

TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

SUMMER 2011
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Transportation Planning for the Palm Beaches

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) were mandated by the Federal Highway Act of 1973 to provide a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing transportation planning and decision-making process. The process encompasses all modes and covers both short-range and long-range transportation planning. The Florida Statutes also have language addressing Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The Palm Beach MPO consists of the MPO Board, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and the Bicycle-Greenways-Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The MPO Board is composed of five County Commissioners, 13 elected officials from 11 cities, and one elected official from the Port of Palm Beach.

MPO Plans For Future Needs of the Transportation Disadvantaged Community

A report that measures existing services and identifies needs and gaps in transportation services for disabled, elderly, and low-income individuals throughout Palm Beach County, was adopted by the MPO on June 16. Together, Palm Tran Connection and the MPO annually update the report which combines the federally required "Human Service Transportation Coordinated Plan" and the State required "Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan," since both documents address the same population's transportation issues. Palm Tran's para-transit services are provided by Palm Tran Connection. These shared ride services are frequently the only transportation option

for users to reach medical appointments, do shopping, get to personal services, or get to day care facilities and senior centers for meals, activities, and socialization.

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A driver secures a wheelchair passenger in a Palm Tran Connection van which provides transportation services for disabled, elderly, and low income users.

FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Available for Review

The MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a staged program encompassing a five-year period, consisting of all regionally significant transportation improvements to be made for all modes of travel in Palm Beach County. The draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2012-2016 is cur-

rently available for review, prior to a Public Hearing on July 21. The TIP is based on and reflects the Florida Department of Transportation's FY 2012-2016 Five-Year Work Program for Palm Beach County, and generally moves forward projects and time frames from previous work programs. The County Five-Year Road Program is also included.

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Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

The TIP prioritizes and documents the funding of transportation improvement projects the region expects to build or implement over the next five years. These projects include transit, highway, air and seaport, as well as bicycle, pedestrian, and freight-related projects. The TIP is a tool to advance projects from the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to a short range, five-year program. All TIP projects are evaluated to assure consistency with the goals and objectives of the LRTP.

How is the TIP created?

The MPO develops the TIP each year through a continuing, cooperative, comprehensive and coordinated effort involving the Florida Department of Transportation, the Board of County Commissioners, the Port of Palm Beach, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and municipalities within Palm Beach County. Consultation is also carried out with the Miami-Dade and Broward MPOs during the TIP process. The intent of the TIP is not only to address current problems, but to construct needed facilities for the long-range plan.

Why is the TIP important?

The TIP identifies how federal, state and local dollars are to be spent on transportation projects. The TIP is a vehicle to move projects from the unfunded Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to a funded priority list that includes an anticipated schedule and the cost for each project.

How is the TIP funded?

TIP projects are funded through a mix of federal, state and local transportation funds. Federal funds are administered through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Funds also come from state, county, and local municipalities via fuel taxes.

Draft FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

View the document at
www.PalmBeachMPO.org

Copies are available for review at all Palm Beach County Library branches and major municipal libraries.

Public Hearing: 9:00 AM
Thursday, July 21, 2011

Palm Beach County Governmental Center
McEaddy Conference Room - 12th Floor
301 North Olive Ave., WPB, Florida 33401

Can the TIP be amended?

The FDOT Work Program and the TIP may be amended throughout the year in order to add, change, or delete projects. Such amendments have to be reviewed and approved by the MPO and FDOT, with opportunities for public comment. The primary opportunities for public participation are meetings of the MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the MPO Board. Go to www.PalmBeachMPO.org for the dates, times, and locations of these meetings, and for upcoming meeting agendas.

MPO Announces Transportation Enhancement Grant Awards

In May, the MPO's Bicycle-Greenways-Pedestrian Advisory Committee spent a full day viewing municipal project presentations and reviewing ten applications for grant funding through the Transportation Enhancement Program. The current cycle of the annual program will provide close to \$3 million in grant funding that will become available in July 2014.

At their July 21 meeting, the MPO will vote to adopt the committee's project recommendations as part of the overall transportation priorities for the year, after a complete review of the project applications by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Successful applicants will enter into contracts with the FDOT.

Transportation Enhancement Program Project Rankings

1. City of West Palm Beach - 15th St. streetscape, \$749,925
2. City of Delray Beach - historic Del-Ida Park beautification, \$616,262
3. PBC Environmental Resources Management - Bluegill Trail, Phase II, \$750,000
4. City of Boca Raton - Patch Reef Trail, Phase II, \$352,000
5. Village of Royal Palm Beach - Crestwood Blvd., streetscape Phase II, \$284,100
6. PBC Office of Economic Development - Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail entryways, \$208,481 (available remaining funds - application request was for \$343,000.)

Transportation Disadvantaged

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Yearly updates to the report reflect changing demographics and transportation needs for the region. Regulations also require projects requesting Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds under the Transportation for Elderly Person or Persons with Disabilities, Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), and New Freedom (NF) programs, to be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit human service transportation plan. Those FTA programs provide funds for projects that improve transportation for the elderly, individuals with low income, recipients of welfare and/or persons with disabilities. Funds can be used for capital or operating expenses, or mobility management/ coordinated planning. Eligible applicants include private, nonprofit organizations, state or local governmental authorities and operators of public transportation services, including private, for-profit public transportation operators.

The 2011-2012 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan and Human Service Transportation Coordinated Plan can be viewed on the MPO website: www.PalmBeachMPO.org. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority is currently accepting applications for Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), and New Freedom (NF) program funds, and a link to that information can also be found on the MPO website.

SFRTA American With Disabilities Act Committee

The MPO is represented on the American With Disabilities Act Committee of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. The committee annually inspects a Tri-Rail station for compliance and convenience for the disabled. On the committee's recent visit to the Boynton Beach station, Dave Evans purchased a ticket and prepared to board a train with his service dog. Mr. Evans previously served on the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Board and continues to serve on the Transportation Community Advisory Board.



For complaints, questions or concerns about civil rights or nondiscrimination issues; for special requests under the American with Disabilities Act; or for language translation assistance for public meetings, please contact:

Malissa Booth
Public Information & Title VI Officer
561-684-4143 or email:
mbooth@palmbeachmpo.org

Please submit requests for special accommodations at least seven (7) days prior to the date they are needed.



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Future planning by the MPO and its partners is required to anticipate and meet the transportation needs of Palm Beach County's aging population. Shared ride services frequently provide the only transportation option for elderly, disabled, and low income users to reach medical appointments, do shopping, get to appointments for grooming and personal services, and to reach day care facilities and senior centers for meals, activities, and socialization.

MPO Website Now Easier to Remember!
Find us at:
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