

# 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.

## Regional Coordination is Key to MPO Success



### State Level Coordination:

The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) is a statewide transportation planning and policy organization created by the Florida Legislature to augment the role of individual MPOs in the cooperative transportation planning process. The MPOAC assists MPOs in carrying out the urbanized area transportation planning process by serving as the principal forum for collective policy discussion. Palm Beach MPO Chair Susan Haynie serves as Vice Chair of the MPOAC Governing Board, which is com-

(Continued on page 2)



### Regional Coordination:

The Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) is a formal entity for regional coordination of the Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade MPOs. SEFTC leaders are elected officials representing the three MPOs, and Palm Beach MPO Chair Susan Haynie currently serves as the SEFTC Chair. The three SEFTC committees are comprised of various staff members from the three MPOs along with staff representatives from various transportation agencies and regional planning councils. SEFTC serves as a forum

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## Regional Summit for Veterans and Transportation Disadvantaged

Seven south Florida counties were represented at a day-long summit hosted by the Florida Department of Transportation-District 4 to address the transportation needs of our veterans and other



(See FDOT Summit on page 2)

## MPO Board

**Susan Haynie, MPO Chair**, City of Boca Raton Deputy Mayor ■ **Keith James, MPO Vice Chair**, City of West Palm Beach Commission President

**Mary Lou Berger**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Paulette Burdick**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Judy L. Davis**, City of Riviera Beach Councilperson ■ **Cary Glickstein**, City of Delray Beach Mayor ■ **Wendy Harrison**, Town of Jupiter Vice Mayor ■ **Woodrow L. Hay**, City of Boynton Beach Vice Mayor ■ **Eric Jablin**, City of Palm Beach Gardens Council Member ■ **Anthony Majhess**, City of Boca Raton Council Member ■ **Sylvia Moffett**, City of West Palm Beach Commissioner ■ **Edward R. Opperl**, Port of Palm Beach Commission Vice Chair ■ **Jess R. Santamaria**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Priscilla A. Taylor**, PBC Vice Mayor ■ **Pam Triolo**, City of Lake Worth Mayor ■ **Hal R. Valeche**, PBC Commissioner ■ **Richard Valuntas**, Village of Royal Palm Beach Councilman ■ **Matt Willhite**, Village of Wellington Councilman ■ **Steve B. Wilson**, City of Belle Glade Mayor

## MPO Staff

**Angela Morlok**  
Interim Director

**Bret Baronak**, Senior Planner ■ **Nellie Fernandez**, Senior Planner ■ **Vinod Sandanamsamy**, A.I.C.P., Senior Planner ■ **Paul Larsen**, Planner II ■ **Malissa Booth**, Public Information Officer ■ **Marilyn Tincher**, Financial Analyst ■ **Elizabeth Requeny**, Admin. Secretary ■ **Renee Benezra**, Secretary

## Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) - Continued from page 1

prised of elected officials from each of the MPOs. The Florida MPOAC supports State Legislation for the following 2013 Legislative Priorities: (1) Implement the interim and long-term recommendations from the MPOAC transportation revenue study on new and innovative funding options. Implementation of the interim recommendations includes restoring the purchasing power of Florida's transportation dollar to the year 2000 through an additional \$12.1 billion over the next eight years. The long-term recommendation is to develop a plan to move Florida toward a Mileage Based User Fee in lieu of the traditional fuel tax. (2) Restore funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program in order to promote regional planning and project development. (3) Reduce distracted driving by regulating the use of electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a moving motor vehicle. To review the complete 2013 Legislative Policy Positions regarding transportation finance, funding, planning, programming, safety and efficiency, go to [www.MPOAC.org](http://www.MPOAC.org).

## Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) - Continued from page 1

for policy coordination and undertakes regional planning efforts for all transportation modes including:

- Regional long range transportation plans covering the tri-county region
- Regional project prioritization and selection processes
- Regional transit and freight systems
- Regional public involvement

SEFTC meetings are held quarterly, and SEFTC committees meet monthly or as needed. Additionally, staff members of the three MPOs work closely throughout the year on an informal basis.

In late 2012, SEFTC began the process of developing a 2040 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, on roughly the same two-year schedule as development of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plans currently under development by the three MPOs for their respective counties.

## FDOT Summit (continued from page 1)



transportation disadvantaged residents. Palm Beach MPO staff members assisted with planning and organizing the December event held at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Approximately 120 attendees from throughout the region came to hear state and national agency speakers discuss recent changes to the programs that fund various transportation options for the growing number of south Florida's veterans and transportation disadvantaged residents. Local government transit and paratransit operators and nonprofit organizations rely on federal and state funding for the transportation services they provide for their clients. Summit attendees included staff members from agencies and organizations that serve our region's transportation disadvantaged populations and veterans, along with clients who personally rely on these services to meet their basic transportation needs.

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# Randy Whitfield Retires - Local Face of Transportation Planning

For almost four decades, Randy Whitfield, P.E., has been at the forefront of local and regional transportation planning in south Florida. A native of North Carolina, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1973 and became a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida in 1981.

Whitfield began his professional career working as a Transportation Analyst for a private consulting firm in West Palm Beach. In early 1975, he came to work for the Area Planning Board of Palm Beach County as a Planning Technician in transportation. Later that same year, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) were created by federal law to provide a comprehensive, continuing, and coordinated transportation planning process in urbanized areas with populations exceeding 50,000.

The Area Planning Board - created by the Florida Legislature until it disbanded in the 1980s - originally performed local MPO functions. In 1981, the Palm Beach MPO was created as a separate entity with Whitfield serving as its director and with an MPO Board composed of a cross-section of locally elected officials.

Every five years, MPOs are federally required to prepare a long range transportation plan with a minimum twenty-year outlook. Under Whitfield's direction, the Palm Beach MPO began its seventh Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update in late 2012. When completed in 2014, the Palm Beach MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan will provide a 25-year transportation outlook for Palm Beach County based on the latest 2010 U.S. Census data, projected land use and transportation trends, and priorities as determined by local officials and the public. The Palm Beach MPO is simultaneously participating in the update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to address south Florida's regional transportation priorities.

Each year for more than three decades, the Palm Beach MPO has prioritized short-term transportation improvement projects and programs, resulting in an annually adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document to define the phases of projects funded for the upcoming five years. Every two years, the MPO adopts its Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP.) Under Whitfield's leadership, the MPO has also undertaken many special studies related to transportation and land use that assist local governments with future planning efforts.

Whitfield has been an indisputable state and regional transportation leader. He served as a former Chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) at the state level and as the Technical Advisory Committee Chair of both the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), which operates south Florida's Tri-Rail commuter rail service. His goals have included the northern extension of Tri-Rail service to Jupiter and coordination between SFRTA's commuter rail service and the privately funded All Aboard Florida passenger rail service currently under development.



Whitfield is most proud of his influence in bringing together officials from Palm Beach County and south Florida to work cooperatively to improve and deliver an integrated transportation system to meet the changing needs and expectations of a diverse population that has grown rapidly during his long tenure.

## 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). Members of the public are provided an opportunity to make comments at all meetings. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

Please contact Malissa Booth, Public Information & Title VI Officer at 561-684-4143 or [MBooth@PalmBeachMPO.org](mailto:MBooth@PalmBeachMPO.org) for additional information or for any of the following: For complaints, questions or concerns about civil rights or nondiscrimination policy issues ■ To request special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act ■ To request free translation services at least five business days prior to a meeting ■ Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.



## PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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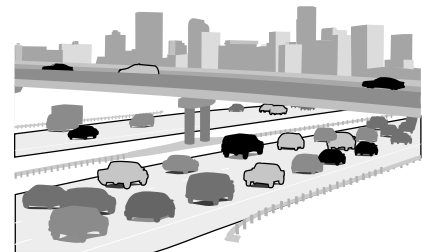


## DIRECTIONS 2040

*Palm Beach 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan*

### What will Palm Beach County look like in 25 years?

- Will there be mass transit improvements and new forms of transit?
- Will there be major roadway improvements and new interchanges?
- Will traffic congestion increase?
- Will there be new bicycle facilities, sidewalks, and multi-use paths?
- Will smart growth policies shape the future of the County?



### Your input can make the difference!

The public is encouraged to get involved in these early stages of development of Directions 2040, the plan that will direct State and Federal transportation investments throughout Palm Beach County to the year 2040.

Please review the enclosed Directions 2040 newsletter or go to [www.PalmBeach2040Plan.org](http://www.PalmBeach2040Plan.org) for more details.

**Request a presentation for your agency,  
business or civic organization or other group!**

