



River to Sea TPO
2023 TMA Certification Review

Summary of Findings



U.S. Department
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**Federal Highway
Administration**

December 6, 2023

Overview



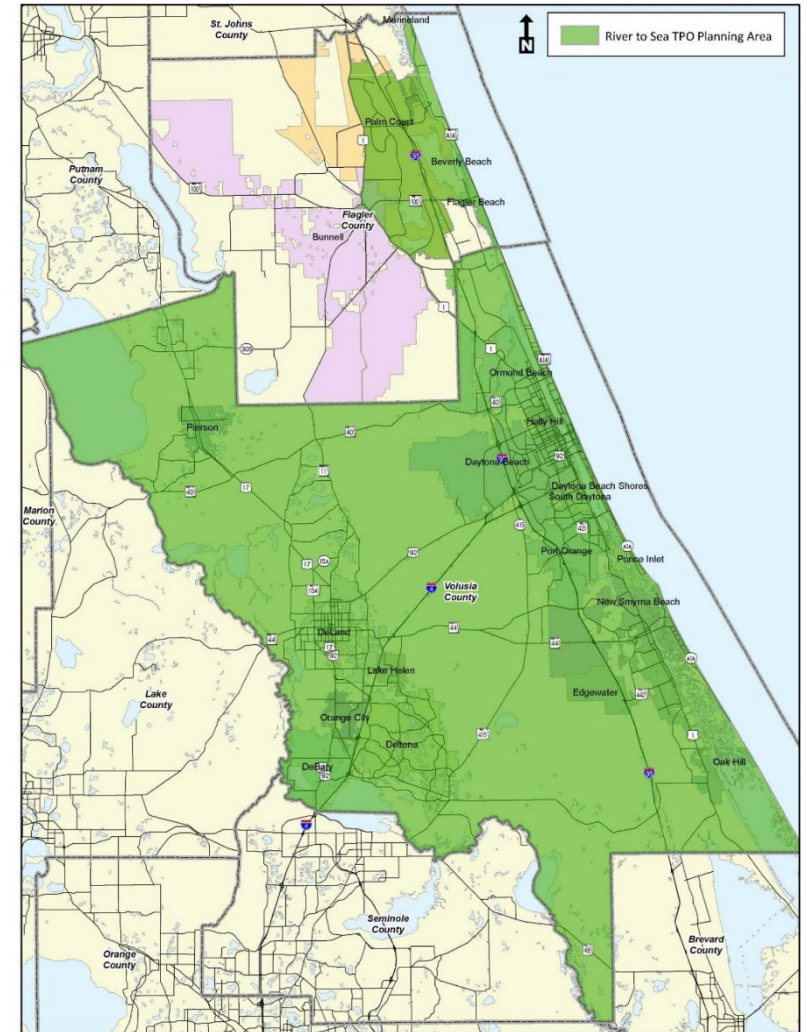
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Site Visit: *June 14, and June 15, 2023*

Review Team:

- *Jean Parlow, FHWA*
- *Curlene Thomas, FHWA*
- *Carey Shepard, FHWA*
- *Aviance Webb, FTA*
- *Rob Sachnin, FTA*

- **6 NPs, 0 CA, 2 Recs total**





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Noteworthy Practices

- **1. Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure** – The Federal Review Team was impressed with River to Sea TPO's (R2CTPO) ability to achieve substantial compliance and advance planning programs during a time of unprecedented internal and external challenge.
 - *2020 Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA) Outstanding Planning Study for the Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Readiness Study*
 - *2021 Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA) Outstanding Planning Study for the Paratransit Service Analysis*
 - *2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant recipient*
- **2. Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure** – The Federal Review Team commends R2CTPO for development of Executive Director Strategic Plan that includes, A succession plan and administrative policy/procedure reference manual which encourages participation in the MPO processes and development of a vision and mission for the MPO.



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Noteworthy Practices

- **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.

MPO also participated in Regional Resiliency 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 MPO created a culture of safety through their innovative approach to training and safety programs.



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Noteworthy Practices

- **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 Enactment 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 R2CTPO's website was updated in 2021 to enhance ADA Accessibility and became 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.



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Noteworthy Practices

- **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 plans to revisit every two years.



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Corrective Actions

- The Federal Review Team did not identify any corrective actions.



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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.

Recommendations



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- **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.



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An aerial photograph of a complex highway interchange with multiple overpasses and ramps. A large white diagonal shape is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially obscuring the highway. The text 'Questions?' is centered on this white area. At the bottom of the white shape, there are three vertical blue bars of increasing height from left to right. The bottom right corner of the image shows a blue and yellow diagonal graphic element.

Questions?