

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2023

The Broward MPO supports efforts to develop, maintain, and rehabilitate infrastructure, further enhancing the region's ability to maintain quality of life for existing residents and businesses, and to attract new businesses and residents. The Broward MPO continues to support safety improvements leading to zero fatalities and injuries, smart growth land decisions and principles, expanded mobility and access, and a net-zero carbon future with clean, reliable, and affordable transportation options.

Advocacy priorities include support for:

SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY

- Carbon reducing legislation that encourages and invests in transit, transit-oriented development, fleet electrification, and broadband.
- Improvement of electrical grid, including increased capacity to accommodate electric vehicle charging stations, and addressing resiliency concerns through hardening measures, such as undergrounding of powerlines.
- Funding for capital infrastructure which directly impact the transportation system, such as flood control.
- Direct funding to MPOs for quick-build safety projects.
- Adopt the Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstart for the Environment Act (EBIKE), which would provide a refundable tax credit for electric-assist bicycles. Increase incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Legislation that will assist the MPO with building or replacing critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, tunnels, water and sewer systems and treatment facilities, freight system enhancements, and climate mitigation / resiliency projects, with robust federal infrastructure funding.
- Consolidated discretionary funding applications that allow MPOs and USDOT to prioritize and assign projects to their appropriate grant programs more efficiently.

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

- Direct allocations to metropolitan areas like the Broward MPO, through USDOT pilot program or legislation.
- Efforts to address the long-term sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund.
- Efforts to utilize the most current census numbers to calculate any formula or apportionment funding.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2023

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SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY

- Expand regulations on distracted driving.
- Encourage state policies to maximize federal grants for resiliency funds.
- Improvement of electrical grid, including increased capacity to accommodate electric vehicle charging stations, and addressing resiliency concerns through hardening measures, such as undergrounding of powerlines.
- Consider adopting legislation, regulations and standards implemented by other states and countries that reduce pedestrian and cycling fatalities and encourage a transition to green transportation alternatives.
- Encourage FDOT to fast-track safety projects.
- Add funding for MPOs to conduct driver, pedestrian, and cycling safety educational campaigns.

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

- Greater flexibility is needed within existing State funding programs to maximize efficient use of resources and allow for the transportation investments necessary to serve our rapidly growing urbanized area and support economic growth within our region.
- Restore funding previously diverted into the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) to MPOs located within Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) for direct MPO programming. The State may still require this funding be used on projects which support or enhance the SIS.
- Allow direct MPO programming of funds allocated through the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) within TMAs.
- Ensure full funding for transportation infrastructure projects includes funds for landscaping, lighting, and aesthetics.

MPO EXPANSION

- Remove State restrictions on MPOs board voting memberships and oppose any efforts to reduce voting membership below 25 members.
- Allow Metropolitan Planning Organizations to conduct virtual meetings.