

Freight Priorities Program (FPP)

2021 Call for Projects



Presented to MPOAC Executive Committee

MPOAC

January 2021

Agenda

Program Purpose

Overview of Process and Updates

Project Funding Eligibility and
Competitiveness

Program Recap

2021 FPP Schedule

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



Overview of Process

1

Each MPO submits up to 3 freight projects

Projects must fall on state highway system or NHFN, be post-PD&E or PD&E underway, or PD&E funded

Projects must be able to accept construction funds (e.g., be unfunded, partially funded, able to accept accelerated funding)

2

Screening checklist (including new DFC checklist) must be completed for each project and submitted to MPOAC

3

Staff will respond to follow up questions from consultant team

4

Statewide project list will be developed and shared with FDOT CO and DFCs to help ensure FDOT is aware and supportive of the projects

5

Statewide project list will be presented to MPOAC for approval (Freight Committee, Staff Directors, and Governing Board)

Overview of Process

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

Overview of Process

- Final Vetted Projects will be Used to Develop the 2021 Freight Priorities Project List
 - Additional Backup will be Provided as Part of the Final List

Updates to the Process

- No substantial changes for 2021
- Changes in 2020:
 - Simplified Checklist and Instructions
 - Expanded 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

Freight Priorities Program Overview



The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), has developed the **Freight Prioritization Program (FPP)** to annually identify and promote high priority freight projects within the planning boundaries of Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organizations for consideration in FDOT's 5-Year Work Program and other potential funding sources. The FPP's objective is to foster collaboration among the MPOAC's members and its partners to develop a critical list of freight projects that represent the unified input of the MPOAC.

Why is Interfacing with Your FDOT District Freight Coordinator Important?

A critical resource that each MPO should consider in the FPP process is the knowledge and input of their FDOT District Freight Coordinator (DFC). Part of each DFC's job is to understand the federal and state funding processes (e.g., [Work Program](#), [Freight Mobility and Trade Plan](#), [National Highway Freight Program](#), [Strategic Intermodal System](#)) that can support freight projects in Florida. They will know which projects within your region align well with the criteria for each program, as well as which ones stand a better chance for funding when the FPP list reaches higher levels of review.

It benefits each MPO to work directly with their DFC to make a more informed decision about which project(s) they should nominate for the MPOAC's FPP. Remember that your DFC must also submit a District Priority Project list, which Central Office will consider, so it is beneficial to know if any MPO freight priorities may also be on their list because those projects could score higher during FDOT's internal project prioritization process.

Note that this exercise is meant to create a stronger partnership between the MPOAC and FDOT and to inform your decision-making. We are not encouraging MPOAC members to allow FDOT to choose MPO priorities. We are simply calling for more coordination between the FPP and the DFC's District Priority Lists. Below is a checklist that can help your MPO choose which projects to submit for this year's FPP.

What to Cover when Working with your FDOT District Freight Coordinator

- ☐ Identify your MPO's assigned [District Freight Coordinator](#). If your FDOT District has a vacancy at that position, work with Holly Cohen from Central Office.
- ☐ Let your DFC know that your MPO is considering submitting a project(s) as part of this year's MPOAC Freight Priorities Program.
- ☐ Ask them to share the list of projects they are considering for their District Priority Project list that are located within your MPO's planning boundary. Note that their list may still be in development.
- ☐ Compare their list to the projects you may be considering from your MPO's products (e.g., Regional Freight Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan)
- ☐ Work with your DFC to understand any differences between both lists. They might not be considering your project(s) for several reasons (e.g., ineligible for NHFP funding, ineligible for SIS funding, the project is new), or they may have projects your MPO has not considered yet.
- ☐ Choose up-to-three projects for the FPP. Note that you do not need to choose projects that appear on your DFC's District Priority Project list but doing so can strengthen the case for the project.
- ☐ If your project aligns with your DFC's list, work with them to define the Project Rationale for each chosen project to explain how the project advances goods movement in Florida.
- ☐ Ask your DFC if they are considering any project(s) within your MPO's planning boundary for other funding opportunities (e.g., [INFRA](#), [BUILD](#)). These can be added to your three project submissions.



2021 Freight Prioritization Program INSTRUCTIONS

Program Overview

1. Identify up-to-three projects that meet the defined criteria.
 - Projects should fall on a priority freight network (e.g., State Highway System, National Highway Freight Network).
 - Projects must be post-PD&E or have a PD&E funded or underway.
 - Projects should be unfunded, partially funded, or able to accept accelerated funding.
2. Complete the Project Submission Form.
 - The form provides an opportunity for MPOs to describe the characteristics of up-to-three priority freight projects that are eligible and ready for construction-related funding.
 - Two 90-minute GoToMeeting training webinars will be scheduled for the week of February 24th and March 2nd. Stay tuned for the invitations. MPOAC's consultants also are available to provide technical support (Daniel Crotty at 754-701-1607 or dcrotty@whitehousegroup.com and Michael Williamson at 954-331-6113 or mwilliamson@camsys.com)
3. Collaborate with your partner District Freight Coordinators to complete the Project Submission Form.
 - MPO staff should work with their District Freight Coordinators (DFC) to know what projects they are planning on selecting as a District Priority Project and to ensure FDOT is aware of any additional projects the MPO may want them to support.
 - Your DFC will likely know which projects within your region align well with FDOT's Work Program scoring criteria, the Freight Mobility and Trade Plan [prioritization process](#), and the criteria of other funding programs (e.g., NHFP, SIS).
 - It benefits each MPO to know what projects their DFC has in mind for their District Priority Project list, because you may have a mutual project that allows you to work together to complete the Project Submission Form.
 - If your DFC does not have your desired project(s) on their District Priority Project list, fill out a Project Submission Form anyways and work with your DFC to get project-specific information for your submissions. Additionally, provide them with the necessary information (e.g., the project is new and has been identified in a new regional freight plan) to advocate for your projects when going after this and other funding opportunities (e.g., INFRA, BUILD, NHFP, SIS, district discretionary funds).
 - A workflow checklist to help work with your DFCs will be provided to you during/after the GoToMeeting training webinars.
4. Transmit the completed form(s) by March 27th, 2020.
 - The completed form(s) should be transmitted to the MPOAC's consultants for review by March 27th (To Daniel Crotty and Michael Williamson).
5. Respond to any follow-up questions from the consultant team and your DFC.
 - Follow up questions may be necessary after projects are submitted. Questions will focus on confirming eligibility, details from your Project Submission Forms, and documenting that the project(s) is an MPO freight priority.



2021 Freight Prioritization Program Project Submission Form

Notice: Please read accompanying instructions carefully before completing this form. Each agency may submit up to three (3) projects by providing the requested information.

Project Profile

MPO Name [Click here to respond]	Other MPO(s) Involved [Click here to respond]	
County/Countries Involved [Click here to respond]	FDOT District Freight Coordinator (DFC) Name; Is this project a DFC Priority Project? [Click here to respond] . [Type Yes/No]	
Facility Name [Click here to respond]	Project Name [Click here to respond]	
FM Number(s) [Click here to respond]	FDOT Roadway ID(s) [Click here to respond]	Direction [Click here to respond]
Extent of Project (Milepost) [Click here to respond]	From [Click here to respond]	To [Click here to respond]
	Extent of Project (Intersected Roadway) [Click here to respond]	To [Click here to respond]
Project Type	☐ Capacity Expansion ☐ New Connection ☐ Reconstruction ☐ Management and Operation ☐ Maintenance ☐ Other(s)	Please specify if select "Other(s)" [Click here to respond]
Existing Truck Activity	[Click here to respond]	
Project Description	[Click here to respond]	
Describe Project Rationale	[Click here to respond]	

Project Funding Eligibility

- What funding programs are we trying 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
- Final list of projects includes identification of network designations to facilitate consideration by appropriate funding program(s)
- Feel free to identify MPO priority projects off the SHS; however, it is reportedly more helpful if they connect to a network that is tied to a funding designation (e.g., NHFN)

Project Competitiveness

- FDOT has integrated the FPP into their funding decision process
- Lessons on how to increase project competitiveness
 - Champion the list during and after the final FPP list is approved
 - Establish and maintain strong relationships with the FDOT coordinators
 - Understand your DFC's freight priorities
 - Share and reconcile each project's information early and often
 - Coordinate efforts when seeking other funding opportunities (e.g., BUILD, INFRA)
 - Identify all related freight networks (e.g., NHFN, SIS) associated with your project(s)

2018 FPP Recap

16 of Florida's 27 MPOs Submitted Projects

(59%)

37 total projects 7 FDOT Districts

33 Projects are on the SIS, 24 are on regionally significant roadways, and 10 are on the NHFN

100 of projects have a PD&E completed, underway, planned or not needed

All projects support at least 2 FTP goals

2019 FPP Recap

14 of Florida's 27 MPOs Submitted
Projects

(59%)

30 total projects 6 FDOT Districts

24 Projects are on the SIS and 9
are on the NHFN

All projects support at least 3 FTP
goals

100 of projects have a PD&E completed, underway,
planned or not needed

Funding requests totaled
\$2.7 billion (one project
alone was \$1.5 billion)
representing phase
advancements and new
funding requests

2020 FPP Recap

18 of Florida's 27 MPOs Submitted
Projects

(67%)

32 total projects 6 FDOT Districts

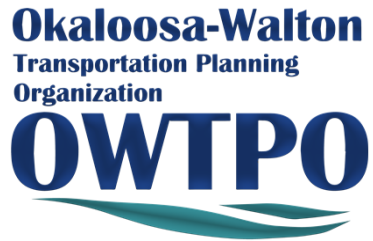
25 projects are on the SIS, 21 are on
a regional freight network, and 14
are on the NHFN (91%)

All projects support at least three FTP goals

78% of projects are District Freight Coordinator priorities

81% of projects are for roadway capacity

Funding requests exceeded
\$1.2 billion representing
phase advancements and
new funding requests

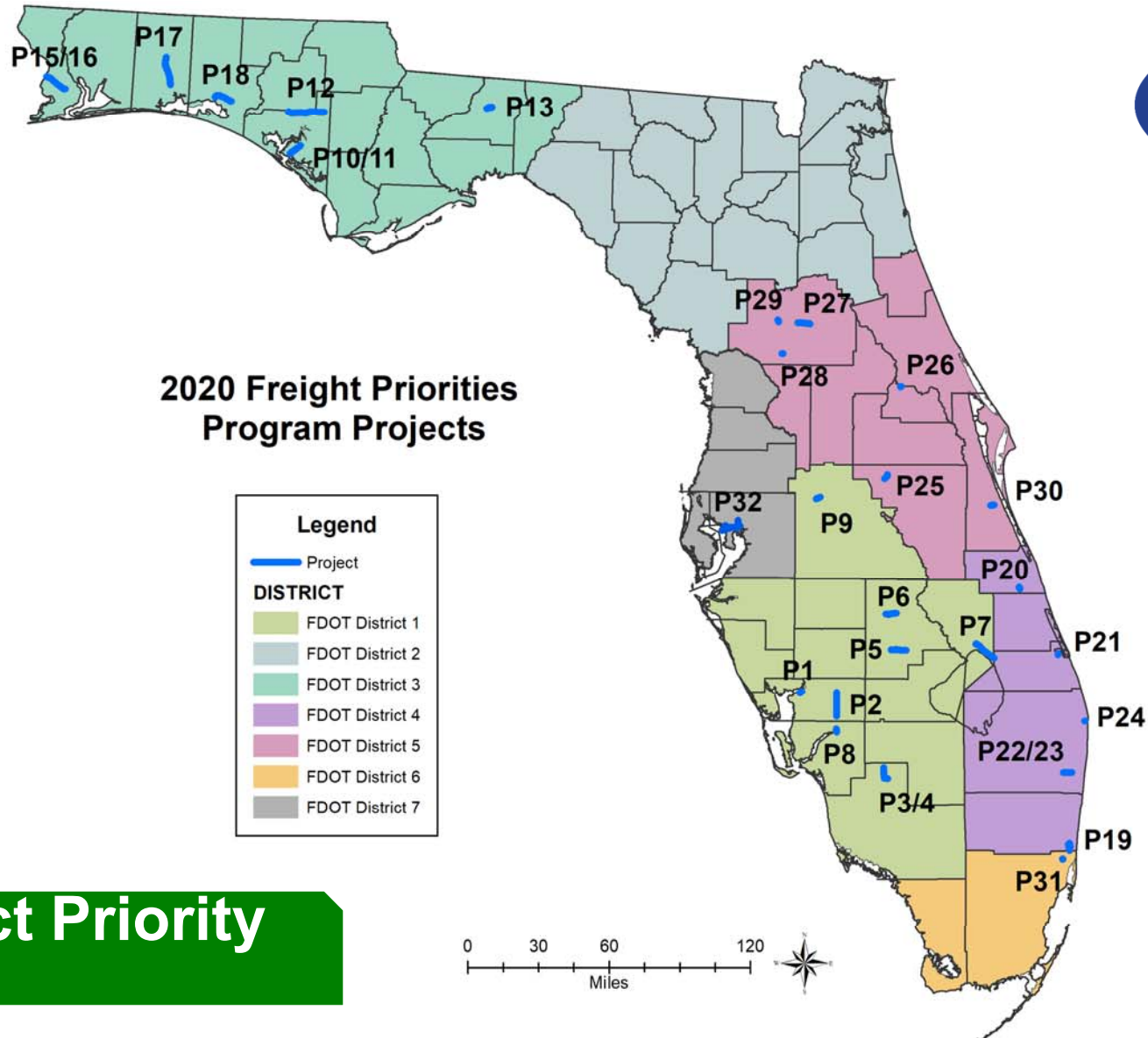
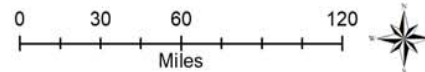
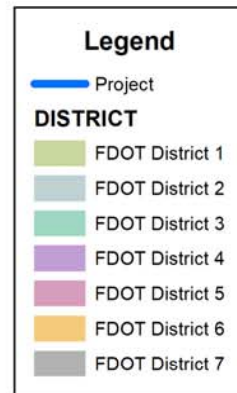


Summary of Submittals

- List includes 2020 INFRA and 2020 BUILD grant application projects
 - **I-95 Interchange at Oslo Road** (2020 BUILD submitted by FDOT)
 - **Port of Palm Beach rail (onsite), Port Road and Middle Road (onsite)** (2020 INFRA submitted by Port of Palm Beach)
- Project list captures “other freight priorities” that represent key MPO priorities, but do not currently meet the defined program criteria
 - Port of Palm Beach rail (onsite), Port Road and Middle Road (onsite)
 - SR 31 Road Widening from Cook Brown Rd to CR 74

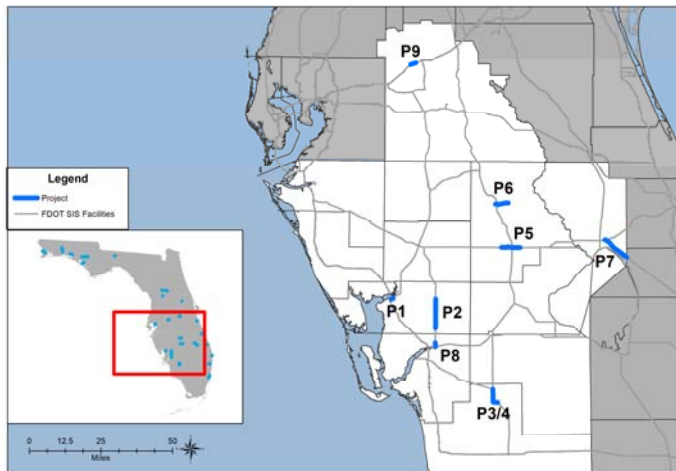


2020 Freight Priorities Program Projects

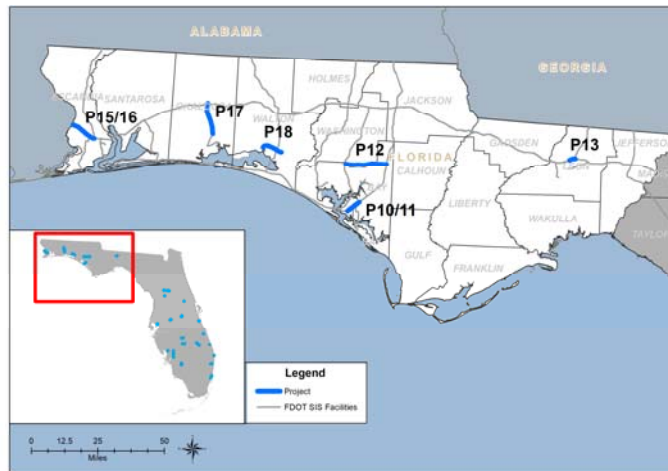


**2020 Project Priority
List**

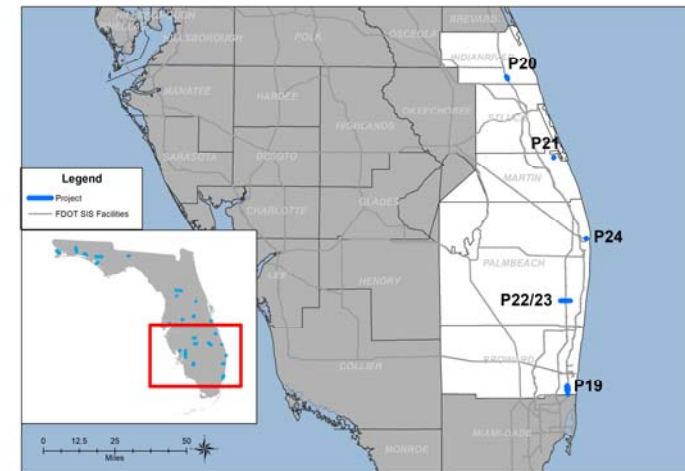
2020 Projects By District



District 1

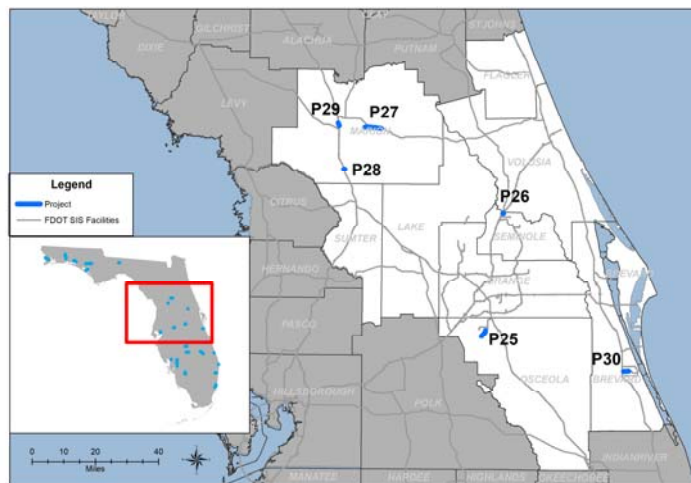


District 3

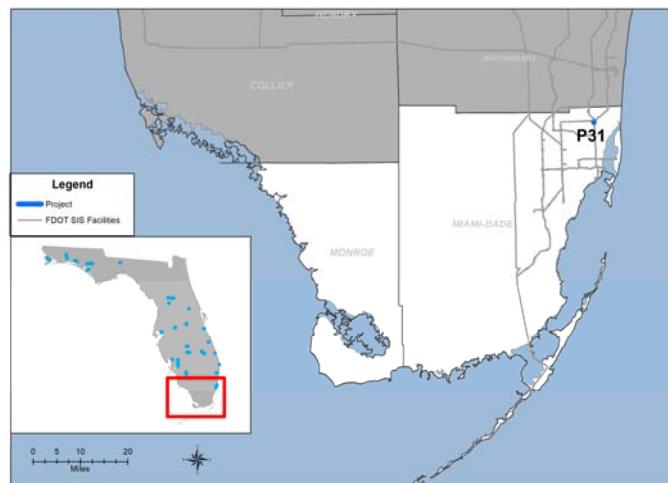


District 4

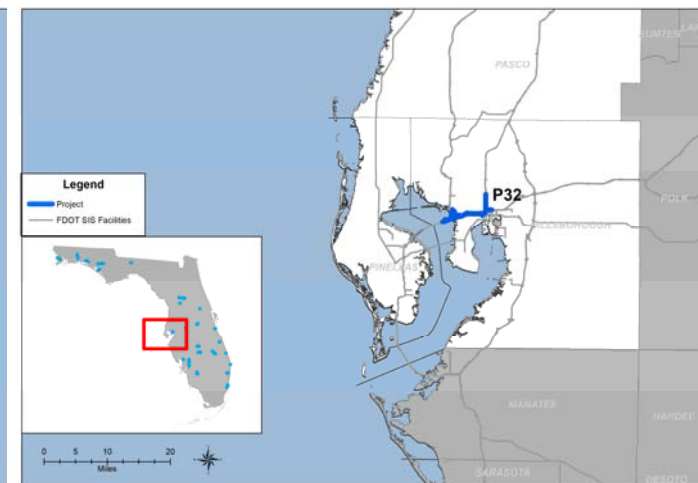
2020 Projects By District



District 5



District 6



District 7

2021 FPP Schedule

- February 1: **Call for Projects** will go out via Email to each MPO
 - MPOs will be provided with **Instructions**
- Early February: Two **training webinars** will be scheduled
- March 12: MPO **Project Submissions** are due
 - **Interim list** will be transmitted to FDOT soon after
- April 29: Present **Final Draft List** to Freight Committee, Staff Directors, and Governing Board for approval and transmittal to FDOT
 - **Endorsed List** will be transmitted to FDOT soon after

Questions?

