

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION 2023-24

**RESOLUTION OF THE RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION RESTATING THE
POLICY FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 339.175; 23 U.S.C. 134; and 49 U.S.C. 5303 require that every urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more, as a condition to the receipt of federal capital or operating assistance, shall have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans and programs consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the duly designated and constituted body responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning and programming process for the designated Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) comprised of Volusia County and the urbanized areas of Flagler County including the cities of Flagler Beach, Beverly Beach, and portions of Palm Coast and Bunnell; and

WHEREAS, 23 C.F.R. 450.104 provides that the River to Sea TPO shall annually endorse, and amend as appropriate, the plans and programs required, among which is the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program projects list of the annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) submission; and

WHEREAS, each year the appropriate River to Sea TPO committees made up of a cross-section of interested citizens and technical staff are charged with the responsibility of drafting a list of prioritized projects; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the River to Sea TPO to establish project priorities for all areas of the TPO's MPA; and

WHEREAS, the River to Sea TPO reaffirms its commitment to the priority process and related policies; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the River to Sea TPO that the following policies are established to prioritize transportation projects throughout the TPO's MPA:

1. The project application and evaluation criteria approved by the River to Sea TPO Board shall be used to solicit and evaluate projects for priority ranking in the transportation program categories listed below:
 - a. Florida Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Projects;
 - b. Regionally Significant, Non-SIS Roadway Projects and Major Bridge Projects

- c. Traffic Operations, Safety, and Local Initiatives Projects;
 - d. Bicycle/Pedestrian, Transportation Alternatives, Regional Trails, and Local Initiatives Projects;
 - e. Public Transit Projects; and
 - f. Transportation Planning Studies.
2. River to Sea TPO projects that were previously ranked and have a Financial Management (FM) number and are in the Florida Department of Transportation Work Program will automatically be prioritized above projects that are not currently in the FDOT Five-Year Work Program;
 3. Projects which are ranked one through eight on Tier "B" of the Prioritized List of Traffic Operations, Safety, and Local Initiatives Projects are deemed to be protected, and will be ranked in their current spot or move to the next available higher spot until they are completed and drop out of the Work Program;
 4. Projects which are ranked one through three on Tier "B" of the Prioritized List of Bicycle/Pedestrian, Transportation Alternatives, Regional Trails, and Local Initiatives Projects are deemed to be protected, and will be ranked in their current spot or move to the next available higher spot until they are completed and drop out of the Work Program;
 5. If, at any time, two or more lists of prioritized projects are merged into a new list, every project that was protected prior to the merger shall retain its protected status, and no new or previously unprotected project shall be deemed to be protected unless and until it advances to the protected rank prescribed for the new, merged list;
 6. The River to Sea TPO will only re-prioritize or add projects when the TPO Board determines:
a) unusual circumstances support such action, b) the circumstances are not of a recurring nature, c) the circumstances do not result from the actions of the project sponsor, and d) the proposed reprioritization or addition will not be contrary to the public interest;
 7. Requests to change the priority or to add a project must include a statement of hardship by the requestor along with supporting documentation that includes detailed justification of need and an assessment of the impacts to the programming of prioritized projects;
 8. It is the responsibility of the River to Sea TPO and FOOT staffs to provide the River to Sea TPO members with current information and data on project status and to assist the members in their efforts to make informed decisions regarding the prioritized projects lists;
 9. The River to Sea TPO shall, in its discretion, make all decisions regarding the final prioritized project lists that are annually submitted to FDOT;
 10. Once a project has attained protected status, it should be programmed within 3 years. If it has not been programmed during that time due to inactivity on the part of the project sponsor, then the project will be removed from the list of priority projects. The project sponsor may resubmit the project for open ranking on any subsequent call for projects;

11. Per the approved Annual Call for Projects schedule, the project sponsor shall annually submit a letter to the River to Sea TPO affirming their continued support to retain each project on the priority list and provide updated cost estimates for all unfunded phases of each project they sponsor on the Regionally Significant Non-SIS, Tier "A", and Tier "B" project lists. Updated cost estimates for projects or project phases that are currently funded/programmed are considered a request for additional funding and subject to the TPO's cost increase/cost overrun policy. Requests for additional funding shall be submitted to the TPO on the appropriate form. Pending availability of funds, updates to planning level construction costs (CST/CEI) that were programmed prior to completion of the design (PE) phase may be updated one time following the completion of the PE phase without being considered a request for additional funding.
12. The letter shall also provide support from the project sponsor for any Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) eligible project(s) which they are ready to advance into the Work Program and TIP and provide a commitment of local matching funds, if required, and any SUN Trail eligible projects which the local government intends to submit for SUN Trail funding during the State's open call for funding. These projects shall be compiled into an unranked TRIP List and unranked SUN Trail list;
13. The River to Sea TPO shall use this project prioritization process to support the development of Regional Priority Lists in the areas of Trails, Transit, Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O), and Planning Studies;
14. The policies set forth in this resolution shall remain in effect unless and until they are repealed or amended by the TPO; and
15. the Chairperson of the River to Sea TPO, (or their designee) is hereby authorized and directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the:
 - a. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT);
 - b. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) (through the Florida Department of Transportation); and
 - c. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (through the Florida Department of Transportation).

DONE AND RESOLVED at the regular meeting of the River to Sea TPO held on the 6th day of December 2023.

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



**DELAND MAYOR CHRISTOPHER M CLOUDMAN
CHAIRPERSON, RIVER TO SEA TPO**

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the River to Sea TPO held on December 6, 2023.

ATTEST:



**DONNA KING, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**