

**Minutes of the Florida MPO Advisory Council**  
**Governing Board**  
**July 23, 2015**

**Governing Board Members in Attendance:**

Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, Chairperson  
Councilmember James Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, Vice Chair  
Vice Mayor Bryan Caletka, Broward MPO  
Commissioner Rodney Friend, Bay County TPO  
Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA  
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Commissioner Jayer Williamson, Florida-Alabama TPO  
Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Commissioner Derek Doughty, Hillsborough County MPO  
Mayor Susan Adams, Indian River County MPO  
Councilmember Jim Burch, Lee County MPO  
Councilmember Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Pinellas MPO  
Commissioner Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO  
Councilmember Pat Patterson, River to Sea TPO  
Councilmember Jim Bennett, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Mayor Kathy Meehan, Space Coast TPO  
Ms. Kathryn Hensley (St. Lucie County School Board member), St. Lucie TPO  
Colon Lambert, Heartland Regional TPO  
Troy McDonald, Martin MPO

**Others in Attendance:**

Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director  
Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel  
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC  
Jeff Kramer, USF/CUTR  
Karen Seggerman, USF/CUTR  
Karen Brunelle, FHWA  
Lee Ann Jacobs, FHWA  
Carmen Monroy, FDOT  
Yvonne Arens, FDOT  
Thomas Hill, FDOT  
Greg Stuart, Broward MPO  
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA  
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO  
Mary Bo Robinson, Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs  
Pat Steed, Heartland Regional TPO  
Sherrie Carver, Heartland Regional TPO

Dennis Dix, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Beth Alden, Hillsborough County MPO  
Phil Matson, Indian River County MPO  
Beth Beltran, Martin MPO  
Harold W. Barley, MetroPlan Orlando  
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach MPO  
Whit Blanton, Pinellas County MPO  
Vice-Mayor Charles Lake, Polk TPO  
Ronnie Blackshear, Polk TPO  
Lois Bollenback, River To Sea TPO  
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
David Hutchinson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Mayor Rocky Randel, Space Coast TPO  
Bob Kamm, Space Coast TPO  
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO  
Mary Schoelzel, FDOT  
Kellie Smith, FDOT  
Robert Jones, FCRC Consensus Center  
Hal Beardall, FCRC Consensus Center

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair, Palm Beach MPO, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The Chair led all in the Pledge of Allegiance and then welcomed those in attendance, including all new members and representatives from the newly formed Heartland Regional TPO.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember James Wood, Vice-Chair, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2015 Joint Meeting of the MPOAC Governing Board & Staff Directors' Advisory Committee. Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**4. Ratification of Executive Director**

Mr. Paul Gougelman, MPOAC General Counsel, reviewed the MPOAC Executive Director selection process for the membership which resulted in the MPOAC Executive Committee verbally offering the position of Executive Director to Mr. Carl Mikyska and notifying members of this decision via email. The email communication requested members to provide comments prior to the Executive Committee making a written offer of employment to Carl Mikyska. No

comments or objections were received and the written offer of employment was made. Mr. Gougelman concluded his comments by seeking ratification by the membership of Carl Mikyska as the MPOAC Executive.

Councilmember Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Pinellas MPO, made a motion to ratify Mr. Carl Mikyska as the new Executive Director of the MPOAC. Councilmember Jim Burch, Lee County MPO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, reported on the MPOAC budget referring to attachment 1 of the agenda package under the Executive Director's Report. During the period from April 1 – June 30, 2015, approximately \$129,859 was spent. The remaining balance for the fiscal year was \$4,416. Mr. Mikyska credited the outgoing Executive Director, Howard Glassman, with keeping the MPOAC on budget for the year.

Mr. Mikyska then provided a legislative update referring to attachment 3 of the agenda package under the Executive Director's Report. The Florida legislature, during the June special session, approved SB2514-A redirecting revenues from additional fees imposed on certain motor vehicle registration transactions (commonly known as the "New Wheels On the Road Fee") from the General Revue Fund to the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF), an amount totaling \$99 million. Of those revenues redirected to the STTF, 6.9 percent are intended to be used to fund the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP), an estimated \$14.2 million in Fiscal Year 2015/2016. The law also created the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network as a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System and required funding to be allocated to the network in the Florida Department of Transportation program and resource plan.

The legislature also approved HB 41 (also known as Gabby's Law for Student Safety) relating to hazardous walking conditions for public school students. HB 257 was also passed allowing a county or two or more contiguous counties to designate freight logistics zones so long as they are consistent with the local MPO long range transportation plan. Projects in the freight logistics zone plan will be eligible for special funding per specified criteria. Mr. Mikyska also noted that several pieces of legislation related to transportation and supported by the MPOAC, including bills related to distracted driving and the implementation of a mileage-based user fee study and pilot program, were not approved during the 2015 legislative session.

Mr. Mikyska then highlighted two legislative proposals that have been made to reauthorize the federal transportation program and provide continued funding for the federal Highway Trust

Fund (HTF). The “Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act” (GROW America Act), proposed by the US Department of Transportation, would reauthorize the federal transportation program for six years using a combination of current revenues and a new repatriation fee on currently untaxed foreign earnings by U.S. companies. The GROW America Act would prevent new MPOs from being designated within metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) already served by an existing MPO and require coordinated planning and performance target setting in areas where multiple MPOs are already designated within a single MSA. The GROW America Act would also authorize the creation of a high-performance tier of MPOs and grant them with certain benefits including sub allocation of certain federal transportation funds and priority consideration for Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds.

The “Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act” (DRIVE Act), proposed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, is a six-year transportation authorization that provides for three years of guaranteed funding for the HTF. The Drive Act proposes two new programs including a National Freight Program and a program of Assistance for Major Projects (similar to the existing TIGER Program). It would also speed up the project development process by allowing information gathered during the planning process, to the extent it is still current and relevant, to satisfy the environmental review process and allow agencies to avoid re-analyzing in the environmental process, proposed transportation project alternatives which were rejected during the planning process. The DRIVE Act would increase federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) sub-allocation to metropolitan areas, but reduces the overall amount of STP funding in the early years of the program, resulting in a dip in sub-allocated funds in the first few years of the bill. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) would be 100% sub-allocated to metropolitan areas at a flat amount of \$850 million per year for the life of the bill, increasing TAP funding in the early years of the program, but significantly reducing TAP funding in later years. The DRIVE Act also clarifies transit representation on MPO Boards and adds a new federal planning factor to improve system resiliency and reliability.

Mr. Mikyska recognized the formation of the newest MPO in the state, the Heartland Regional TPO (HRTPO) and noted that information on the HRTPO was provided in attachment 2 under the Executive Director’s Report. He concluded his remarks by announcing that a meeting of the MPOAC Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting had been scheduled for September 11, 2015 at the FDOT District 1 Auditorium in Bartow, Florida and welcomed all who wished to participate to attend. A member requested that MPOAC members be kept apprised of rapidly-developing information regarding the freight logistics zones.

## 6. Agency Reports

### a) FDOT Agency Report

Ms. Carmen Monroy, Director of the FDOT Office of Policy Planning, introduced herself to the membership, noting that she was previously the Southwest Area Director for FDOT District One. She then reported on the status of the combined effort to update both the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Policy Plan. A 35-member steering committee is in place with Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, serving as vice-chair and Councilmember Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO serving as the vice-chair of the SIS Advisory Committee. She also noted that several staff directors serve as members of the Advisory Groups including, Harry Barley (MetroPlan Orlando), Carlos Roa (Miami-Dade MPO), Bob Kamm (Space Coast TPO), Marlie Sanderson (Gainesville MTPO), and Peter Buchwald (St. Lucie TPO). The FTP will contain three elements including a vision element, a policy element, and an implementation element. At this time, the vision element is being addressed and includes new topic areas including alignment with the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development and emphasis on providing more modal choices for people and freight, active transportation, workforce development, and customer service. The importance of regionalism is also being discussed in detail.

Goal area themes have emerged including a broader look at safety and security of residents, visitors and businesses; an agile, resilient and high quality transportation infrastructure; efficient and reliable service for people and freight; and transportation solutions that support Florida's global competitiveness, quality places, and environment. The Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan is addressing interregional connectivity, intermodal connectivity, and economic development. More information and the opportunity to give feedback is available at [www.floridatransportationplan.com](http://www.floridatransportationplan.com). Four workshops have already been held around the state. Upcoming workshops will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> in Panama City, August 26<sup>th</sup> in Vero Beach, September 1<sup>st</sup> in Miami (since cancelled), and September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Tampa. On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the FDOT will be in Orlando as part of the TRANSPLEX conference. The intention is to have the vision plan adopted by the end of calendar year 2015.

Ms. Monroy noted that the processes to develop PL Joint Planning Agreements and to approve and pay PL invoices had become very challenging and that she plans to work toward increasing the efficiency of both over the coming months. She closed by informing the membership that the FDOT was in the process of hiring a new trail manager with the creation of the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network.

## **b) FHWA Agency Report**

Ms. Karen Brunelle, Director, Office of Project Development, and Ms. Lee Ann Jacobs, Planning Team Leader at the FHWA Florida Division Office, shared FHWA activities.

Ms. Brunelle noted that the FHWA is waiting on new authorization given the extension of MAP-21. The federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) balance, without another extension of federal authorization, is scheduled to drop below \$4 billion at the end of July or early August which would trigger cash management procedures for federal funds allocation. Further, the HTF is expected to go below zero near the end of August without legislative action to infuse the fund with additional monies.

Ms. Brunelle continued by stating that additional information on federal proposed rulemaking related to MAP-21 was expected sometime in September. She reminded the membership that federal TIGER grant applications had been received in early June 2015 and that they were currently undergoing evaluation.

Ms. Brunelle concluded her remarks by reporting that, according to FHWA estimates, US driving had topped 1.26 trillion miles in the first five months of 2015, topping the record set in 2007, and that US driving has steadily increased for 15 consecutive months.

Ms. Lee Ann Jacobs then directed the member's attention to attachment 1 of the agenda package under the FHWA Report detailing the responsibilities and duties of FHWA- Florida Division transportation planning unit staff. She also stated that the FHWA-Florida Division Office had officially moved to its new location - 3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400, Tallahassee, FL 32312, and that their phone numbers have not changed.

Ms. Jacobs informed the membership that the Annual Statewide Assessment Meeting related to the federal planning findings had been held on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 (a requirement for approval of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) and that comments related to the process were welcome. She closed by introducing a video entitled "The FHWA 2015 Research & Technology Story." The video highlighted the value of highway research and how FHWA's research and technology initiatives are making a difference. The video can be found at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/research/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/research/).

## **7. MPOAC Institute Overview**

Mr. Jeff Kramer, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), presented an overview of the MPOAC Weekend Institute. The presentation included a summary of Institute activities for 2015, including attendance statistics and attendee survey feedback. He also introduced MPOAC

Institute trainers: Scott Paine with the Florida League of Cities, Hal Beardall with the FCRC Consensus Center, and Karen Seggerman, CUTR/USF.

Mr. Kramer then presented some historical perspective on the Institute since it started in 2007, including the following statistics:

- 16 Institutes since 2007
- held in 6 different locations since 2007
- 223 total attendees
  - 74 (approximately 33%) from a County
  - 139 (approximately 62%) from a municipality
  - 10 (approximately 5%) from a modal or other agency
- 57% of attendees are still on an MPO Board
- 4.79 out of 5 overall evaluation score
- 8.5 overall average number of attendees sent by each MPO over time
- MPOs have sent as many as 19 and as few as 2 Board members to an MPOAC Institute over the years

Mr. Kramer noted changes that have been made to the program over the years based on feedback from attendees. He reminded the members that Institute materials are available to their staff on the MPOAC website, although it is password protected. He concluded by pointing out that 23 of the current 27 members of the Governing Board had attended an MPOAC Institute during the past several years.

Members then discussed their own experiences attending the MPOAC Institute and emphasized the need for Governing Board members to educate their fellow MPO Board members to the availability and value of attending an MPOAC Institute. Past attendees seemed to particularly appreciate having the opportunity to meet MPO Board members from around the state and encouraged other members of the MPOAC Governing Board to attend if they had not yet had the chance to do so.

## **8. Strategic Plan for MPOAC**

Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, presented the initial plans and draft outline of the effort to develop a strategic plan for the MPOAC. He distributed the outline and asked for comments or any other input to be submitted by August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mikyska asked if there were any members who were interested in becoming a member of the Strategic Direction Advisory Committee (SDAC). The SDAC will help to guide the strategic planning effort, helping craft the organizational mission and vision as well as goals and objectives. Mr. Mikyska stated that, ideally, the Committee would be comprised of an equal

number of Board Members and Staff Directors (not from the same MPO) and represent both small and large MPOs from across the state. Commissioner Nick Maddox, Capital Region TPA, volunteered to be a member of the SDAC. Several other members expressed interest and indicated that they would let Mr. Mikyska know if they would be able to serve upon confirming their availability.

Mr. Mikyska then described future steps for the strategic planning process, including eight meetings, with the first meeting to be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Bartow (the same day as the MPOAC Policy and Technical Subcommittee meeting). He mentioned that there will also be a member survey conducted, providing the opportunity for all interested members to participate even if they cannot attend any of the SDAC meetings. The SDAC will be asked to guide the development of an implementation action plan. Members suggested that alternates be appointed to ensure sufficient participation given the rigorous schedule. Mr. Mikyska agreed, but noted that the process would work best if there were continuous participation by the same group. He concluded by acknowledging those Staff Directors that had volunteered to serve on the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee.

## **9. Communications**

Mr. Mikyska noted that the communications for the quarter were included in the agenda packet:

- Summary of proposed federal legislation from Transportation for America. The proposed Senate Bill is titled "Senate Railroad Reform, Enhancement and Efficiency Act".

## **10. Member Comments**

Mr. Michael Howe, Executive Director for the Sarasota/Manatee MPO, announced his retirement in August and introduced Mr. David Hutchinson who will who will replace him as Executive Director and as a member of the MPOAC Staff Directors' Advisory Committee. The members thanked him for his service to the organization and welcomed Mr. Hutchinson.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.**