation decision-making.

Bob Romig, FDOT, said that HB 7207 is a high priority for the Governor, and FDOT is currently analyzing the impact. Chairman Fish asked for the statements made during this discussion be reported to the Governing Board and recommend some action including a letter. Karl Welzenbach made a motion to report Chairman Fish's statement. The motion received a second from Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO, and was approved unanimously.

#### **4. MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study**

Steve Reich, from the Center for Urban Transportation Research at USF, gave a presentation on the progress of the MPOAC Revenue Study. He discussed the project timeline and said the next Revenue Study Advisory Committee (RSAC) meeting is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee. The RSAC has submitted a list of options which will be discussed. The goal is to narrow the options from 40 to 16. He showed several tables discussing revenue sources available today. He then showed tables with possible revenue streams and their political acceptance, revenue potential, cost to implement, and whether the charge would be controlled by users. He said that vehicle miles traveled taxation was heavily discussed. A charge of 1 cent per mile would generate over \$2 billion, which is about the level going into the trust fund today. Mr. Reich said that the vehicle miles traveled experiment in Portland was investigated, and discussed several successes and pitfalls of that project.

Mr. Kamm asked how revenue from any of these sources would be split between state and local governments. Mr. Reich said that these splits are not yet known, and would require negotiation and study. The sixteen options that were recommended for full study were discussed individually. A discussion of vehicle miles traveled fee collection methodologies ensued. Chairman Fish said that there should be a clear delineation between a per-gallon and percent gas taxes.

Chairman Fish asked for a motion to support the recommendations presented by Mr. Reich. Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO, made the motion which was seconded by Greg Stuart, Broward MPO. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5A. FDOT Report**

The FDOT report was given by Mr. Bob Romig, State Transportation Development Administrator. He stated MPO project priority lists must be submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The change is required because the legislature meets earlier next year (January 10, 2012) to accommodate redistricting.

Next he discussed the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) that was held in March. The REC increased the estimates for documentary stamps, which reverses a trend of declining receipts. The gas tax sources were reduced by \$190 million. He stated that FDOT is watching the legislature closely, and is encouraged that a trust fund sweep does not appear in any Senate bill. He discussed several bills that are currently being considered. The SIS Strategic Plan was adopted in January, and it is currently being implemented. The FIHS will be eliminated by this session's FDOT bill and be absorbed by the SIS. Currently there is an effort to establish a SIS Unfunded Needs plan.

Mr. Romig discussed the Department's view on one versus two year UPWPs. The Department wants all UPWPs to be uniform, but does not have a preference regarding length. Chairman Fish asked for a motion to transition to a 1 year UPWP after the expiration of the current

UPWP. Bob Kamm offered the motion and Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, offered a second. A vote of 7 in favor 6 opposed was taken. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kamm asked that this motion be tabled for this meeting, and instead appear as an agenda item at the next meeting. Chairman Fish asked for objections to not referring the vote to the Governing Board and making the UPWP issue an agenda item for the July Meeting. No objections were received, and the previous motion was rescinded.

Kathy Neill, FDOT, Director, Office of Policy Planning, indicated only one person works with UPWP funds (PL and 5303) and having a one year UPWP would double the workload. Chairman Fish asked that the FDOT focus on issues related to de-obligation to help MPOs reduce the workload.

Huiwei Shen, FDOT, informed the members of an upcoming Traffic Analysis Zone delineation training to be offered in Orlando on April 13. Details related to changes in TAZ delineation and available software will be discussed for the benefit of MPO staff. Data in software is available for download online. Census urban area delineation criteria are being finalized and will be available in May. The CTPP data is being rolled out now, and it has been paid for by AASHTO. This could be useful for validation of MPO travel demand models. Several technical questions were asked regarding highway modeling and transit modeling.

## **5B. FTA Report**

Keith Melton, Community Planner from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), made a presentation about FTA's activities. FTA has undertaken studies on premium transit in Tallahassee, Gainesville, and Orlando. They have found many cities in Florida are looking for premium transit such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or rail.

FTA announced a TIGER II grant award for the Parramore BRT, which will extend the LYMMO system 2.1 miles. This is a \$10 million federal award (\$2.5 million local) match. Karl Welzenbach asked about the TIGER grant for LYMMO. Chairman Fish said that he hoped the FTA and the USDOT would still consider Florida for premium transit, despite the state's rejection of HSR. Mr. Melton said that he was encouraged by the RSAC's study regarding Florida's ability to compete for premium transit grants.

## **5C. FHWA Report**

Lee Ann Jacobs gave the FHWA report. She informed the members that MPOs would be asked to update freight profiles. Ms. Jacobs stated that NHTSA released a report showing the lowest traffic fatalities in several decades and that fatalities decreased across the board.

Next she discussed a review of regulations, which is required by Executive Order. Comments can be sent to [www.dotregreview.ideascale.com](http://www.dotregreview.ideascale.com). She discussed the president's budget for Fiscal Year 2012, that it included a proposal for a 6 year \$556 billion transportation reauthorization. She discussed several of the budget's priorities, including safety, livability,

leadership awards, and research. She informed the members that the budget ends the transfer of safety funds to other cost centers. Mr. Kamm said that much of the budget request reads like a reauthorization. Ms. Jacobs said that she agrees, and it remains to be seen how it will be received by Congress.

## **6. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

DeLania Hardy, Executive Director, AMPO, discussed current activities in Congress, USDOT, and AMPO issues. She discussed the current appropriations situation, and summarized which programs had received cuts. Next she discussed the House rule changes. All spending guarantees were repealed, and the budget must be considered year by year. This negatively affects transportation spending, since some programs were guaranteed for multiple years. Next she discussed the priorities of each house of Congress regarding reauthorization. There are several sticking points for reauthorization, including size and length of the bill. There is general agreement with performance based planning and a national freight interest. There continues to be an emphasis on private sector participation. Early concerns about the MPO role have been minimized. There is an emphasis on quicker project delivery. Some programs are facing elimination or consolidation. She discussed some of the points of the administration's proposal. She also discussed what AMPO is asking for: more PL funds, increased sub-allocation of funding (including sub-allocation of more programs), and increased project selection authority. The reauthorization timetable is not favorable. A bill needs to be complete by September or it will be rolled into the presidential election. The House will introduce a bill in April/May. USDOT will send a proposal to OMB for review shortly. There is no available timeframe for a senate bill. Bennett Lipscomb, AMPO, discussed the budget impasse. Next he discussed the AMPO Annual Conference, which is planned for October 25-28, 2011 in Dallas, TX.

Mr. Glassman asked if MPO designation is being discussed in any proposals. FHWA professional staff recommends moving the designation threshold to 200,000. Smaller areas would be the responsibility of states. Neither house appears to have discussed items at that level yet. Mr. Glassman asked if discretionary programs are still in favor with USDOT. Ms. Hardy said that the TIGER program appears to still be in favor.

## **7. Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida**

Anita Vandervalk-Ostrander from Cambridge Systematics, Inc. and the ITS Florida Chapter, gave a presentation on Chapter activities. She gave a background presentation on what ITS Florida does, and encouraged MPOs to join as members. ITS Florida has compiled delay and costs of congestion in several Florida regions. The organization is expanding into traffic operations. Operation is expected to be increasingly important in a climate of shrinking resources. ITS Florida is supporting legislation that increases revenues, protects the state transportation trust fund, establishes performance measurement, and finishes construction of ITS infrastructure. ITS America is pushing the SMART Technologies for Communities Act in the US Congress, which

would create six pilot programs to use ITS to reduce collisions, improve emergency response, and enhance mobility. She also encouraged MPO staff to attend.

Mr. Glassman introduced an MPOAC letter in support of the SMART Technologies for Communities Act. Bob Kamm moved to approve the letter of support, and Phil Matson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **8. Communications**

During discussion of Communications, Mr. Glassman said that he had circulated a response to the MPOAC's February 11<sup>th</sup> letter on SIS designation. He said all other Communications were self-explanatory.

## **9. Member Comments**

Michael Howe distributed a letter regarding utility wiring standards for highway right-of-way that was sent to the Florida DOT by the Sarasota/Manatee MPO.

## **10. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **11. Adjourn**

Chairman Fish made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.