



2023 Certification Report

**Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-
Port Orange Transportation
Management Area**

River to Sea TPO

Prepared by:

Federal Highway Administration

Florida Division

Federal Transit Administration

Region 4

October 2023

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Executive Summary

Federal Law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly certify the transportation planning processes of Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) at least every four years (a TMA is an urbanized area, as defined by the US Census, with a population over 200,000). A certification review generally consists of four primary activities: a site visit, a review of planning documents (in advance of the site visit), the development and issuance of a FHWA/FTA certification report and a certification review closeout presentation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) governing board.

As a part of the TMA certification review process, FHWA and FTA utilize a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review. The certification review process is only one of several methods used to assess the quality of a regional metropolitan transportation planning process, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, and the level and type of technical assistance needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process. This certification review was conducted to highlight best practices, identify opportunities for improvements, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Transportation planning for the Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange TMA is conducted by the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (R2CTPO). The last certification review was completed in October 2019. The Federal Review Team conducted a site visit for the current review of the R2CTPO on June 14-15, 2023. The Federal Review Team recognizes six (6) noteworthy practices, identifies no corrective actions, and offers two (2) recommendations the MPO should consider for improving their planning processes. More information related to these findings can be found in the Findings/Conclusions section of this report.

Based on the overall findings of the certification review, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange Transportation Management Area, which is comprised entirely by the R2CTPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until **October 2027**.

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River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

Section I. Overview of the Certification Process

Under provisions of 23 CFR 450.336(b) and 49 CFR 613.100, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must jointly certify the planning process of Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) “not less often than once every four years.” This four-year cycle runs from the date of issuance of the previous joint certification report.

The primary purpose of a certification review is to formalize the continuing oversight and evaluation of the planning process. The FHWA and the FTA work cooperatively with the TMA planning staff on a regular basis. By reviewing and approving planning products, providing technical assistance, and promoting best practices, the formal assessment involved in a certification review provides an external view of the TMA’s transportation planning process.

A certification review generally consists of four primary activities. These activities include: 1) a “desk audit” which is a review of the TMA’s planning documents (e.g. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); 2) a “site visit” with staff from the TMA’s various transportation planning partners (e.g. the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), local/regional transit service provider, and other participating State/local agencies), including opportunities for local elected officials and the general public to provide comments on the TMA planning process; 3) a Certification Report, which the Federal Review Team prepares, to document the results of the review process; and, 4) a formal presentation of the review findings at a future R2CTPO Board Policy meeting.

Certification of the planning process is a prerequisite to the approval of Federal funding for transportation projects in metropolitan areas. The certification review also helps ensure that the major issues facing a metropolitan area are being addressed. The review process is individually tailored to focus on topics of significance in each metropolitan planning area. Since 2018, to initiate the TMA certification review process, the Federal Review Team has utilized a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review. **Appendix A** summarizes the risk evaluation, and the report notes in the relevant sections which topic areas were not selected for review due to existing stewardship and oversight practices after considering the risk factors.

The review for the R2CTPO was held on June 14-15, 2023. During this site visit, the Federal Review Team met with the staff of the R2CTPO, FDOT, Volusia County Public Transit (Votran) and Flagler County Public Transportation agency representative, committee representatives, other partnering agencies, and the public. See **Appendix B**

for a list of review team members and site visit participants, and **Appendix C** for the TMA Certification Meeting Agenda.

The purpose of the public engagement process is to inform the public of the Federal transportation planning requirements and allow the public an opportunity to provide input on the transportation planning process to the Federal Review Team. A public meeting for this certification review was held on June 14, 2023. Public feedback and engagement on the MPO's planning process was also obtained through newsletter articles, R2CTPO Website, Email blasts, Constant Contact, Instagram, Twitter, Next Door, LinkedIn, and Facebook, following the initial announcement on June 1, 2023 on Constant Contact and email blast on June 7, 2023. For those that could not attend the public meeting or who did not want to speak or post publicly, contact information for the Federal Review Team was provided. Members of the public were given 30 days from the site visit to mail, fax or email their comments and/or request a copy of the certification review report. Additional comments were received by FHWA and FTA during the 30-day comment period.

Copies of public engagement notices can be found in **Appendix D**. Screenshots of public input, minutes from the public meeting, including a listing of commenters and a summary of the public comments is provided in **Appendix E**.

A summary of the 2019 corrective actions and recommendations and their status can be found in **Appendix F**.

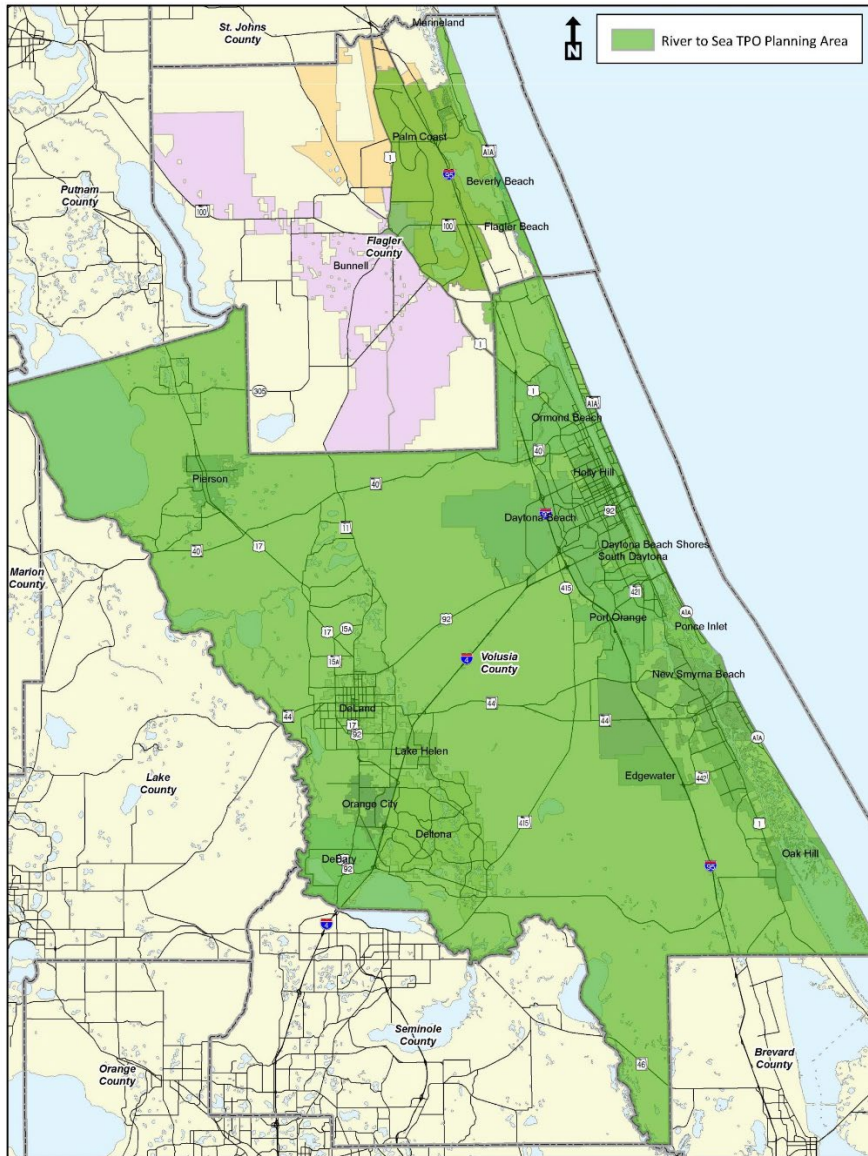
An explanation of planning acronyms can be found in **Appendix G**.

Section II. Boundaries and Organization (23CFR 450.310, 312, 314)

A. Description of Planning Area

Observations: The River to Sea TPO (R2CTPO) is in Daytona Beach on the east central coast of Florida. The planning area boundary includes all of Volusia County, and portions of developed areas of eastern Flagler County and the cities of Beverly Beach, Flagler Beach, and portions Palm Coast and Bunnell, all of which are within census defined urbanized areas. The east side of the planning area is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean.

The planning boundary is visually depicted in the following map:



The planning area's transportation network has a wide-reaching impact as it is home to many important corridors and facilities including the crossroads of I-95 and I-4, the northern terminus of SunRail, county transit systems, Daytona Beach International Airport, designated scenic byways, and the convergence of three regional trail systems, the Coast to Coast Trail, the St Johns River to Sea Loop Trail and the Heart of Florida Trail. The area is growing rapidly and experiencing significant new planned development. The R2CTPO is a leading tourism destination.

FHWA and FTA published a Notice in the *Federal Register* on June 5, 2023, (Vol. 88, No. 107) announcing that the Deltona area exceeded the 200k population threshold and was determined to be a TMA. The MPO is in the process of adjusting the planning boundaries. These efforts will continue through the coming months. The MPO staff has

been in regular communication with the impacted local public agencies, FDOT, and both MetroPlan Orlando and North Florida TPO.

The region's demography has remained relatively stable, though the MPO notes a significant increase in leisure travel by visitors coming from Orlando and other central Florida locations. The planning area is majority White (70%), with Black and Hispanic populations each representing approximately 10%, with the remainder reporting themselves either as Asian (7.5%) or Other (2%). Like most of Florida, the primary Limited English Proficiency (LEP) language is Spanish, but under 2% for Volusia. Flagler's LEP percentage is higher at 3.8%, which the MPO believes is related to an established community of Russian speakers in a discrete area of the county. The planning area is just under the Statewide poverty percentage, though the region's percentage of those 65 and older is somewhat higher than that of the state overall.

B. Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure

Observations: The MPO Board is made up of a single representative from each local government or government district contained within the urbanized planning area and is divided into voting and nonvoting members. Among the 19 voting members, the 8 smallest cities within the Small City Alliance share a single vote, rotated to ensure equal representation. There are 6 nonvoting members on the board. The table below describes the voting structure:

River to Sea TPO Board	Voting Members	Daytona Beach	1
		DeBary	1
		Deland	1
		Deltona	1
		Edgewater	1
		Flagler County	1
		Holly Hill	1
		New Smyrna	1
		Orange City	1
		Ormond Beach	1
		Palm Coast	1
		Port Orange	1
		South Daytona	1
		Volusia County	5
	Small City Alliance Voting Members	Flagler Beach	1
		Daytona Beach Shores	
		Ponce Inlet	
		Lake Helen	
		Bunnell	
		Oak Hill	
		Pierson	
		Beverly Beach	
	Non-Voting Members	Volusia County School Board	0
		Flagler County School Board	
		FDOT District 5	
		BPAC Chair	
		CAC Chair	
		TCC Chair	

The MPO uses the following standing committees to support their planning process:

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
- Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)
- Executive Committee

Volusia County Transit (Votran) hold seats on the TCC, BPAC, and the CAC. Votran further occupies a nonvoting seat on the TDLCB. The MPO coordinates and attends Flagler County Transportation Disadvantage Board (TDB) meetings and helps in accessing 5307d funds. However, the Flagler County TDB is under the purview of Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC).

At about six months tenure, the MPO Executive Director is relatively new to her title but not to the role and responsibility. Prior to officially accepting the position, she served as interim director for sixteen months after her predecessor left the agency in 2021. During that time, the MPO faced several challenges, including the filling of staffing vacancies that as interim director, she lacked the authority to fill. Since officially becoming the Director, she has hired an Accounting Manager and, just recently, an Administrative Assistant. The MPO still has vacancies, but the current staff count is a needed increase from the four-person team that managed to successfully deliver the planning programs for over a year.

A serious organizational as well as operational challenge to the MPO was the resignation of the TPO Accounting Manager in October of 2021 and the discovery of invoicing issues including overdrawn tasks and invoices not submitted for reimbursement within the required 90-day period. Given the vacancies in key staff positions of the Executive Director and Accounting Manager and the invoicing issues, FDOT placed the MPO in special condition status in November 2021. Limited staff familiarity with the financial operations of the organization meant working almost daily with FDOT District 5, attending workshops and other technical assistance events, and judiciously using a consultant accountant to address the backlog and rebuild a strong accounting process. FDOT complimented the MPO on the staff's hard work and reported substantial improvement, ultimately enabling an on-time closeout of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). In recent months, the MPO has timely submitted to FDOT all required accounting documents and it is now focusing on finetuning the process to ensure continued and future efficiency in procurement, contracting, invoicing and payment.

Finding: The MPO's boundaries and organization substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.310 and 312.

Noteworthy Practices and Recommendations: The Federal Review Team recognizes two (2) noteworthy practices and offers two (2) recommendations regarding MPO Organization Structure. For more details about these noteworthy practices and recommendations, please see Section XI.

C. Agreements

Current Agreement(s)/Date(s) Adopted:

Transportation Planning Funds JPA	June 2022
Interlocal Agreement Creating R2CTPO	August 2014
Intergovernmental Public Transportation JPA	December 2, 2019
River to Sea TPO Bylaws	June 25, 2014, Amended January 25, 2023

Observations: The agreements are up to date.

Finding: The MPO's agreements substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.314.

Section III. Transportation Performance Planning (23 CFR 450.306(a), 306(d), 314(h), 324(f), 326(c), 326(d))

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's transportation performance planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 314, 324, and 326.

Section IV. Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306)

A. Transportation Planning Factors

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's planning process substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306(b).

Noteworthy Practice: The Federal Review Team recognizes one (1) noteworthy practice regarding Transportation Planning Factors. For more details about this noteworthy practice, please see Section XI.

B. Air Quality

Finding: The River to Sea TPO is currently designated as an attainment area for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Activities

Current Document Title: Consolidated Final Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Date Adopted: March 2018

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's bicycle and pedestrian planning activities substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306(b), 324(f), and 326.

D. Transit

Observations: Public transportation within the Metropolitan Planning Area operates in both Volusia and Flagler Counties, with no recent changes to TPO boundaries. In Volusia County, Votran provides fixed route and demand response service, as well as Flex service within New Smyrna Beach. SunRail, under the purview of FDOT, provides commuter rail service to Volusia, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties. Flagler County Public Transportation provides demand response, shared ride, and door-to-door service transportation for trips originating within the county, and service to those that are adjacent. FDOT, Votran, and Flagler County are designated recipients of certain FTA funding programs.

Votran and Flagler County participate in regional transportation planning activities, including the TIP, MTP/LRTP, performance-based planning, and transit studies. Votran is the Community Transportation Coordinator, with River to Sea TPO serving as the designated official planning agency for transportation disadvantaged populations in Volusia County. Votran also participates in the TPO's technical, bike/ped, and citizen committees.

MPO staff continues to support area transit agencies in a variety of facets, including geographic information systems analysis and mapping assistance, as well as continued funding for projects via a TPO policy to set-aside 30% of SU funds annually for transit purposes. Effective coordination with Votran has yielded ongoing bus stop inventory and accessible pedestrian signal plans. The TPO has also assisted Flagler County in exploring the feasibility of fixed-route service as an extension of LRTP efforts.

Finding: The MPO's transit activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements, as outlined in 49 CFR 613.100, as well as the transit supportive elements outlined in 23 CFR 450.

Noteworthy Practice: The Federal Review Team recognizes one (1) noteworthy practice regarding Transit. For more details about this noteworthy practice, please see Section XI.

E. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's ITS activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 322, and 23 CFR 940.

F. Freight Planning

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's freight planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 316, 324, and 326.

G. Security Considerations in the Planning Process

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's security planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 324(f), 324(h), and 326.

H. Safety Considerations in the Planning Process

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's safety planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 324(h), and 326.

Section V. Unified Planning Work Program (23 CFR 450.308)

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's UPWP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.308.

Section VI. Interested Parties (23 CFR 450.316)

A. Outreach and Public Participation

Document Title: R2CTPO Public Participation Plan

Date Adopted: June 22, 2022

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's outreach and public participation activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.316.

Noteworthy Practice: The Federal Review Team recognizes one (1) noteworthy practice regarding Outreach and Public Participation. For more details about this noteworthy practice, please see Section XI.

B. Tribal Coordination

Finding: There are no tribal lands within the TPO's planning boundaries requiring the MPO to provide tribal coordination.

C. Title VI and Related Requirements

Document Title: R2CTPO Title VI Policy & Discrimination Complaint Procedures

Date Adopted: April 27, 2022

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's Title VI and related activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 49 CFR 21, 49 CFR 27, 23 CFR 200, 23 CFR 450.316 and 336(a).

Section VII. Linking Planning and NEPA (23 CFR 450.318, 320, 324(f)(10), 324(g))

Current Document Title: Connect 2045 LRTP

Date Adopted: September 23, 2020

Observations: The MPO's Connect 2045 LRTP includes a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities. The discussion focuses on policies, programs, and strategies for future project development. The MPO developed the discussion in consultation with applicable Federal, State, wildlife, and regulatory agencies.

The adopted LRTP also consulted with appropriate state and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation by comparing their LRTP with State conservation plans and maps and a comparing the LRTP to inventories of natural or historic resources.

The TPO has undertaken several multimodal, systems-level corridor planning studies in coordination with FDOT and public transit operators. The TPO has utilized the results in the decision-making processes for project development purposes by identifying purpose and need statements, general travel corridor or modes, preliminary screening of alternatives, providing basic environmental setting descriptions, and preliminarily identifying environmental impacts and environmental mitigation, and providing the public a reasonable opportunity to review necessary documentation.

Further, the MPO significantly advanced resilience, not only making resilience one of the 2045 LRTP cornerstones, but also adopting a Sea Level Rise Planning Policy, providing representation on the Regional Resilience Steering Committee, and incorporating resilience as criteria into its call-for-projects process.

The MPO has not developed programmatic mitigation plans as part of their planning process.

Finding: The MPO's linking planning and NEPA activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.318, 320, 324(f)(10), and 324(g).

Section VIII. Congestion Management Process (CMP) (23 CFR 450.322)

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's congestion management process substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.322.

Noteworthy Practice: The Federal Review Team recognizes one (1) noteworthy practice regarding the Congestion Management Process. For more details about this noteworthy practice, please see Section XI.

Section IX. Long Range Transportation Plan (23 CFR 450.324)

Current Document Title: Connect 2045

Date Adopted: September 23, 2020

A. Scope of LRTP

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The general scope of the MPO's LRTP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.324.

B. Travel Demand Modeling/Data

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's travel demand modeling processes substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.324(e).

C. Financial Plan/Fiscal Constraint

Observations: The MPO demonstrates Fiscal constraint using tables, narrative, and appendices. For the adopted LRTP, the FDOT provides an estimate of federal and state revenue available over the life of the plan, as well as an estimate of administrative, operations and maintenance costs over the life of the plan for the MPO to use. The revenue estimates are included in an appendix to the plan. The plan identifies funding revenue sources, project costs and project phases for projects from the effective date of the plan through the plan's horizon year. Year of Expenditure costs are used in the plan. The LRTP is fiscally constrained.

Finding: The financial plan/fiscal constraint of the MPO's LRTP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.324(f)(11).

Section X. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (23 CFR 450.326, 328, 330, 332, 334)

Observations: This topic area was not selected for additional review based on the results of the risk assessment process.

Finding: The MPO's TIP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.326, 328, 330, 332, and 334.

Section XI. Findings/Conclusions

The following items represent a compilation of the findings that are included in this 2023 certification review report. These findings, which are identified as noteworthy practices, corrective actions, and recommendations, are intended to not only ensure continuing regulatory compliance of the River to Sea TPO's transportation planning process with federal planning requirements, but to also foster high-quality planning practices and improve the transportation planning program in this TMA. Corrective actions reflect required actions for compliance with the Federal Planning Regulations and must be completed within the timeframes noted. Recommendations reflect national trends or potential risks and are intended to assist the River to Sea TPO in improving the planning process. Noteworthy practices highlight efforts that demonstrate innovative ideas or best practices for implementing the planning requirements.

A. Noteworthy Practices

1. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure:** The Federal Review Team was impressed with R2CTPO's ability to achieve substantial compliance and even advance planning programs during a time of unprecedented internal and external challenge. As with all planning agencies in Florida, the MPO was obligated to quickly adjust to remote processes due to the pandemic in 2020, while also trying to deliver Connect 2045, its LRTP. However, unlike other organizations, the MPO also lost a substantial portion of its staff in 2021, including the executive director, which resulted in the MPO having only three employees under the leadership of an Interim Director for sixteen (16) months. To complicate matters, the MPO's office building was damaged by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole in September and November of 2022, respectively, forcing it to quickly seek other facilities to ensure uninterrupted planning activities. Then, in November of the same year, seven MPO board members (including three of the four TPO officers) either lost their elections, or did not seek reelection, prompting education and integration of new members and an amendment to the TPO Bylaws to establish a process for filling officer vacancies mid-year.

Given the MPO's organizational impacts, the Federal Review Team was impressed that the MPO demonstrated a vibrant, innovative spirit along with an

outstanding accomplishments and advancements. First, by leveraging a planning consultant contract to provide a public service video that explained to the public how to remotely participate in MPO LRTP activities during the pandemic. Public involvement has remained robust and the MPO timely adopted a unanimously approved 2045 LRTP in September 2020.

Other examples of MPO accomplishments despite vast change and organizational challenges include receiving two Florida Planning and Zoning Association awards for its studies of technology readiness and transition in support of connected automated vehicles, as well as its analysis of paratransit services. During FDOT Mobility Week Love to Ride Challenge the R2CTPO took first place in their size category and logged over 2,700 miles in 30 days. In addition, the MPO successfully applied for and was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant.

2. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure:** The Federal Review Team commends the R2CTPO for the development of an Executive Director Strategic Plan that includes among other things, a succession plan and administrative policy/procedure reference manual which were identified as needs due to the recent staff changes. The strategic plan will encourage participation in the MPO processes to provide for a stronger organization, by facilitating the development of a vision and mission for the MPO. This will help in providing focus and direction for the organization.
3. **Transportation Planning Factors:** The Federal Review Team commends the R2CTPO for proactively assessing the transportation system for vulnerabilities and promoting resiliency in planning and construction of projects. In addition to the completion of vulnerability assessments, the MPO has participated in the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative and incorporated resiliency into the criteria for prioritizing transportation projects.
4. **Transit:** The Federal Review Team commends the R2CTPO for its collaboration with the transit agency in promoting transit safety and training. The agency's dedication to creating a culture of safety is evident through their innovative approach to training and safety programs; being awarded the 2022 FFTA Gold Standard in Bus Safety Excellence Award. They have invested in the latest technology and training best practices, that can be shared with peer agencies to affect change and build confidence for the traveling public.
5. **Outreach and Public Participation:** The Federal Review Team recognizes the R2CTPO for continued expansion of its Public Outreach Program. From Port Orange Family Days, hosting health fairs in lower income/underserved communities, Bike/Ped light distribution, White Cane and Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day, and social marketing in transportation campaigns provide an excellent example of variety and diversity in public/private transportation planning. The MPO's Community Outreach Coordinator received Social

Marketing in Transportation Certificate from USF/CUTR. The MPO website was updated in 2021 to enhance ADA Accessibility and become WCAG 2.1 compliant. The MPO continues to demonstrate a proactive approach to public engagement in many ways, shifting outreach to the latest technological-based approaches.

6. **Congestion Management Process (CMP):** The Federal Review Team commends R2CTPO for enhancing the scope and breadth of its CMP, tying performance measures to the objectives of the LRTP and identifying long-term monitoring strategies. Along with identifying congested facilities, the MPO explores potential mitigation measures along the transportation network. The result is a useful, living process which the MPO will revisit every two years.

B. Corrective Actions

There were no corrective actions identified.

C. Recommendations

1. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure:** The Federal Review Team acknowledges the significant efforts of the MPO to identify and address deficiencies in its financial accounting, including close cooperation with FDOT District 5 to eliminate an invoice backlog and construct an effective and transparent financial management process. The Team recommends that the MPO continue regular, documented coordination with FDOT District 5 until its financial operations are sustainable, even during unforeseen absences of key staff.
2. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure:** The Deltona area exceeded the 200k population threshold and was determined to be a TMA by FHWA and FTA in June 2023. The MPO recently kicked off the process to adjust the planning boundaries and began coordination efforts to address the results of the 2020 Census. The Federal Review Team recommends the MPO continue its communication and coordination with the impacted local public agencies, FDOT, MetroPlan Orlando and the North Florida TPO.

D. Training/Technical Assistance

At the conclusion of the site visit, the Federal Review Team asked the MPO staff if they had any training or technical assistance needs. The River to Sea TPO identified technical assistance requests for the following topical areas:

- MPO mentoring program.
- Guidance on Performance Measures.
- Training on Procurement and Contracts.

FHWA and FTA will work with the MPO to provide resources in these areas.

E. Conclusion

Based on the overall findings of the certification review, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange Transportation Management Area, which is comprised entirely by the R2CTPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until **October 2027**.

Appendix A. Summary of Risk Assessment

Florida TMA Certification Review Risk Assessment

MPO: River to Sea TPO
 Date of Assessment: March 2023
 Cert Review Report Date: October 2023

Topic Area	Selected for additional review?
Organization of MPO/TPO (23 CFR 450.310, 312, 314)	No
Transportation Performance Planning (23 CFR 306(a), 306(d), 314(h), 324(f), 326(c), 326(d))	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Transportation Planning Factors	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Air Quality	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Activities	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Transit	Yes
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Freight Planning	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Security Considerations in the Planning Process	No
Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306) - Safety Considerations in the Planning Process	No
Unified Planning Work Program (23 CFR 450.308)	No
Interested Parties (23 CFR 450.316) - Outreach and Public Participation	No
Interested Parties (23 CFR 450.316) - Tribal Coordination	No
Interested Parties (23 CFR 450.316) - Title VI and Related Requirements	No
Linking Planning and NEPA (23 CFR 450.318, 320, 324(f)(10), 324(g))	No
Congestion Management Process (23 CFR 450.322)	No
Long Range Transportation Plan (23 CFR 450.324)	No
Long Range Transportation Plan (23 CFR 450.324) - Travel Demand Modeling/Data	No
Long Range Transportation Plan (23 CFR 450.324) - Financial Plan/Fiscal Constraint	No
Transportation Improvement Program (23 CFR 450.326, 328, 330, 332, 334)	No

*Note: With the exception of Transit, if all areas are a "No", then the top 3 areas will be reviewed.

The additional areas are: Organization of MPO/TPO, Linking Planning and NEPA, Long Range Transportation Plan - Fiscal Constraint

Appendix B. Site Visit Participants

Federal Highway Certification Review Meeting Sign In

Thursday, June 15, 2023
8:30 AM

River to Sea TPO Conference Room
1 Deuce Court Suite 100
Daytona Beach FL 32124

Name:

Melissa McKinney
Rakinya Hinson
Curleen Thomas
Jean Parlow
Mike Neidhart
Colleen Nicoulin
Donna King
Mariel Lemke
Pam Blankenship
Stephan Harris
Mark Reichart
Bobbie King
Roman Dill
Aviance Webb
Carey Shepherd
Pia Thomas
Rob Sachnin
Erika Thompson

Representing:

FDOT
FDOT
FHWA
FHWA
FDOT
River to Sea TPO
River to Sea TPO
River to Sea TPO
River to Sea TPO
River to Sea TPO
MPOAC
COV - Votran
FDOT
FTA - virtual
FHWA - virtual
FCPT - virtual
FTA - virtual
FHWA - virtual

Appendix C. TMA Certification Site Visit Agenda

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

TMA Certification Review

Attendees may not enter the TPO workplace if in the previous 5 days, they have tested positive for COVID-19, exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, or been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

The agenda is subject to change based on TPO responses to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) questions.

Public Meeting
<p>Wednesday June 14, 2023</p> <p>5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Note: Members of the public can attend the Public Meeting either in person or virtually.</p> <p>Location: Daytona Beach International Airport Airline Room – (located on the first floor) 700 Catalina Drive Daytona Beach, FL 32114</p> <p>TEAMS Link: Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 258 794 462 463 Passcode: d5d6gX Download Teams Join on the web Or call in (audio only) +1 561-484-5911 64024165# United States, West Palm Beach Phone Conference ID: 640 241 65#</p>

River to Sea TPO Certification Review – 2023

Federal Certification Review Meeting Agenda

Thursday June 15, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

River to Sea TPO Office
1 Deuce Court, Suite 100
Daytona Beach, FL 32124

**Federal Certification
Team Members**

**Jean Parlow (FHWA), Curlene Thomas (FHWA),
Carey Shepard (FHWA), Aviance Webb (FTA)**

Time	Item	Lead
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome / Introductions / Roles/Responsibilities Key Activities of TPO and Transit Agency Staff	Federal Team
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Site Visit Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of the Certification Process Discussion of Risk Assessment Review schedule and close-out process 	Federal Team
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Discussion of Previous Review Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal TMA Certification State/TPO Annual 	Federal Team, TPO, Transit Provider(s), FDOT
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	TPO Overview including changes within TPO since last TMA Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics Boundaries Political Process Changes 	TPO, Transit Provider(s)
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Share Best Practices and Lessons Learned: What is the MPO most proud of over the last four years?	TPO, Transit Provider(s)

River to Sea TPO Certification Review – 2023

	What challenges have you encountered and addressed?	
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Technical Topic: Transit	Federal Team
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Technical Topic: Linking Planning & NEPA	Federal Team
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.	Technical Topic: TPO Organization	Federal Team
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45 – 3:30 p.m.	Technical Topic: LRTP - Financial Plan/Fiscal Constraint	Federal Team
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Technical Assistance & Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Needs • Additional Questions 	Federal Team, TPO, Transit Provider(s), FDOT
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Preliminary Findings Discussion - Federal Team	Federal Team
4:45 – 5:00 p.m.	Preliminary Findings Discussion – TPO Staff	Federal Team, TPO
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn Site Visit	

Appendix D. Public Engagement Notice

Federal Certification Public Meeting

June 8, 2023

Federal Certification Public Meeting

[06-14-23 Federal Certification Public Meeting Notice](#)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting an evaluation of the River to Sea TPO Transportation Management Area (TMA) through a certification review. These reviews are required by federal law to be conducted every four years.

As part of the River to Sea TPO's Federal Certification Review, we will be holding a meeting to solicit public input on the transportation planning process and our relationship with the community. Public input is a key component of our Federal Certification Review as it allows citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for our planning area. We encourage you to attend the public meeting and provide your input!

The Federal Certification Review Public Meeting will be held on:

DATE: Wednesday, June 14, 2023

TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Airline Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport (first floor)
700 Catalina Drive

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Parking is available in the short-term lot and will be validated

To join this meeting virtually:

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 258 794 462 463

Passcode: d5d6gX

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 561-484-5911 64024165# United States, West Palm Beach

Phone Conference ID: 640 241 65#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Comments may be provided at this meeting or in any of the following ways:

EMAIL: Staff@r2ctpo.org

DIRECTLY TO THE FEDERAL TEAM:

Federal Highway Administration

Attn: Jean Parlow

400 W. Washington Street, Rm. 4200

Orlando, FL 32801

Email: jean.parlow@dot.gov

Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/tma.cfm>

Comments must be received by July 14, 2023

<https://www.r2ctpo.org/2023/06/08/federal-certification-public-meeting/>

3/

River to Sea TPO Federal Certification Review Social Media Promotion List

Date:

Social Media Platform:

June 1	Constant Contact Newsletter Article
June 2	Flagler News Weekly Article
June 5	Constant Contact Newsletter Article
June 7	Email Blast to TPO Contact List
June 7	Facebook Post
June 7	Twitter Post
June 7	TPO Website Homepage Post (Posted for the remainder of June until July 14)
June 7	TPO Website Calendar Post
June 8	TPO Website News Release
June 8	LinkedIn Post
June 8	Next Door Post
June 7	TPO May/June Outreach & Activities Flyer Article to BPAC
June 13	TPO May/June Outreach & Activities Flyer Article to CAC & TCC
June 13	Twitter Post
June 13	LinkedIn Event Created
June 13	LinkedIn Post
June 13	Facebook Post
June 14	Email Blast to TPO Contact List
June 14	Facebook Share by Daytona Beach
June 14	Facebook Share by Commissioner Stacy Cantu (Daytona Beach)
June 14	Facebook Share by Member of the Public (Shannon Dembala)
June 21	TPO May/June Outreach & Activities Flyer Article to TPO Board
June 22	Email Blast to TPO Contact List
June 28	Email Blast to TPO Contact List

Federal Certification Public Meeting



SAVE THE DATE

Federal Certification Public Meeting

This meeting provides an opportunity for FHWA and FTA representatives to receive feedback on the transportation planning process conducted by the River to Sea TPO.



Daytona Beach Int'l Airport
Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114



Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00-6:00 pm




Microsoft Teams will be available for those who cannot attend in person

Once every four years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that the River to Sea TPO is carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process in adherence with federal requirements. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly conduct this review, make a certification determination, and produce a report that may include compliance issues (corrective actions), areas for improvement (recommendations), and/or notable practices (commendations). The evaluation includes everything our agency works on from transportation planning to public outreach to the financial health of the agency.


A public meeting is held as part of the certification in order for FHWA and FTA to receive feedback from the public and stakeholders on the transportation planning processes conducted by the River to Sea TPO.


The Federal Certification Public Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 14, 2023, from 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the Airline Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport.** Parking will be validated.


MPO Facebook Page


The City of Daytona Beach Government
Just now · 🌐
...

The public is invited to this meeting hosted by the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization and provide input on their transportation planning process. The meeting is at 5 p.m. today (June 14) and will be at the Daytona Beach International Airport in the Airline Room. [#DaytonaBeach](#) [#Transportation](#) [#Planning](#)


Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00-6:00 pm



Daytona Beach Int'l Airport Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
 Parking is available in short-term lot and will be validated


Microsoft Teams:
 Join on your computer or mobile app:
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
 Or call in (audio only)
 +1 561-484-5911 64024165# US,
 West Palm Beach
 Phone Conference ID: 640 241 65#

Can't make the meeting? You can still provide comments via the following methods:




- Email Staff@r2ctpo.org
- Directly to the federal team at:
 Federal Highway Administration
 Attn: Jean Parlow
 400 W. Washington Street, Rm. 4200
 Orlando, FL 32801
 Email: jean.parlow@dot.gov
 Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/tma.cfm>







Comments must be received by July 14, 2023


River to Sea TPO
 June 10 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

The River to Sea TPO needs your input! The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting an evaluation of the River to Sea TPO Transportation Management Area (TMA) through a certification review. These reviews are required by federal law to be conducted every four years.

As part of the River to Sea TPO's Federal Certification Review, we will be holding a meeting to solicit public input on the transportation planning process and our relationship with the community. Public input is a key component of our Federal Certification Review as it allows citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for our planning area. **We encourage you to attend the public meeting and provide your input!**

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 Write a comment...
 





Intro

ALL COMMENTS MADE ON THIS PAGE ARE SUBJECT TO CHAPTER 119 FLORIDA STATUTES - THE FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW

Edit bio

Page - Government organization

1 Deuce Court, Suite 100

+1 386-226-0422

staff@r2ctpo.org

Tell the TPO

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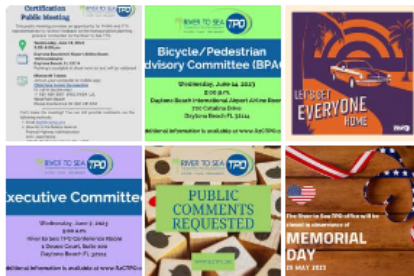


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River to Sea TPO

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting an evaluation of the River to Sea TPO Transportation Management Area (TMA) through a certification review. These reviews are required by federal law to be conducted every four years.

As part of the River to Sea TPO's Federal Certification Review, we will be holding a meeting to solicit public input on the transportation planning process and our relationship with the community. Public input is a key component of our Federal Certification Review as it allows citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for our planning area. We encourage you to attend the public meeting and provide your input!

Federal Certification Public Meeting



This public meeting provides an opportunity for FHWA and FTA representatives to receive feedback on the transportation planning process conducted by the River to Sea TPO.



Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00-6:00 pm



Daytona Beach Int'l Airport Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Parking is available in short-term lot and will be validated



Microsoft Teams:

Join on your computer or mobile app:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 561-484-5911 64024165# US,
West Palm Beach

Phone Conference ID: 640 241 65#

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Federal Highway Administration
Attn: Jean Parlow
400 W. Washington Street, Rm. 4200
Orlando, FL 32801
Email: jean.parlow@dot.gov
Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/tma.cfm>

Comments must be received by July 14, 2023

See insights and ads

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2023

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[Home](#) > [Governments](#) > [River to Sea TPO: Federal Certification Meeting Set for June 14 in...](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Federal Certification Public Meeting

This meeting provides an opportunity for FHWA and FTA representatives to receive feedback on the transportation planning process conducted by the River to Sea TPO.

**Daytona Beach Int'l Airport
Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114**

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00-6:00 pm**

River to Sea TPO: Federal Certification Meeting Set for June 14 in Daytona Beach

By Pamela Blankenship - June 2, 2023

Once every four years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that the River to Sea TPO is carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process in adherence with federal requirements. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly conduct this review, make a certification determination, and produce a report that may include compliance issues (corrective actions), areas for improvement (recommendations), and/or notable practices (commendations). The evaluation includes everything our agency works on from transportation planning to public outreach to the financial health of the agency.

A public meeting is held as part of the certification in order for FHWA and FTA to receive feedback from the public and stakeholders on the transportation planning processes conducted by the River to Sea TPO.

The Federal Certification Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in the Airline Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport. Parking will be validated.

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March 11, 2021

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 **River to Sea TPO** @TelltheTPO · Jun 7



The River to Sea TPO is asking for your input at our Federal Certification public meeting on June 14 from 5-6pm at the Daytona Beach Int'l Airport. More information is available at r2ctpo.org



2



1



0

Impressions ⓘ

49

Engagements ⓘ

14

Detail expands ⓘ

9


New followers ⓘ

0

Profile visits ⓘ


0

Facebook Page

 Stacy Cantu Daytona Beach City Commissioner Zone 4
6m · 🌐


The public is invited to this meeting hosted by the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization and provide input on their transportation planning process. The meeting is at 5 p.m. today (June 14) and will be at the Daytona Beach International Airport in the Airline Room.
#DaytonaBeach #Transportation #Planning

Federal Certification Public Meeting




VISION · PLAN · IMPLEMENT


This public meeting provides an opportunity for FHWA and FTA representatives to receive feedback on the transportation planning process conducted by the River to Sea TPO.



Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00-6:00 pm




Daytona Beach Int'l Airport Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Parking is available in short-term lot and will be validated



Microsoft Teams:
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Or call in (audio only)
+1 561-484-5911 64024165# US,
West Palm Beach
Phone Conference ID: 640 241 65#

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- Directly to the federal team at:
Federal Highway Administration
Attn: Jean Parlow
400 W. Washington Street, Rm. 4200
Orlando, FL 32801
Email: jean.parlow@dot.gov
Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/tma.cfm>
Comments must be received by July 14, 2023




River to Sea TPO
June 10 at 10:00 AM · 🌐






The River to Sea TPO needs your input! The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting an evaluation of the River to Sea TPO Transportation Management Area (TMA) through a certification review. These reviews are required by federal law to be conducted every four years.

As part of the River to Sea TPO's Federal Certification Review, we will be holding a meeting to solicit public input on the transportation planning process and our relationship with the community. Public input is a key component of our Federal Certification Review as it allows citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for our planning area. **We encourage you to attend the public meeting and provide your input!**

 Like  Comment  Share



Write a comment...

From: [Cerbone, Susan](#)
To: [Pamela Blankenship](#)
Subject: RE: Reminder: Federal Certification Public Meeting Tonight
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 10:16:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

WARNING --- This email originated outside of your company. Please review the sender's email address. Report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests to the Help Desk.

Thank you. The city of Daytona Beach is sharing your post about the meeting.

From: Pamela Blankenship <PBlankenship@r2ctpo.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Pamela Blankenship <PBlankenship@r2ctpo.org>
Subject: Reminder: Federal Certification Public Meeting Tonight
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL EMAIL. EXERCISE CAUTION.]

Good morning:

This is a reminder that the River to Sea TPO Federal Certification Public Meeting will be held this evening at 5:00 pm in the Airline Room at Daytona Beach International Airport. (Parking will be validated so park in the short-term lot). The meeting is intended to solicit input on the transportation planning process and our relationship with the community. Public input is a key component of our Federal Certification Review as it allows citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for our planning area. We encourage you to attend the public meeting and provide your input! If you are unable to attend, you can still provide comments up until July 14th. See the attached meeting notice for details.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Pamela

Pamela Blankenship, Community Outreach Coordinator/Title VI Coordinator
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)



River to Sea TPO Outreach & Activities

www.R2CTPO.org

May/June 2023

Federal Certification Review Public Meeting

At least once every four years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving a Transportation Management Area (TMA) – an urbanized area with a population over 200,000 – is carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process in adherence with federal requirements. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly conduct this review, make a certification determination, and produce a report that may include compliance issues (corrective actions), areas for improvement (recommendations), and/or notable practices (commendations). Public comments are a vital element of the certification review, as they allow citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for their TPO area. A public meeting will be held for the certification of the River to Sea TPO and the public is invited to attend and provide input.

Public Meeting Details:

Date: June 14, 2023

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Airline Room, Daytona Beach

International Airport

700 Catalina Dr

Daytona Beach FL 32114 (parking will be validated)

Can't attend the in-person meeting? Attend virtually via Microsoft Teams. Meeting information is available at www.R2CTPO.org

Written comments may be submitted to:

TPO Email: Staff@r2ctpo.org

Directly to FHWA:

Federal Highway Administration

Attn: Jean Parlow

400 W. Washington Street, Rm. 4200

Orlando, FL 32801






Email: jean.parlow@dot.gov

Website:


<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/tma.cfm>

Public comments must be received by close of business on July 14, 2023

River to Sea TPO
1 Deuce Ct Daytona Beach, FL 32124

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-  Notifications

Posts




River to Sea TPO
Just now


...

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting an evaluation of the River to Sea TPO Transportation Management Area (TMA) through a certification review. These reviews are required by federal law to be conducted every four years.


As part of the River to Sea TPO's Federal Certification Review, we will be holding a meeting to solicit public input on the transportation planning process and our relationship with the community. Public input is a key component of our Federal Certification Review as it allows citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for our planning area. We encourage you to attend the public meeting and provide your input!



Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00-6:00 pm






Daytona Beach Int'l Airport Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
 Parking is available in short-term lot and will be validated



Microsoft Teams:
 Join on your computer or mobile app:
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
 Or call in (audio only)
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 Phone Conference ID: 640 241 65#

Can't make the meeting? You can still provide comments via the following methods:

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How to Make Public Comment



In Person

- Complete speaker card located on table by room entrance

Virtually

- Use "Raise Hand" feature (dial *5 to raise/lower hand if on the phone)

In Writing (send by July 14, 2023)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Email to:
 staff@r2ctpo.org
 Jean.Parlow@dot.gov | <p>Through Federal Website:
 https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/tma.cfm </p> |
|---|---|

Appendix E. Summary of Public Feedback

FHWA and FTA would like to thank everyone who participated in and contributed comments for the R2CTPO TMA Certification Review. Public comments are a vital element of the certification review, as they allow citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for their transportation planning area. The comments received during the public meeting included feedback through the MPO Website, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook and the public meeting. Comments were also received during the 30-day public comment period following the site visit. Many comments were complimentary of the MPO staff and programs. Comments thanked the staff for being responsive and accessible, identified bike/pedestrian enhancements and suggested paratransit improvements. Other comments identified project specific concerns which were shared with the appropriate entities for follow up. These comments have been reviewed and all comments have been taken into consideration throughout the writing of this report. The public meeting minutes and the public comments received begins on the next page.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)
AND
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)
CERTIFICATION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2023
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Daytona Beach International Airport Airline Room
700 Catalina Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Present:

Bob Storke
R. Sans Lassiter
Cassandra Jessie
Doug Hall
Gilles Blais
Ralf Heseler
Lisa Martin
Barbara Girtman
Chris Cloudman
Jason Aufdenberg
Mark Manwell
Jay Williams
Jake Johansson
Bill Lindlau
Cathy Lindlau
Rakinya Hinson
Jack Adkins
Jean Parlow
Curleen Thomas
Colleen Nicoulin
Pamela Blankenship
Stephan Harris
Donna King
Mariel Lemke

Virtually Present:

Carey Shepherd
Carlos Gonzalez
Aviance Webb
Aishwarya Sandineni

Representing:

Citizen/BPAC/CAC
LTG, Inc.
Citizen/TDLCB/BPAC
Citizen/TDLCB/BPAC
Citizen/CAC
Volusia County Transit Services
New Smyrna Beach Commissioner
Ghyabi & Associates
TPO Board Chairperson/DeLand Mayor
Citizen/BPAC
ETM, Inc.
Volusia County Traffic Engineering
TPO Board/Volusia County Council Member
TPO Board/Oak Hill Vice Mayor
Citizen
FDOT
FDOT
FHWA
FHWA
River to Sea TPO Staff
River to Sea TPO Staff
River to Sea TPO Staff
River to Sea TPO Staff
River to Sea TPO Staff

Representing:

FHWA
FHWA
FTA
FDOT

The Federal Certification Public Meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Nicoulin welcomed everyone and explained why the River to Sea TPO was holding a Federal Certification public meeting. She introduced the River to Sea TPO team, noting it is a small staff of five. She introduced the TPO Board members in attendance: TPO Board Chairman and DeLand Mayor Chris

Cloudman, Volusia County Council Member Jake Johansson, Oak Hill Vice Mayor Bill Lindlau, and the immediate past TPO Board Chairperson Barbara Girtman. She also introduced those present from FDOT: Mr. Jack Atkins and Ms. Rakinya Hinson.

Ms. Curleen Thomas, FHWA Senior Transportation Planning Specialist, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introduced the FHWA team: Ms. Jean Parlow, the lead for this effort, Mr. Carey Shepard, Civil Rights Officer (virtual), Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, Transportation Specialist (virtual), and Ms. Aviance Webb, from the Federal Transit Agency (FTA) (virtual). She explained the purpose of the meeting, noting that in accordance with federal laws, FHWA and FTA must jointly certify transportation management areas (TMA) every four years; they are carrying out planning processes in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The primary purpose of the certification review is to ensure the River to Sea TPO is satisfactorily conducting transportation planning for the designated planning area. This review must include a public involvement segment that allows the public opportunities to provide their input about the agency's planning activities. During this session, she asked everyone to provide their input either verbally or in writing. FHWA will take all the comments received into consideration as part of the certification process.

Ms. Nicoulin gave a brief overview of TPO and its role in the planning process. The TPO is required to exist by federal and state law. The TPO consists of two urbanized areas: the Daytona Beach-Port Orange-Palm Coast and the Deltona urbanized areas. When an area exceeds 200,000 in population, the area is then considered a transportation management area (TMA) which gives the TPO additional funding and layers from the federal government. Up until this point, the TPO had one TMA; the recent census changed that to two TMAs. The TPO exists to ensure that public funds for transportation are based on the "3-C" process: continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive. Local input is provided into the process for the prioritization of transportation projects that utilize federal and state funding. She reviewed the many partners the TPO works with. The TPO process is a partnership between all stakeholders to make local decisions about transportation planning and implement projects in our communities. Ms. Nicoulin explained the TPO's structure, including the board and five committees, and the member representation on each. She reviewed the TPO's core work products; the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), List of Priority Projects (LOPP), Congestion Management Process (CMP), and the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and what each is.

Ms. Nicoulin explained how to provide public comments either in person, virtually, in writing through email, or directly through the federal website. Comments must be received by July 14, 2023. She noted the type of input that is being asked for including comments related to the TPO's existing processes.

Mr. Sans Lassiter, LTG, stated that his firm has been working with TPO in looking at future interchanges and public-private ventures at three locations: the Interstate-4 connector @ US 92 for a planned half-million square foot warehouse distribution park; the future Maytown Road interchange which is part of a master development of regional impact (DRI) – the Farmton local plan which is part of the Volusia County Comprehensive Plan and will provide an east-west parallel roadway to SR 44 from the Edgewater area to I-4 in DeBary; and the planned interchange improvements to the existing interchange at SR 442 and I-95. Maytown Road is sponsored by Volusia County; the I-4 Connector is sponsored by Daytona Beach; and the SR 442 interchange is sponsored by the city of Edgewater. He added that he appreciates the TPO staff's guidance on how to move efficiently through the process.

Mr. Jason Aufdenberg, BPAC Chairperson, asked about the extra activities that the TPO does outside of the core work products.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that the activities the staff undertakes are identified in the TPO's UPWP which includes staff time and funding amounts. Amendments to the UPWP are sometimes done to add activities. One of the projects the TPO will be undertaking shortly that was not identified in the UPWP is the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). The TPO received \$320,000 in Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant funding along with a \$60,000 match from Volusia County and a \$20,000 match from Flagler County for a total of \$400,000. This is one area where the TPO has recently shifted our position; every year the TPO is required to adopt safety targets. This past February, the TPO adopted safety targets that are supported by the State of Florida; Vision Zero, because no death is acceptable on our roads. One focus of the CSAP will be on Vision Zero.

Mr. Gilles Blais, CAC member, discussed 18-wheelers and the hours they are permitted to drive before resting. He asked where the truck parking was.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that FDOT is currently developing a truck parking study and they have identified sites along I-4. The project is currently in the works.

Mr. Blais asked about Seminole County.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that she did not have the specifics on that project, but she would get that information and report it back to him at the CAC meeting next week.

Mr. Jack Adkins, FDOT District 5 Director of Transportation Development, stated that truck parking is a huge issue. They get a lot of people saying they do not want it in their backyards. FDOT has identified sites in all the counties that align with I-4. In Volusia County they have identified sites on the east side and west side of I-4; around 250 in size. One site is owned by Daytona Beach and the other is owned by Port Orange and they are working with them now. Funding is always an issue, but they are looking at resiliency funding as well as other types. Volusia County's sites are in the early phases of design and funding of the design. In Seminole County, they are done with planning and are in the early stages of design, and they are trying to buy some sites with right-of-way funding. In Orange County at the Sand Lake Road site, they own the property and are working with the Florida Turnpike to move forward. They are also partnering with Osceola County. The plan is to put more than 800 spaces between Osceola County and Daytona Beach on I-4 after which they will decommission the parking spaces in Longwood.

Mr. Aufdenberg stated that he has been on the BPAC since 2012 and has been the chairman for the last two years. He noted that it was great to have a BPAC because not every TPO has one. He appreciates that the TPO allows citizens to be part of the process. He has also served on the subcommittee that reviews the applications for bicycle/pedestrian projects and he feels like he gets an opportunity to weigh in on grading those projects. He appreciates the flexibility for the TPO to take advantage of SS4A funding and to be able to work with the local governments on matching funds. He added that he also appreciates that the Bicycle Suitability Map was enhanced with comfort levels. He noted that in the LRTP there were many great roadway projects but the bicycle/pedestrian vision was not in the same level of detail as the roadway projects. There is a big federal spending imbalance between biking, walking, and interstate interchanges and he would love to see a more detailed vision for the future.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that within this next fiscal year, the TPO will begin developing the 2050 LRTP. There will be opportunities to receive comments from the communities and committees as to what they would like to see within the LRTP. She explained how bicycle/pedestrian projects are addressed within the LRTP; there are funds that are utilized for those projects and the program is identified. Active transportation is a big movement, and the TPO will look at how we can tie into that when we

begin the 2050 LRTP. There are also a number of resiliency plans that we developed in conjunction with the Regional Planning Councils; in addition, in the TPO's current LRTP, a resiliency scenario was developed which looked at what facilities in our cost-feasible plan were vulnerable.

Mr. Hall, BPAC and TDLCB member, asked how the TPO and the committees will be involved in the development of SunRail.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that the DeLand SunRail Station broke ground a couple of weeks ago and there have been conversations with Volusia County regarding bicycle/pedestrian access. At the BPAC meeting, there were conversations as well as a presentation on SunRail. The TPO will continuously work with our partners at FDOT and Volusia County to ensure comments and concerns from the committees are incorporated into the project.

Ms. Nicoulin recognized the TPO's transit partner, Votran, and Mr. Ralf Heseler. Most recently, the TPO has been working with Votran to identify projects for funding; a mobility-on-demand project. The TPO also works with Flagler County Public Transportation which does not have a fixed route service. Mr. Harris is the TPO's Transit Planner who works closely with the transit agencies. The TPO helped fund their Transit Development Plan and provided planning assistance for them. The TPO partners with its local transit agencies which will be expanded to SunRail.

Ms. Nicoulin recognized Mr. Jay Williams, Volusia County, who sits on the TCC and was chair of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee. This year, the TPO pivoted a bit on the criteria for scoring project applications by incorporating sustainability and resiliency, and increasing points for safety. She introduced Mr. Bob Storke, CAC and BPAC member. She thanked him for his support and knowledge. She explained that the TPO has three distinct areas, Flagler County, and all of Volusia County; however, there is a distinction between east Volusia and west Volusia. There is good representation on all the committees and TPO Board. The TPO tries to be fair with the projects that are prioritized and not just focus on one particular area.

Mr. Blais stated that he represents Holly Hill on the CAC and is also retired from law enforcement. He is glad the TPO was organized and noted that he became involved with the CAC when he didn't win his election as a city commissioner. The city of Holly Hill is surrounded by Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, and Volusia County and in order to survive they need to keep up with the times. Ten years ago, he was on the LRTP Subcommittee, and they forgot about the other counties that influence us. There is never enough money for anything and if there is it is earmarked for something else. His suggestion is to communicate with other counties; hurricanes cause bottlenecks on I-95 and I-4. He is thankful for the River to Sea TPO.

Ms. Nicoulin thanked Mr. Blais for his comments and the passion he brings to the CAC.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that there is a regional MPO Alliance, the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA), which is all five MPOs within Central Florida and the Polk TPO. They meet quarterly and three board members sit on the CFMPOA to represent the River to Sea TPO. The CFMPOA discusses regional issues and develops a regional list of priority projects. The TPO works with its partners throughout Central Florida.

Ms. Nicoulin recognized Ms. Cassandra Jessie and Mr. Doug Hall, representatives on the TDLCB; Mr. Hall also sits on the BPAC. The TPO appreciates their involvement in the process and noted that what they bring to the committees is essential to the planning process.

Mr. Hall stated that he appreciated the TPO and added that they consider everyone's needs.

Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, FHWA, congratulated the River to Sea TPO for their professionalism in providing information upfront, for acknowledging people, and including everyone from elected officials to the public. It has prompted him to look into the TPO more. He thanked the TPO for including him and for a professional and engaging meeting.

Ms. Nicoulin noted that COVID-19 had pushed the TPO out of its comfort zone and prompted us to do things virtually. It has turned into a great tool to bring people in and allow them to attend meetings they cannot physically be at. It has expanded public participation in our meetings. There is a fine mix; there is value to being in person but recognizing that this cannot always happen is important. By having the virtual option, people are able to attend, participate, and have a voice. The TPO has continued to utilize a virtual platform but encourages the members to participate in person. The TPO sees virtual participation as a valuable tool to allow the public to participate in the conversation.

Ms. Nicoulin added that currently, the TPO is operating in an interim location. We had to relocate earlier this year because of hurricane damage, and we are not able to hold large meetings at the office. We will be moving again in the next year and will have a large meeting room where we can incorporate technology to continue using the virtual platform.

Ms. Nicoulin added that In terms of public involvement and outreach, Ms. Blankenship, the Community Outreach Coordinator, does a great job. The TPO has community safety programs and partners with FDOT often; pop-up events happen often to provide safety information and fit and donate bicycle helmets to communities. Most recently at the DeBary Library where the staff fit 28 helmets for the children. Community outreach has always been a part of the TPO, and the program has grown. If there is an event you want the TPO to come out to let us know; we would love to come out and partner with you.

Ms. Nicoulin thanked everyone for participating in this process; it only happens every four years, but the public involvement process is 365 days a year. The TPO is always available to receive input and all meetings are open to the public; there is a public participation component at the beginning of each meeting. The TPO is here for you; it's your community as well as ours. The decisions we make directly impact you and us too.

Ms. Nicoulin pointed out that there was a flyer on the table with information on how to submit comments in writing; comments are accepted through July 14, 2023.

The Federal Certification public meeting closed at 6:00 p.m. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Speaker Request Card

Federal Certification for the River to Sea TPO

June 14, 2023

Speaker # 2

Name / Organization: Jason Aufdenberg

Address: 220 S. Frederick Ave

City: Daytona Beach State: FL Zip Code: 32114

Email: aufden93@erau.edu

Would you like to receive a copy of the final certification report? Yes No

Speaker Request Card

Federal Certification for the River to Sea TPO

June 14, 2023

Speaker # 1

Name / Organization: Sans Lassiter / LTG

Address: 450 W Granada Blvd, Suite 2

City: Ormond Beach State: FL Zip Code: 32171

Email: lassiter@ltg-inc.us

Would you like to receive a copy of the final certification report? Yes ☒ No

Record of Written Public Comments – 2023 R2CTPO Federal Certification

Written comments are included below as received at the throughout the public comment period.

From: [Melissa Winsett](#)
To: jean.parlow@dot.gov
Cc: [Staff](#)
Subject: River to Sea TPO Federal Certification Review - Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:28:52 PM

WARNING --- This email originated outside of your company. Please review the sender's email address. Report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests to the Help Desk.

Greetings, Jean –

My familiarity with the River-to-Sea TPO, and previous versions (Volusia TPO, Volusia County TPO, etc.), spans well over 20 years, and I've always found the TPO's process effective, cooperative, inclusive and flexible. The professional and helpful staff has always ensured that the Long-Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Plans (TIP) are coordinated with well-defined and comprehensive vision goals. Project prioritization is fair, cooperative, and highly based on the latest vision goals and LRTP policy, which are routinely updated with community outreach efforts. These efforts, to the maximum effort, are continuously extended to all areas and groups within our planning area through methods well beyond hosting community workshops, engaging in the community, and seeking opinions and input through surveys. The 2045 LRTP was updated during the pandemic, which presented greater challenges in reaching out to our communities; however, the TPO staff persevered successfully.

The TPO has always focused on contemporary and area-appropriate transportation planning areas including, but not limited to, safety, multimodal connectivity, system operations, resiliency, performance measures and monitoring, funding programs and challenges, complete streets, alternative transportation including virtual transportation management, and sustainability. The TPO not only oversees the spending of federal transportation funds consistent with federal requirements - they educate subcommittee members, elected officials on our TPO Board, as well as the public. With the current development boom in Florida, local governments are stretched thin reviewing countless development plans. They typically don't have time to focus and tackle transportation issues impacting their jurisdictions. We are glad the TPO is available to assist and remind us that our planning area needs quality transportation planning now and into the future.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss my interactions and observations with the TPO as a transportation planner for Volusia County or a city planner for DeLand, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa Winsett
Senior Planner

[City of DeLand](#)
[Planning Department](#)
120 S. Florida Ave., DeLand, FL 32720
P 386-626-7011

From: Erika Benfield <erika@floridalivingquarters.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 5:23 PM

To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>

Subject: Federal Certification Review Input

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To whom it may concern

I want to inform you that my experience has been very impressed with the work and communication regarding the River to Sea Volusia and Flagler TPO CAC.

Reminders with an upcoming agenda are sent, recaps and voting history made public.

It is in my opinion, an exemplary committee and board of transparency and accessibility in various formats to participate regarding information to include annual assessment and voting of public dollars and projects.

Erika Benfield
City of DeBary Florida
101 Philippe Court
DeBary, FL



Erika Benfield



From: [Joe Forte](#)
To: [Parlow, Jean \(FHWA\)](#)
Cc: [#City Commission](#)
Subject: Palm Coast TMA Certification - River to Sea TPO
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 11:31:57 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Parlwo,
On behalf of the City of Holly Hill Mayor and Commissioners, I offer this note of support for the River to Sea TPO. The city of Holly Hill has an elected official serving as a representative on the River to Sea TPO Board and participates in all of the committees with staff or citizen representation on each committee.

Our participation has proven to be fruitful for the benefit of the entire River to Sea TPO geographical area. We believe the membership is fair, inclusionary and seeks to build a better community through its efforts. Though funding sources are often limited, the process to determine distribution of the available funding is handled fairly through a diligent Transportation Planning Process.

Recent survey media has been made available to the community seeking input to the River to Sea TPO projects priority list. This community engagement is helpful in determining what the community identifies as priorities. We are grateful to be participating members of the River to Sea TPO and look forward to many years of cooperative success.

Sincerely,
Joe

Joseph A. Forte, City Manager
City of Holly Hill,
1065 Ridgewood Ave.
Holly Hill, FL 32117
386-248-9425 Office
386-248-9448 Fax
jforte@hollyhillfl.org
www.hollyhillfl.org


From: [Sans Lassiter](#)
To: [Parlow, Jean \(FHWA\)](#)
Subject: River to Sea TPO
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 5:05:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Jean – It was good to run into you at the TPO meeting. In the same spirit as my brief statements that evening, I want to commend the service and actions that the River to Sea TPO have provided and taken on behalf of public-private partnership ventures aimed at implementing transportation improvements in Volusia County. The TPO has provided focused guidance on how to navigate the state and federal systems and how best to align potential improvements with the proper procedures and funding sources. I just want to thank Colleen Nicoulin and her staff for their professionalism and support.

Sincerely,

R. Sans Lassiter, PE
President & Founder

-----Original Message-----

From: William O'Connor <woconnor@orangecityfl.gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 12:04 PM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: TPO Federal Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Parlow,

I am relatively new to the TPO Board having only served as the Alternative member over the past few years. I have been on the Orange City Council for six years and understand governmental processes. I will say the processes I have seen with the TPO seemed to be very transparent and open to public discussion. The TPO board and staff due their due diligence to vest all initiatives brought before them. It is obvious that the new executive director is fostering a much stronger relationship with FDOT and has the complete support and funding of the board.

I look forward to serving in the TPO Executive Board.

William R. O'Connor
Vice Mayor Orange City

Sent from my iPad

From: dhal318@cfl.rr.com <dhal318@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Staff <staff@r2ctpo.org>
Subject: Federal review of R2CTPO

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?Greetings, I put some notes on my notetaker, so I could report on my findings, but all the notes I took disappeared. I am trying to put down some thoughts that I remember.

First, I believe that the R2CTPO tries to respond to community input and political pressures, especially since it has multiple advisory committees, to give input on various concerns. Actually, I serve on two of its advisory committees, the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory committee (BPAC) and the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB). We do advise staff on our concerns. When the County is given Federal Transportation funding, the various advisory committees provide comments and suggestions. We give input on how the funds are to be spent. I and other consumers serve on the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB), to advise transportation providers on various concerns. As a consumer with a disability, who is transportation disadvantaged, I am concerned that the paratransit system is not responding as quickly nor as effectively as they could. Paratransit services tend to be somewhat slow and inconsistent and the response from local transit leaders is not adequate. However, other forms of infrastructure are promising and tend to consider the needs of all consumers. A case in point is that more Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) are being installed. Also, the R2CTPO staff are involved in various outreach and educational efforts. In short, I've been impressed by the willingness of the River To Sea Transportation Planning Organization staff to meet with and advocate for consumers.

Doug Hall
1405 Edgewater Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

From: Corbin, Shane <SCorbin@cityofnsb.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:02 PM
To: Donna King <DKing@r2ctpo.org>
Cc: Staff <staff@r2ctpo.org>
Subject: RE: Your Input is Requested for TPO Federal Certification

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I've been with the City of New Smyrna Beach less than a year but have been on several MPO boards.

I believe the River to Sea TPO is well organized, efficient and has good relationships with the communities it serves.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Thank you,
Shane Corbin, AICP
FRA-RP, GCRED, MPA, MUP
Director of Development Services
City of New Smyrna Beach, FL
www.cityofnsb.com
(386) 410-2836

From: Lee Evett <levett@lakehelen.org>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:22 PM
To: Staff <staff@r2ctpo.org>
Cc: Dominique Drager <ddrager@lakehelen.org>
Subject:

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The River to Sea TPO is everything you would want from all your TPO's –

responsive, thoughtful, and adheres to the best practices of transportation planning and management.

Lee R. Evett
City Administrator
327 S. Lakeview
Lake Helen, Florida 32744

From: Tucker, Cynthia M <Cynthia.Tucker@vr.fldoe.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:51 AM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Cc: Staff <staff@r2ctpo.org>
Subject: RE: TPO Federal Certification

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address. Report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests to the Help Desk.

Good morning,

At this time, I have no concerns about the Daytona TPO. I unfortunately have not been able to attend meetings due to scheduled client appointments; however, I have been invited to them and received all correspondence. The information received is very thorough. I hope to be able to attend meetings in the future; however, technician, Susan Pauly, is first contact for Vocational Rehabilitation.

Cyndie Tucker, BSW
Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant
Area 2, Unit 11A
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Florida Department of Education
210 N. Palmetto Avenue, Suite 144
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Phone: 386-281-6764
Fax: 386-226-0297
www.RehabWorks.org



From: [Tom](#)
To: [Parlow, Jean \(FHWA\)](#)
Subject: River to Sea TPO certification
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:39:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am responding to a request to comment on the effectiveness of the TPO's planning process and relationship with the community it serves. I presently serve on the Bicycle/Pedestrian advisory committee as a representative for the City of Holly Hill. I am sure that this process is required as part of federal regulation governing DOT funding for MPO/TPO's nationwide, and I'm also sure it's another waste of time and money. Is the Department of transportation going to unfund local TPO's if enough people are unhappy with the planning process or their efforts to involve the community? From a local standpoint this is one of the issues I struggle with- oversight and regulation which only serve to add staff and cost to an already difficult process of planning, developing and implementing new or improved roadways and facilities. As it relates to our local organization it is my belief that at least once per year the TPO and all of the advisory committees should meet together to discuss our issues and concerns as a whole. Reading minutes of each other's meetings is not enough. I also believe that far more effort should be undertaken in involving, or at least informing the public of our efforts and the ways in which they can participate in the planning process.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom <tryan721@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: River to Sea TPO certification

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am responding to a request to comment on the effectiveness of the TPO's planning process and relationship with the community it serves. I presently serve on the Bicycle/Pedestrian advisory committee as a representative for the City of Holly Hill. I am sure that this process is required as part of federal regulation governing DOT funding for MPO/TPO's nationwide, and I'm also sure it's another waste of time and money. Is the Department of transportation going to unfund local TPO's if enough people are unhappy with the planning process or their efforts to involve the community? From a local standpoint this is one of the issues I struggle with- oversight and regulation which only serve to add staff and cost to an already difficult process of planning, developing and implementing new or improved roadways and facilities. As it relates to our local organization it is my belief that at least once per year the TPO and all of the advisory committees should meet together to discuss our issues and concerns as a whole. Reading minutes of each other's meetings is not enough. I also believe that far more effort should be undertaken in involving, or at least informing the public of our efforts and the ways in which they can participate in the planning process.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Steve Robitaille <videoman49@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 7:36 AM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: Oppose TPO Recertification

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jean Parlow and FHA,

As widely reported in the Washington Post and other national media, the River to Sea TPO is an organization that has failed its citizens, as noted by the "leap-frogging" of special interest projects like the unneeded Pioneer Interchange over *actually* needed local infrastructure projects. It has become captured by special interests and collusive politicians, and needs to be disbanded so that the needs of the public can be properly met.

As an Emmy Award winning environmental filmmaker in Florida, I have been working to defend what remains of Natural Florida for 40 years, While I am writing in a personal capacity and not as President of Florida Defenders of the Environment, whose founder, Marjole Harris Carr worked to deauthorize the Cross Florida Barge Canal boondoggle, I can assure you the eyes of concerned citizens are watching how you respond to this current crisis.

Sincerely,

Steve Robitaille
Gainesville, Florida

From: [Rebecca Chaffee](#)
To: [Staff](#)
Subject: Attn: Jean Parlow / Pioneer Trail Interchange
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:12:18 AM

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Ms. Parlow,

Please accept this statement as an opposition to using federal funds to destroy environmentally sensitive land for an I-95 Interchange called Pioneer Trail Interchange between New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange Florida.

This interchange is not needed and uses federal funds without a proper environmental impact assessment. Infrastructure funds should be used for more prescient needs in our county (Volusia).

Where the interchange is located, the destruction of the land will negatively impact an already impaired waterway called Spruce Creek. This area is an important wildlife habitat and corridor and more land clearing will further impact destructive flooding (an issue we are already dealing with locally), with less trees and locally established vegetation to soak up water and filter pollutants.

It is clear to locals that this interchange was pushed by the developer of homes in the process of being built or future building in this area. This developer is tied to our governor who made this happen even with huge local opposition and outrage.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Chaffee
New Smyrna Beach, FL resident

From: Kelsi Johnson <kelsijanis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: Spruce Creek Interchange

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Hello!

I am married into a longtime New Smyrna family, and we all roundly oppose the building of the Spruce Creek interchange. Not only did the governor grossly misuse Covid relief funds for this, it also will impact one of Florida's beautiful natural waterways, a large-scale nature preserve with natural bays and estuaries that provide extensive habitat for native species.

Please consider halting this project.
Sincerely,
Kelsi Johnson

From: [Phong Nguyen](#)
To: [Parlow, Jean \(FHWA\)](#)
Subject: TPO Federal Certification
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:51:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

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Good afternoon Jean Parlow,

This email serves as an official submitted comments from the City of Palm Coast relating to providing input for the River to Sea TPO Transportation Management Area on the transportation planning process and the TPO's relationship with community. The transportation planning process managed by the River to Sea TPO is well structured, well informed such as of upcoming meetings and major projects, and offer local government opportunities to thoroughly vet projects. The City of Palm Coast has a good and collaborative working relationship with the TPO. The City of Palm Coast has representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee to reflect the community's perspectives on issues and projects. Overall, the transportation planning process is working well as is the communication between the TPO, City of Palm Coast, and community.

On behalf of the City of Palm Coast, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Phong Nguyen
Senior Transportation Planner
160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, FL 32164
Tel: 386-986-3779
www.palmcoast.gov



From: Frederick Peace <10sfpeace@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:58 PM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: Against RECERTIFYING the River to Sea TPO in Volusia County Florida

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Parlow and Committee Members,

Please do NOT recertify the "River to Sea TPO" in Volusia County. At least stop the ensuing corruption regarding the misappropriation of the use of Covid Relief REcover Funds for a donor-backed project. The donor in this case has, within this year, been appointed to several boards by Governor DeSantis, and it has positioned him and his development firm, enabled them, to push forward projects like the unneeded Pioneer Interchange in Port Orange. Volusia County has so many needed infrastructure projects that would aid citizens. The "River to Sea TPO" needs to be disbanded for its mishandling of public funds.

Thank you,

Fred and Suze Peace
1571 Alanson Dr.
DeLand, FL 32724

From: [Noreen Brownson](#)
To: [Staff](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:30:05 PM

WARNING --- This email originated outside of your company. Please review the sender's email address. Report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests to the Help Desk.

Dear Federal Highway Dept,

Below are my public comments on the TPO recertification of the Daytona Beach Fla River To Sea TPO. The amount of insider favoritism and good ole boy and girl political interference has made mute any honest dealings for the public use of funds with the TPO. It has been cravenly infected for years since the governorship of Rick Scott and should be abolished. The Federal Gov has long allowed local Florida politicians and appointed citizens to use funds for the betterment of insider developer wish lists. Those with outsized and undue influence, have used the TPO for dipping into the public coffers with the backing of highly placed political interference. The TPO's in central Florida are controlled by highly partisan local and state politicians, not by what roads are really needed to better the transportation needs of a region.

Thank you.
Noreen Brownson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kerry Karl](#)
To: jean.parlow@dot.gov
Cc: [Staff](#)
Subject: River to Sea TPO in Volusia/Flagler County, FL
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:41:21 PM

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Hi Jean,

I recently served as Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) for the River to Sea TPO in Volusia/Flagler County, FL. I understand FHWA is doing a review of the organization and I'd like to make a comment.

I have found my interaction with my TPO to be very positive. TPO staff is always open to comments and questions. I believe their public involvement efforts and outreach are genuine.

They certainly are extremely thorough in maintaining communication with the CAC.

I hope the review goes well and I hope it is shown that the work they do is a great return on federal investments.

All the best-

Kerry

Kerry Karl
C. 407.967.8722
kerry@kerrykarl.com

From: Kat Paro <crpdbchapterchair@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:48 PM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: No recertification of the River to Sea TPO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Parlow,

I write to you today as a concerned resident of Daytona Beach in Volusia County, FL to voice my objection to the potential federal recertification of the River to Sea TPO.

Over the past four years this organization has failed its citizens in favor of special interests like the proposed construction project of an Interchange at Interstate 95 at Pioneer Trail in New Smyrna Beach over sorely needed local infrastructure projects, and in spite of the many negative effects the building of this interchange would bring to the region.

As is obvious to the casual observer perusing even just a few instances available to the public, the River To Sea TPO has been captured by special interests and needs to be disbanded so that the needs of the public can be properly met.

See the recent Washington Post article for details in the latest FOIA request revelation for a bit of background.

Please see savedontpavesprucecreek.com for links to more in-depth details.

In light of this and more, I reiterate my opposition to federal recertification of this organization. It does not serve the needs of the citizens in the area, but rather the desires of a powerful few.

The damaging effects of the organization's actions will not be undone for generations if it is allowed to continue to exist.

Thank you for taking these words to heart on behalf of myself and all of us who value our quality of life, safe, flood-free homes, the environment, the Outstanding Florida Waterway that is Spruce Creek and the myriad flora and fauna, endangered and otherwise that depend on our responsible stewardship over the profits of the few.

Respectfully, and with thanks again for your consideration,

Kat Paro
Chapter Chair, Climate Reality Project: Daytona Beach Area Chapter

From: Robin Davis <rmailnm@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 7:34 AM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Subject: River to Sea TPO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not recertify this organization. It has been overtaken by partisan actors without intention to honor the original purpose of its charter. Volusia residents do not want an exit ramp on 95 for the sake of a real estate developer who has heavily invested in the governor's campaign for president. Volusia residents should not be overlooked to accommodate partisan ends.

Robin Davis
Ormond Beach

-----Original Message-----
From: Pamela Blankenship <PBlankenship@r2ctpo.org>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:21 PM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Cc: Colleen Nicoulin <CNicoulin@r2ctpo.org>
Subject: FW: Public comment

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-----Original Message-----
From: Noreen Brownson <noreenbrownson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Staff <staff@r2ctpo.org>
Subject: Public comment

WARNING --- This email originated outside of your company. Please review the sender's email address. Report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests to the Help Desk.

Dear Federal Highway Dept,

Below are my public comments on the TPO recertification of the Daytona Beach Fla River To Sea TPO.

The amount of insider favoritism and good ole boy and girl political interference has made mute any honest dealings for the public use of funds with the TPO. It has been cravenly infected for years since the governorship of Rick Scott and should be abolished. The Federal Gov has long allowed local Florida politicians and appointed citizens to use funds for the betterment of insider developer wish lists. Those with outsized and undue influence, have used the TPO for dipping into the public coffers with the backing of highly placed political interference. The TPO's in central Florida are controlled by highly partisan local and state politicians, not by what roads are really needed to better the transportation needs of a region.

Thank you.

Noreen Brownson

Sent from my iPhone

1

From: S C <uneasement@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Parlow, Jean (FHWA) <jean.parlow@dot.gov>
Cc: savedontpavesprucecreek@gmail.com
Subject: Please Deny Recertification of River To Sea TPO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ms. Parlow and DOT review team,

With this comment, we wish to indicate our displeasure with the current set up, structure, operation, and function of the "River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization," and humbly ask for you to not recertify it during your Federal Certification Review. We realize this is a bit of a significant ask, but must insist that it is the right thing to do, given its recent history.

The River to Sea TPO is an organization that has failed its citizens, as noted by the "leap-frogging" of special interest projects like the unneeded and unwanted I-95/Pioneer Interchange over actually needed local infrastructure projects. As part of that project, nearly \$100 million in federal covid stimulus money was taken this year (2023) to fund that Project alone, and that was against the strong desires of the public to not only NOT build the Project, but to fund other useful things instead. This misappropriation was highlighted by a recent ground-breaking Washington Post article, which we hope you read for yourself [here](#).

As a highway Project needing federal approvals, we hope that you can please halt all funding and permitting of the Pioneer Interchange in Volusia County to allow for further investigation.

For a long time now, the public has lost complete faith in the local TPO, and many people don't even understand why it exists. They expect such decisions to come before their city or county governments, and we agree that this separate, nebulous organization neither serves the public interest nor invites the desired public input due to its peripheral nature on the minds of most people. The River to Sea TPO has become captured by special interests and collusive politicians, and needs to be disbanded so that the needs of the public can be properly met.

There may be other, less drastic solutions, including heavy reform, but a complete reset seems to be the best solution in our opinion. Please let us know if you would like any additional info, or if there are any further updates regarding your Review.

Sincerely,

The Sweetwater Coalition of Volusia County, Inc.
uneasement@gmail.com

From: David Alfin <diapalmcoast@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2023 8:46:58 AM
To: Staff@r2ctop.org <Staff@r2ctop.org>
Cc: Pamela Blankenship <PBlankenship@r2ctop.org>
Subject: Your Input is Requested for TPO Federal Certification Review

WARNING --- This email originated outside of your company. Please review the sender's email address. Report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests to the Help Desk.

Dear Federal Team,

Thank you for the invitation to provide input as part of our TPO evaluation and certification review.

The River To Sea TPO continues to communicate information in both a timely and informative way. A variety of methods are used including website announcements, email blasts, and public outreach meetings/forums. The TPO strives to expand its audience and raise the bar on public awareness to insure all interested parties are provided information and so members of the public at large previously unaware of the TPO are advised. Communication is integral to the planning process and the TPO values all input and comment from the public. Notices are published and informative agendas are transmitted or provided on-site. Comments and input are recorded and shared with planning staff to insure all voices are heard. The TPO does a thorough job responding to questions and inquiries received from the public. TPO understands that the public is always at the planning table. The TPO has established a forward looking and thinking priority to be more visible throughout the community. The general public must become more aware of the process and responsibility of the TPO. TPO membership is now dedicated to increasing awareness and becoming a model for the region and State.

Please call on me with questions of for any additional information you require.

With my best regards,

David I Alfin
2nd Vice-Chair - R2S TPO

Appendix F. Status of Previous Certification Findings

The following is a summary of the previous corrective actions and recommendations made by the Federal Review Team to the River to Sea TPO. The MPO's last certification review report was published in 2019.

A. Corrective Actions

No Corrective Actions were identified.

B. Recommendations

1. **Transit:** The FRT commends the MPO for their transportation performance measures webpage and recommends that a link to FTA's performance measures (TAM, PTASP) also be included.

Update: The River to Sea TPO has added links to FTA performance measures (TAM, PTASP) to the Transportation Performance Measures page:

<https://www.r2ctpo.org/planning-studies/transportation-performance-measures>

2. **Transit:** During the desktop review, it was noted that progress towards achieving FTA TAM targets was not included in the LRTP. The FRT recommends that when the R2CTPO amends their existing LRTP or adopts a new one, and in addition listing targets, the LRTP describes how the projects in the amended LRTP help meet TAM targets adopted by the MPO. Please note that future LRTP approval cycles may be contingent on the inclusion of TAM targets and progress towards achieving them.

Update: The Connect 2045 LRTP describes the FTA TAM performance measures and the targets for Flagler County Public Transportation, Votran, and SunRail that the R2CTPO has agreed to use for planning and programming projects (pages 2-28 to 2-36). [River to Sea Connect 2045 LRTP \(PDF\)](#)

3. **Transit:** The FRT commends R2CTPO on their "CMP/Transportation Performance Measures" report, which provides a high-level, user-friendly snapshot of the transportation network that can be easily understood by transportation stakeholders and members of the public. The MPO is also commended for their use of visualizations in their performance-driven, outcome-based approach to tracking system performance. In future iterations, the inclusion of FTA performance measures such as Transit Asset Management, is recommended.

Update: Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan targets are addressed in the [R2CTPO 2022 Congestion Management Process \(PDF\)](#), Section 6.7.3.4 and the [Transportation Performance Measures](#) page of the MPO's website.

4. **Transit:** As the MPA extends into Flagler County and although Votran is the designated Community Transportation Coordinator, the FRT recommends the MPO also include a link to access Flagler County's plan(s) to enhance 3-C transportation planning efforts and transparency.

Update: Links to Flagler County's Transit Development Plan (TDP), Annual Operations Report (AOR), Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan-Major Update (TDSP), and Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan have been added to the River to Sea TPO [River to Sea TPO Transit Planning and Studies](#).

Appendix G. Acronym List

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act	NTI – National Transit Institute
AQ – Air Quality	PEA – Planning Emphasis Area
CAAA – Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990	PL – Metropolitan Planning Funds
CFP – Cost Feasible Plan (of the LRTP)	PPP – Public Participation Plan
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations	RA – Regional Administrator
CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	RTIP – Regional Transportation Implementation Plan
CMP – Congestion Management Process	RTP – Regional Transportation Plan
DA – Division Administrator	SAFETEA-LU – Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
DBE – Disadvantaged Business Enterprises	RPC – Regional Planning Commission
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services	SFY – State Fiscal Year
EJ – Environmental Justice	SHA – State Highway Administration
ETDM – Efficient Transportation Decision Making	SHSP – Strategic Highway Safety Plan
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency	SIP – State Implementation Plan
FAST Act – Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act	SOP – Standard Operating Procedures
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation	SOV – Single Occupancy Vehicle
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration	SPR – State Planning and Research
FTA – Federal Transit Administration	STIP – Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
FY – Federal Fiscal Year	STP – Surface Transportation Program
GIS – Geographic Information Systems	TAM – Transit Asset Management
HSIP – Highway Safety Improvement Program	TAMP – Transportation Asset Management Plan
HPMS Reviews – Highway Performance Monitoring System	TAZ – Transportation Analysis Zone
ISTEA – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act	TCM – Transportation Control Measure
ITS – Intelligent Transportation Systems	TDM – Transportation Demand Management
LEP – Limited English Proficiency	TDP – Transit Development Plan
LRTP – Long Range Transportation Plan	TEA-21 – Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century
M&O – Management and Operations	TIP – Transportation Improvement Program
MAP-21 – Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century	Title VI – Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act
MOA – Memorandum of Agreement	TMA – Transportation Management Area
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding	TMIP – Travel Model Improvement Program
MPA – Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary	TPA – Transportation Planning Agency
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization	TPCB – Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program
MPOAC – Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council	TPM – Transportation Performance Management
NAAQS-National Ambient Air Quality Standards	TPO – Transportation Planning Organization
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act	UAB – Urban Area Boundary
NHI – National Highway Institute	UPWP – Unified Planning Work Plan
NHS – National Highway System	U.S.C. – United States Code
	UZA – Urbanized Areas
	VMT – Vehicle Miles Traveled