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2021 Legislative Update

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Federal Update



2020 Federal Legislative Priorities (1 of 3)

SAFETY

- Increased funding for Vision Zero / Highway Safety
- Additional funding for highway grade crossing safety improvements.
- Support infrastructure legislation to provide more Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and provide funding for infrastructure multimodal improvements and to support Vision Zero / highway safety projects

2020 Federal Legislative Priorities (2 of 3)

FUNDING

- Additional funding for SMART cities technology deployment / ITS.
- More climate mitigation / resiliency funds.
- Create a pilot program to allow metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) within urbanized areas, with population of at least five million, to directly receive 50 percent of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) apportionment. The urbanized area will designate one MPO to distribute the funds to the other MPOs in the area.

2020 Federal Legislative Priorities (3 of 3)

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continue to provide opportunities for investment in freight and freight related programs in authorization and annual appropriations bills.
- Increase overall funding of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and increase the percentage of sub-allocation to urbanized areas
- Increase Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding and reduce restrictions on using this program. (Project Delivery)
- Increase the federal gas tax and/or index it to inflation.

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg



- Pete Buttigieg currently serves as the 19th Secretary of Transportation, having been sworn in on February 3, 2021.

Earmarks have Returned

- House Republicans passed a resolution during their conference meeting on March 17, 2021, in support of restoring earmarks.
- Earmarks allow members to secure federal funding for specific projects.

BMPO Earmark Requests

FM	DISTRICT	Project Name	CST FY	Total Cost	Requested Earmark	% of Total Cost
4320668	ALCEE L. HASTINGS	SR-817/UNIVERSITY DRIVE FROM N OF RIVIERA BLVD TO N SR-824/PEMBROKE RD	2022	\$11M	\$1.4M	13%
4399911	DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ	SR-5/US-1/FEDERAL HWY FROM JOHNSON ST TO SR-822/SHERIDAN ST	2022	\$3M	\$1.9M	64%
4485771	DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ	SR-A1A/DANIA BCH BLVD S OF SR-858/HALLANDALE BCH BLVD TO N OF SR-A1A (3 Projects)	2024	\$6M	\$1.1M	17%
4320667	TED DEUTCH	SR-817/UNIVERSITY DR FROM NW 28TH STREET TO N OF SR-834/SAMPLE ROAD	2022	\$4.3M	\$2.7M	63%

Infrastructure Push

- Democratic lawmakers are shifting their attention to infrastructure as the next, longer-term economic program.
- The proposal is expected to include infrastructure "broadly defined," likely wrapping together provisions on transportation infrastructure, water systems, public health, broadband and climate change.
- Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said that the Biden Administration will move swiftly to reauthorize the surface transportation bill, which is set to expire on September 30, 2021

Pilot Program

- Congressional leadership has recognized the unique situation of our dense urban areas by recognizing the “particular need of assistance” Transportation Management Areas (TMA) over 5 million people.
- These large, urbanized TMAs will be able to deliver transportation solutions which meet the needs of their residents at the local level and maintain their connections to state and interstate systems.
- This led congress to create a new pilot program to give these urbanized areas, through federally designated MPOs, the flexibility to fund and deliver modern transportation projects.

State Update



2020 State Legislative Priorities (1 of 3)

SAFETY

- Regulate distracted driving as a primary offense.
- Increase climate mitigation / resiliency funds.

2020 State Legislative Priorities (2 of 3)

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

- The current State funding programs are too restrictive and do not allow for implementing transit investments in the manner needed to serve our rapidly growing urbanized area. Greater flexibility is needed with existing State funding sources so they may also be used to fund local transportation investments to support economic growth within the region. Restore MPO funding levels by shifting 25% of SIS funds to TMAs for direct programming. No change for non-TMA MPO areas.
- Allow flexibility in the TRIP program within Transportation Management Areas for direct programming. No change for non-TMA MPO areas.

2020 State Legislative Priorities (3 of 3)

MPO EXPANSION

- Give MPOs greater flexibility by expanding Board voting membership beyond 25 members and oppose any efforts to reduce voting membership below 25 members
- Allow Metropolitan Planning Organizations to conduct virtual meetings.

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
SB 62	Regional Planning Councils – (Bradley)	Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc. RPCs would be able to host MPOs under the bill as currently written
HB 91	Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving – (Slosberg; Co-Introducer: Grieco) –	Revises short title & legislative intent; prohibits operation of motor vehicle while holding or touching wireless communications device; provides exceptions; revises information that may be admissible as evidence in proceeding to determine whether violation has been committed; revises procedures for collection & reporting by DHSMV of information recorded on citation; conforms provisions relating to use of wireless communications devices in school & work zones. Filed in the House.

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
SB 138 SB 140 HB 817	Electric Vehicles – (Brandes)	<p>Related Bill SB 140 by Brandes. Identical Bill HB817 by Toledo. Revising the Department of Transportation's goals relating to mobility; requiring the department to establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program; providing for the distribution of grants to certain entities to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure; specifying that certain rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may not require specific methods of sale for electric vehicle charging equipment used in, and services provided in, this state, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$5,000,000.</p> <p>Creating additional fees for electric vehicles; creating a license tax and an additional fee for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles; requiring, on specified dates, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to increase the additional fees, subject to certain requirements; providing that certain vehicles are exempt from specified fees, etc</p>
HB 205	Requirements for Establishing or Increasing Tolls – (Borrero)	<p>Requires increase of current toll or development of new toll collection facility in county with certain population to be approved by board of county commissioners. After July 01, 2022 a toll increase or new toll in a county of over 1 million population will require a two-thirds vote of board of county commissioners at a regularly scheduled meeting.</p>

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
HB 229	Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students – (Salzman)	Comparable Bill SB 178 by Cruz. Requires DOT to develop & adopt standards & criteria to identify hazardous walking conditions; Revises provisions relating to the transportation of students subjected to hazardous walking conditions & funding for such students. Filed in the House.
SB 278	Traffic Offenses – (Baxley)	Creating the “Vulnerable Road User Act”; providing criminal penalties for a person who commits a moving violation that causes serious bodily injury to, or causes the death of, a vulnerable road user; requiring that the person who commits the moving violation pay a specified fine, serve a minimum period of house arrest, and attend a driver improvement course; requiring that the court revoke the person’s driver license for a minimum specified period, etc. Filed in the Senate.

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
HB 297 SB 380	Child Restraint Requirements – (Hinson)	Identical Bill SB380 by Perry - Increasing the age of children for whom operators of motor vehicles must provide protection by using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device; increasing the age of children for whom a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a child booster seat may be used, etc.
HB 337 SB 750	Impact Fees – (DeCeglie)	Identical to S750 by Gruters - Specifying instances when a local government or special district may collect an impact fee; requiring local governments and special districts to credit against the collection of impact fees any contribution related to public facilities; providing annual limitations on impact fee rate increases; requiring school districts to report specified items regarding impact fees, etc.

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
HB 353 SB 738	Bicycle Operations Regulations – (Hage)	Identical to SB738 by Baxley - Providing an exception to the requirement that a person operating a bicycle ride upon or astride a seat attached thereto, etc. Filed in the House.
HB 605 SB 950	Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety – (Hunschofsky)	Identical to SB950 by Book - Revising and providing requirements for the driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle, an electric bicycle, or a pedestrian; requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to provide an awareness campaign, and include information in certain educational materials, regarding certain safety precautions; exempting a motor vehicle driver from certain provisions relating to no-passing zones when overtaking a bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle, an electric bicycle, or a pedestrian; revising requirements for vehicles turning at intersections; prohibiting persons riding bicycles in a bicycle lane from riding more than two abreast, etc.

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
SB 708 HB 785	Peer-to-peer Car Sharing – (Brandes)	Identical to HB 785 by Busatta Cabera - Specifying motor vehicle insurance requirements for peer-to-peer car-sharing programs; authorizing peer-to-peer car-sharing programs to own and maintain certain policies of motor vehicle insurance; requiring peer-to-peer car-sharing programs to assume certain liability; authorizing motor vehicle insurance policies to exclude specified coverages under certain circumstances; authorizing specified insurers to seek contributions against indemnifications under certain circumstances, etc.
HB 729 SB 1364	Transportation Projects – (Gregory)	Identical Bill SB 1364 by Brodeur. Limits amount of State Transportation Trust Fund revenues to be committed for certain public transportation projects; revises amount of funding allocated by DOT to transportation construction projects for purchase of plant materials; revises types of projects receiving allocation; removes requirement that certain amount of allocation be for purchase of large plant materials; requires purchased plant materials to be grown in this state; authorizes DOT to enter into certain contracts without advertising & receiving competitive bids; authorizes DOT to combine certain work phases. Filed in the House.

Bill #	Title (Author)	Summary
HB 1113 SB 1412	Traffic and Pedestrian Safety – (Fine)	Similar to SB 1412 by Perry - Requires study to be conducted which recommends installation of specified pedestrian crosswalk before installation occurs; requires pedestrian crosswalk on public highway, street, or road which is located at point other than at intersection with another public highway, street, or road to conform to specified requirements; provides coordination requirements for such devices & signals; requires entity with jurisdiction over public highway, street, or road with certain pedestrian crosswalk to ensure that crosswalk conforms to specified requirements or authorizes entity to remove any such crosswalk; requires DOT to submit certain request for authorization to Federal Government; requires applicable entities to replace or remove specified traffic control devices within specified timeframe after date of federal authorization or denial, as applicable; authorizes retrofitting. Filed in the House.
SB 1332	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – (Brandes)	Urging Congress to authorize installation of electric vehicle charging stations in rest areas on the interstate highway system and to allow charging station providers to charge a fee for public use of charging stations installed in such rest areas, etc.



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Questions / Discussion



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