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## **PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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### **Summary Points of the January 17, 2013 MPO Board Meeting**

Several appointments were approved for the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and the new memberships were certified.

The Board approved an amendment to the FY 13-17 Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment will remove the widening of US 1 from south of Glades Road to north of Yamato Road in the City of Boca Raton. The City had requested US 1 remain at four lanes.

Updates were provided to the Board on several items in question at the December meeting.

The MPO has partnered with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) to develop a marketing program for Palm Beach County to increase awareness of the vanpool program and other ridesharing alternatives. There are now 50 vanpools in Palm Beach County. SFCS presented their campaign strategies that will target major employers within the County.

The Board approved the 2013 Update to the MPO Public Involvement Plan (PIP). The update was necessary to reflect the 2013 MPO Board and committee meetings. Additionally, it will contain language to distinguish between substantive and administrative revisions, allowing staff to make similar minor updates without requirements for public notice or approval by the MPO Board or committees.

A brief summary of the Moving Ahead in the 21st. Century (MAP-21) was presented to the Board. MAP-21 is the latest national surface transportation bill to go into effect on October 1st. of last year and provides direction and authorization for surface transportation activities. Items that affect the activities of the MPO include combining funding programs and measuring progress. MAP-21 contains fewer programs but provides more flexibility.

Annually, the MPO, through its Bicycle, Greenways and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BGPAC), receives and evaluates applications submitted for the Transportation Enhancement Program (TE). The recently approved MAP-21 Federal Transportation

funding legislation has resulted in changes to this traditional bicycle and pedestrian project funding program.

The new funding program created within MAP-21 that will focus primarily on bicycle and pedestrian transportation is now called the ***Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)***. The TAP funding combines both the former Transportation Enhancement and Safe Routes to School Programs into a single source of funding. Safe Routes will still have a separate application, but will not have exclusive funding. It will compete against other bicycle and pedestrian project applications evaluated by the MPO. In the past, the MPO merely provided support for Safe Routes to School applications. Starting this year, the MPO's BGPAC will now be charged with scoring and ranking Safe Routes to School project proposals and submitting priorities to FDOT. The BGPAC created the Safe Routes project scoring sheets to reflect Infrastructure and Non-Infrastructure project categories.

FDOT will be providing TAP applications to the MPO in late January or early February. At that time the MPO will put out a "call for applications" and provide all necessary grant program guidance on its website.

The Board approved the updated Staff Service Agreement with Palm Beach County and authorized the Chair to execute the agreement.

The Board unanimously agreed to use the County recruitment process in seeking and selecting candidates for consideration for the MPO Executive Director position which will become available March 1st.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. in the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor McEaddy Conference Room of the Palm Beach County Governmental Center in West Palm Beach. The public is always welcome to attend and learn how their transportation tax dollars are put to use.