



# Transportation Planning for the Palm Beaches



## Executive Director's Report – March 16, 2017

1. **Updated 2017 Meeting Calendar:** Please note that to accommodate the January 2018 legislative session and FDOT's request for MPO Priority Projects no later than August 1, the MPO Board meeting schedule has been modified to include a meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and to eliminate the August meeting.
2. **MPO Funding Applications:** The MPO received eight (8) applications for the Local Initiatives (LI) Program and six (6) applications for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program for a total funding request of \$26M. These projects will be reviewed by MPO staff and committees, FDOT will conduct eligibility and field reviews, and a final proposed ranking will be presented to the MPO Board at the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. **Turnpike Widening Project Meeting:** Florida's Turnpike will be holding a design public information meeting at the West Boynton Recreation Center on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will provide information regarding improvements on Florida's Turnpike from Boynton Beach Boulevard to north of Lake Worth Road that are funded for construction in FY 2018.
4. **I-95 at 45<sup>th</sup> Street Alternatives Public Workshop:** FDOT will be holding a public workshop to solicit input on the alternatives developed for this interchange. The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Homewood Suites (2455 Metrocentre Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33407). At this time, only design and right-of-way are funded in the next five years.
5. **Smart Growth America Complete Streets Consortium:** The Palm Beach MPO, together with the Broward MPO and Miami Dade TPO, is one of seven finalists for a national award of technical support to advance complete streets in South Florida. Our interview is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Brightline Test Track and Quiet Zone:** Brightline has begun testing passenger service on the new track from south of Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach to the southern municipal border of Lantana. MPO and TCRPC staff will be working with municipal staff in West Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Lantana to file the required Notice of Establishment (NOE) for a quiet zone throughout the test track. The additional safety gates must be in place before filing and there is a required 21-day notice period before the test track quiet zone would become effective.
  - a. Note that the quiet zone for the remainder of phase 1 of the Brightline project (15<sup>th</sup> Street in West Palm Beach south to Broward County) is still on track to be established concurrent with introduction of the new Brightline service.

### What Happened in February?

- Appointed Council Member Robert Weinroth as Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Chair (first meeting was March 8, 2017)
- Approved a letter to congressional delegation requesting repeal of MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform
- Approved Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Study

### What's Coming in April?

- LRTP Amendments – I-95 Interchanges
- Strategic Intermodal System Unfunded Needs Plan 2045 update
- AARP Livable Communities
- US 1 Multimodal Study Kickoff
- Regional Commuter Challenge for May