



2020 Freight Priorities Program

Preparation for Call for Projects

Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council
Freight Subcommittee Meeting
January 30, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Agenda

- Program purpose
- What We Have Learned
- Overview of the Process for 2020
- Next Steps



Purpose of the FPP



- *To provide MPOs with an opportunity to identify high priority freight projects on an annual basis.*
- *To use the MPOAC as a united voice to promote and endorse these priorities on behalf of its members, for consideration by FDOT*

MPOAC Has Created an Emerging Best Practice

- Overview of program was presented at 2018 AMPO Annual Meeting
- Audience was engaged with many questions, all driven by their desire to have a similar program
- Key questions focused on how to prioritize and fund identified priorities

Establishing MPO Freight Project Priorities as Input to Florida DOT's Work Program

Presented to
AMPO Annual Meeting



Presented by
Michael Williamson, Principal, Cambridge Systematic
Gregory Stuart, Executive Director, Broward MPO



September 26, 2018



What Have We Learned about Setting Priorities?

- Florida's MPOs must have every advantage possible to compete for available funding
- State freight priorities address the most strategic freight needs; many of these priorities will fall within MPO planning boundaries
- MPOs drive project development and priorities within their planning boundaries
- Each MPO should include freight considerations in project prioritization methodologies
- Unified input by MPOs and the MPOAC to FDOT on freight priorities will help ensure local and regional freight needs are addressed in funding decisions

What Have We Learned about MPO Priorities?

- Not all MPOs identify and prioritize freight projects
- Needs are often identified through a variety of activities
 - Working with regional partners (e.g., freight operators, FDOT, municipalities)
 - Bottleneck analyses, stakeholder surveys/partner input, capital improvement plans/master plans
 - Overall capacity improvements are typically included
- Non-roadway improvements are often included in LRTPs through reference (e.g., port master plans)
- Projects are prioritized based on freight volumes, freight intensity, mode, economic impact, system efficiencies, and more

Questions for FDOT

- Did your MPOs reach out to you for support as they identified their 3 projects for inclusion?
- Did you review the final list for your district?
- How did it influence your funding recommendations?
- Did you recommend funding for any of the proposed projects?
 - If so, which ones? If not, why not?
 - Were there other considerations that advanced projects from the FPP list?
- Is there anything about the process that should be streamlined?
 - Content? Format? Criteria?
- Did you find the list useful during your Work Program update process?
- What is the schedule for this year's Work Program development?
 - When is the best time to influence your process?

What Have We Learned From Working with FDOT?

- FDOT found the FPP to be helpful and they've included it as part of their funding decision process
- Some of your projects have received funding!
- Each list needs to be championed by each MPO **during the process** and **after it is approved**
 - Access to more funding opportunities and decisions
 - Establish stronger relationships with Freight Coordinators
- Identifying all related freight networks was helpful (e.g., NHFN, SIS)

What Have We Learned From Working with FDOT?

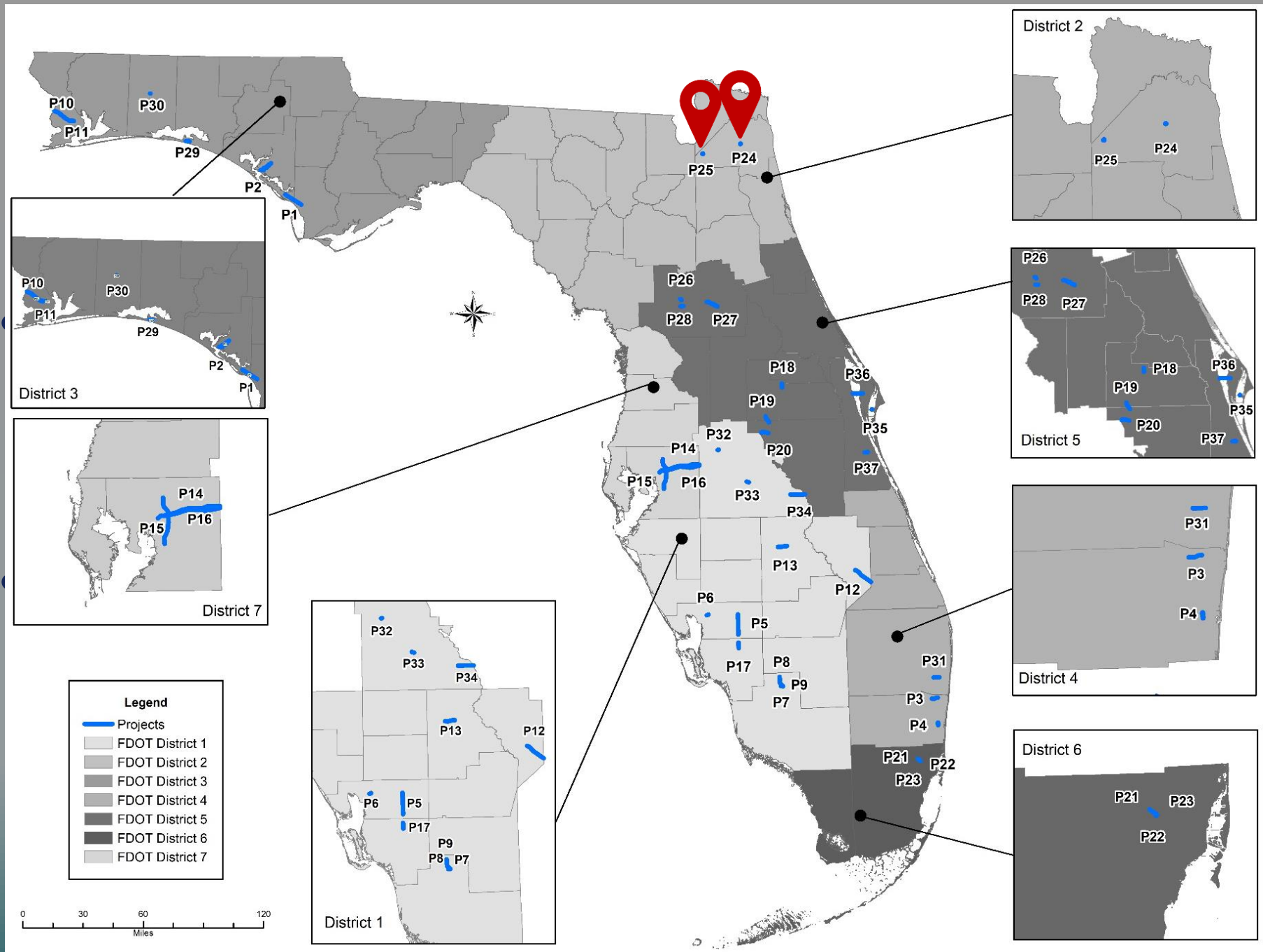
- It is very important for you to reach out to your District Freight Coordinators to reconcile project information throughout the list development process (February to May) and after
- MPOs should feel free to identify projects off the State Highway System if they are included on the National Highway Freight Network
- It is good for the MPOAC to coordinate with FDOT on the projects being submitted for grants (e.g., INFRA)

What funding programs does the FPP try to influence?

- Funding eligibility is tied to network designations
 - National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) allocations are controlled by FDOT Central Office
 - Funding for all other state highways are primarily controlled by FDOT District Offices in coordination with MPOs
 - Project list will include projects on the entire of state highway network
- Final list of projects will identify network designations to facilitate consideration by appropriate funding program(s)

2018 Project Submittals

- 16 of Florida's 27 MPOs participated, submitting a total of 37 projects
- Projects were provided by MPOs in all 7 FDOT Districts
- 100 percent of projects submitted have a PD&E completed, underway, planned or not needed
- 33 projects are on designated SIS roadways and 10 are on the NHFN, and 24 are on regionally significant roadways
- All projects support at least 2 FTP goals with the majority supporting 3 or more

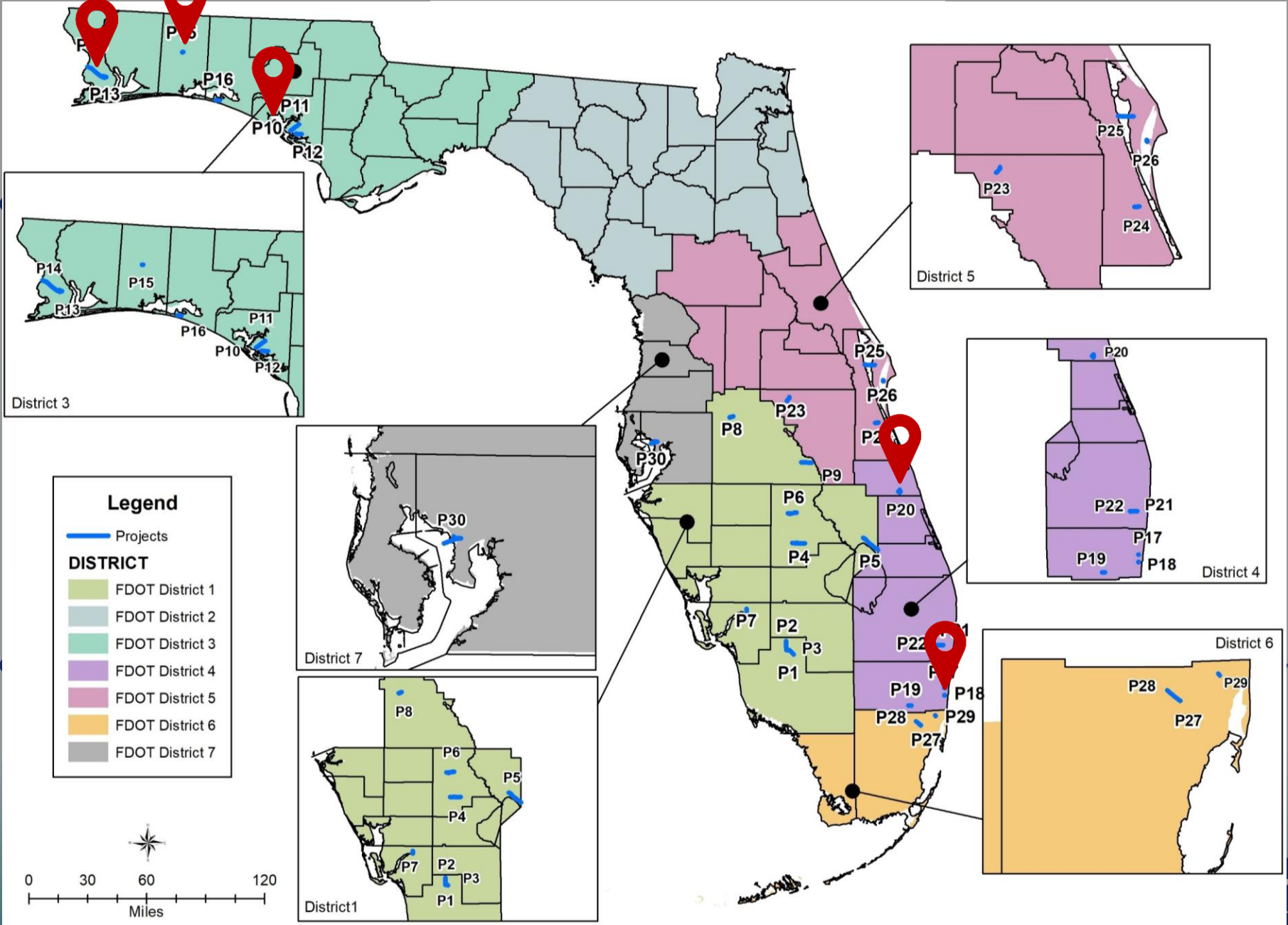


2019 Project Submittals

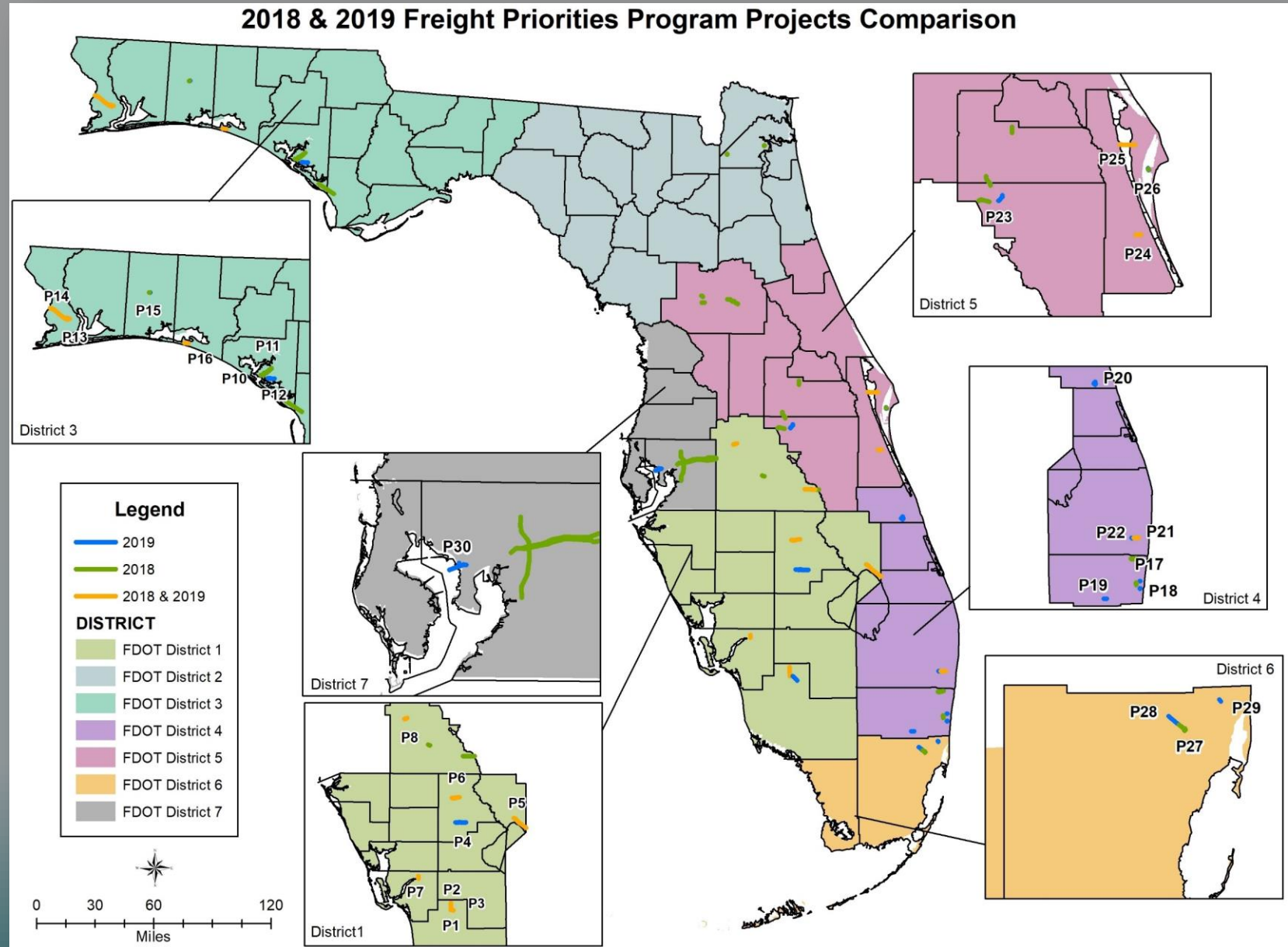
- 14 of Florida's 27 MPOs participated, submitting a total of 30 projects
- Projects were provided by MPOs in 6 of 7 FDOT Districts
- 100 percent of projects submitted have a PD&E completed, underway, planned or not needed
- 24 projects are on designated SIS roadways and 9 are on the NHFN
- All projects support at least 3 FTP goals with two-thirds supporting 5 or more

2019 Project Submittals (continued)

- Funding requests totaled \$2.7 billion across the 30 projects; note one project request was \$1.5 billion
 - 12 asked for funding to be advanced (\$375 million)
 - 15 asked for projects to be funded (\$2.2 billion)
 - 3 asked for both advancement of current funds and additional funding (\$87.6 million)
- List includes two of FDOT's FY2019 INFRA project applications



Comparison of 2018 & 2019 Project Priority List



Overview of Process

- Program contained the following requirements for MPOs:
 - Each MPO can submit up-to-three (3) freight projects
 - Projects must fall on state highway system, and be post-PD&E or PD&E underway, or PD&E funded, or project does not require PD&E (ready for design and/or construction)
 - Projects must be able to accept funds in the current Work Program (e.g., be unfunded, partially funded, able to accept accelerated funding)

Overview of Process

- Program contained the following requirements for MPOs (continued):
 - Screening Checklist must be completed for each project and submitted to MPOAC
 - Staff need to respond to any follow up questions from consultant team
 - Project list will be developed for Florida and presented to MPOAC for approval
 - Approved list will be transmitted to FDOT to inform annual Work Program development activities

Overview of Process

- Review and Vetting
 - Checklist inputs were reviewed for completeness and content
 - URLs provided to source documents (LRTP, TIP, Work Program) were validated and projects confirmed
 - Follow up questions were developed based on
 - Missing data
 - Incomplete data
 - Data unable to be confirmed with provided URLs
 - Questions were submitted to MPOs for additional data and clarification as necessary
 - Revised Checklists were reviewed and used to develop project list

How We Are Updating the 2020 Call for Projects

- Simplifying Checklist and Instructions
- Expand on the “defined action” (i.e., “advance phase,” “funding request”) portion of the list to clarify whether a project is partially funded
- Develop Checklist for MPOs to follow when working with the District Freight Coordinators that helps verify project eligibility and defined action
- Submit an interim draft report of the FPP list to FDOT in March

Updates to the Program

- Revised Checklist/Worksheet
 - Project Profile Section Has Been Expanded to Collect More Comprehensive and Consistent Characteristics for Each Project
 - Instructions Provide Greater Specificity of What is Required

Overview of Planned 2020 Process

- MPOs are Encouraged to Work Directly with Their FDOT Freight Coordinators
- Projects will be Reviewed for Completeness and Vetted for Content
- Requests for Additional Information will be Submitted to each MPO
- Final Vetted Projects will be Used to Develop the 2019 Freight Priorities Project List
- Additional Backup will be Provided as Part of the List

Overview of Next Steps

- Call for Projects will go out on February 17th, 2020 via Email to each MPO with a Due Date Of March 27th
- MPOs will be Provided with Instructions and a Project Template
- Training Webinars will be Scheduled for the weeks of February 17th and March 2th
- Interim list will be transmitted to FDOT after March 27th
- Present to Freight Committee, Staff Directors, and Governing Board for Approval for Transmittal to FDOT on April 30th
- Endorsed List will be transmitted to FDOT in May

Overview of Next Steps

- One-on-One Technical Support will be Available by Teleconference at MPO Request
- Work closely with your FDOT District Freight Coordinators

Questions and Answers

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