

# TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

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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.

## Shouldn't Getting There Be Half the Fun?

### MPO FUNDED WATER TAXI DOCKS READY FOR BUSINESS

Eight new water taxi dock facilities funded by the MPO are expanding opportunities for tourists and residents alike to make their trips as interesting as their destinations. An increasing number of urban entertainment centers, festivals, special events and natural areas have the potential to be accessed by water taxis traveling between multiple destinations. In addition to providing leisurely and scenic travel, water taxi travel provides real transportation benefits:

- Reduction of traffic congestion and parking requirements in premium locations
- Service to tourists who are without individual transportation or are unfamiliar with the local roadway network
- Public access to natural areas that otherwise could be reached only by private boats

- Reduction of the number of private cars and boats on local roadways and waterways, proving to be environmentally friendly and economically viable

Additionally, the availability of water taxi service increases opportunities for economic revitalization and the promotion of tourism. These new water taxi dock facilities are typically components of larger projects assisted by grants from the federally funded Ferry Boat Discretionary Program administered by the MPO. Eligible projects included the design and construction of infrastructure components required for water taxi operations including water taxi docks, improvements to existing docks and related access facilities. This endeavor to link Palm Beach County cities along the Intra-coastal Waterway through an

(See WATER TAXI FACILITIES on page 2)



Project: Boynton Harbor Marina  
Grant Recipient: Boynton Beach CRA  
MPO Grant Award: \$20,253  
Completed: October 2010

Project: Jupiter Riverwalk  
Grant Recipient: Town of Jupiter  
MPO Grant Award: \$100,000  
Completed: November 2009



## MPO Board

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**Burt Aaronson**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Paulette Burdick**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Judy L. Davis**, City of Riviera Beach Councilperson ■ **Samuel J. Ferreri**, City of Greenacres Mayor ■ **Woodrow L. Hay**, City of Boynton Beach Mayor ■ **Eric Jablin**, City of Palm Beach Gardens Council Member ■ **Keith A. James**, City of West Palm Beach Commission President ■ **Anthony Majhess**, City of Boca Raton Council Member ■ **Karen T. Marcus**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Woodie McDuffie**, City of Delray Beach Mayor ■ **Sylvia Moffett**, City of West Palm Beach Commissioner ■ **Wayne M. Richards**, Port of Palm Beach Board Chairman ■ **Jess R. Santamaria**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Priscilla A. Taylor**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Pam Triolo**, City of Lake Worth Mayor ■ **Matt Willhite**, Village of Wellington Councilman ■ **Steve B. Wilson**, City of Belle Glade Mayor ■ **Vacant**, Town of Jupiter

## MPO Staff

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Director

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## Water Taxi Facilities (continued from Page 1)

integrated water taxi transit system will now be up to those with water taxi dock facilities to seek interested vendors and coordinate operations and marketing. After an enthusiastic response to a water taxi facilities presentation at the July MPO Board meeting, a follow-up discussion will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting. For more information, go to [www.PalmBeachMPO.org/water-taxi](http://www.PalmBeachMPO.org/water-taxi) or scan the QR code.



Project: Flagler Drive Docks  
Grant Recipient: City of West Palm Beach  
MPO Grant Award: \$100,000  
Completed: February 2009

Project: Currie Park, North Flagler Drive  
Grant Recipient: City of West Palm Beach  
MPO Grant Award: \$100,000  
Completed: November 2009



Project: DuBois Park  
Grant Recipient: Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Dept.  
MPO Grant Award: \$130,000 for water taxi dock  
MPO Grant Award: \$65,000 for shelter  
Completed: March 2012

Project: Snook Island, Lake Worth  
Grant Recipient: Palm Beach County  
Environmental Resources Management  
MPO Grant Award: \$130,000  
Completed: February 2012



Project: Juno Dunes Natural Area, Juno Beach  
Grant Recipient: Palm Beach County  
Environmental Resources Management  
MPO Grant Award: \$130,000  
Completed: July 2011

Project: Riviera Beach Municipal Marina  
Grant Recipient: City of Riviera Beach  
MPO Grant Award: \$196,910  
Currently under construction at the north end of the marina. Existing water taxi service continues at a temporary location on the site.



# Transportation Enhancement Grant Awards

The MPO's Bicycle-Greenways-Pedestrian Committee has reviewed and ranked applications for the 2012 Transportation Enhancement Grant program. The successful projects and recommended funding allocations have been forwarded to the Florida Department of Transportation, and are subject to final evaluation. Funds will become available in July 2015. Royal Palm Beach grant application photos below illustrate the current situation of narrow, overcrowded sidewalks shared by students walking and bicycling along Sparrow Drive, along with a photo of the type of pedestrian bridge found elsewhere in the city to be installed at this location, funded by a Transportation Enhancement Grant.



2012 Transportation Enhancement Grand Awards			
Rank	Applicant	Project	Grant Award
1.	Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization	Canal Point Pedestrian Bridge - will provide a safe pedestrian crossing over the West Palm Beach Canal, providing a direct linkage between residential areas and a school, community facilities, and businesses	\$ 639,860
2.	Village of Royal Palm Beach	Sparrow Pedestrian Bridge/ Pathway - will provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists including students	\$ 613,715
3.	City of Boca Raton	Tunison Palms Bicycle Lanes - will add bicycle lanes and sidewalks to provide a connection between existing bicycle lanes on NW 4th Ave. and NW 12th Ave. and will improve access to a school, two parks, and a hospital	\$ 750,000
4.	City of West Palm Beach	Fern St. Streetscape Improvements - will add a variety of pedestrian and bicycle racks and amenities and landscaping along this primary downtown corridor between Flagler Dr. and Tamarind Ave.	\$ 749,952
5.	Village of Wellington	Environmental Greenway - will provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities including a 4-mile shared-use pathway along Flying Cow Rd. to provide access to the Wellington Environmental Preserve	\$ 744,461

## MPO Mourns the Passing of Board Chair Robert Friedman

The Palm Beach MPO and the south Florida transportation planning community have suffered the loss of its dedicated leader and friend. In addition to his professional accomplishments and civic contributions including his service as a Town of Jupiter Councilor, Robert Friedman served on the MPO for six years and in the position of Chair since January 2009. At that time, he also began representing the MPO on the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) to address regional transportation issues and was elected SEFTC Chair this past January. His impact on the local transportation network will continue his legacy.



## Recent Special Events



**Urban Land Institute Conference**  
MPO Director Randy Whitfield with Jessica Josselyn, Senior Planner, Kittelson & Associates (left) and Carla Coleman, Executive Director, ULI SE Florida/Caribbean



**Governmental Center Transportation Day**

## MPO Invites Public Involvement

Meeting dates, times, locations, agendas, and minutes of previous meetings for the MPO Board and its committees are available at [www.PalmBeachMPO.org](http://www.PalmBeachMPO.org). For complaints, questions or concerns about civil rights or nondiscrimination policy issues, for special requests under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or for language translation assistance for public meetings, please contact Malissa Booth, Public Information & Title VI Officer at 561-684-4143 or [MBooth@PalmBeachMPO.org](mailto:MBooth@PalmBeachMPO.org).



## PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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### Historic Jupiter- Indiantown Trail and Cypress Creek Natural Area



Horseback riding, biking and hiking enthusiasts have a new destination west of Florida's Turnpike on the north side of Indiantown Road. Palm Beach County's Dept. of Environmental Resources Management constructed the project with federal stimulus grant dollars provided through the MPO. For more information go to [www.PalmBeachMPO.org/bike/Jupiter-Trail](http://www.PalmBeachMPO.org/bike/Jupiter-Trail) or scan the QR code.