



Transportation Planning for the Palm Beaches



Executive Director's Report – February 16, 2017

- January Events:** Brightline and SkyBike hosted an MPO Board Member tour of the new station, and of the downtown by bike that was very well attended. Later in the month we conducted a joint Safe Streets Summit together with Broward and Miami-Dade. I had the opportunity to present Jim Smith of SAFE with the Complete Streets Champion award, and Mayor Jeri Muoio of West Palm Beach with the Complete Streets Community award for their efforts this year. We are also excited to announce that the 2018 Safe Streets Summit will be held here in Palm Beach County!
- MPO Board Certificates of Appreciation:** Greenacres Mayor Sam Ferreri and Palm Beach Gardens Vice Mayor Eric Jablin have served on the MPO for 12 and 13 years, respectively, and are recognized for their long-term public service on the MPO Governing Board.
- Palm Beach County is seeking a new county engineer:** Current County Engineer George Webb will retire later this year. The County is seeking applications for the next county engineer and has highlighted “Implementing Complete Streets” as the number one major issue for the position, along with “Working with technology changes in transportation as it relates to autonomous vehicles.” The application deadline is next Friday, February 24.
- Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC):** At the January meeting, SEFTC voted to join with the Palm Beach MPO in opposing the new FDOT policy regarding managed lanes revenue.
- Brightline Test Track and Quiet Zone:** Brightline has begun testing passenger service on the new track from south of Okeechobee Blvd. 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, which is now expected to occur mid-March. There is a required 21-day notice period so the test track quiet zone would become effective in early April.
 - Note that the quiet zone for the remainder of phase 1 of the Brightline project (15th Street in West Palm Beach south to Broward County) is still on track to be established concurrent with the new Brightline service in summer of 2017.
- MPO Funding Applications:** Applications for the MPO’s annual Local Initiatives (LI) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding programs will be due to the MPO by March 3, 2017. Our strategic plan target is \$35M in funding requests for LI and \$6M for TA so be sure to apply. For more information, go to www.PalmBeachMPO.org/Funding
- MPOAC Weekend Institute:** We have one remaining spot for the 2017 MPOAC Weekend Institute for Elected Officials that will be held on April 21-23 in Orlando. Our strategic plan target is to send one MPO representative or alternate to each of these opportunities, so please check your calendars and let me know if you are interested in attending.

What Happened in January?

- MPO Board member tour of the Brightline Station and downtown West Palm Beach by bike
- Joint Safe Streets Summit together with the Broward and Miami-Dade MPOs

What's Coming in March?

- Florida Bike Month Proclamation
- LRTP Amendments – I-95 Interchanges
- Mobility Fee White Paper
- Final MPO Board Handbook