



MEETING MINUTES
BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Regional Transportation
Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC) Meeting
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:30 PM
100 West Cypress Creek Road
6th Floor, Suite 650
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-2181

Members Present

Chair Bill Cross, Broward MPO
Sabrina Aubery, Florida Department of Transportation District 4
Jie Bian, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation / Public Works
Lois Bush, Florida Department of Transportation District 4
Kim Delaney, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Tewari Edmonson, Miami-Dade TPO
Wilson Fernandez, Miami-Dade TPO
Christina Miskis, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Nicholas Sofoul, Broward County Transit
Andrew Uhlir, Palm Beach TPA
Shereen Ye Fong, Florida Department of Transportation District 6
Natalie Yesbeck, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

Broward MPO Staff

Paul Calvaresi
Paul Flavien
Peter Gies
Jad Salloum
Rebecca Schultz

Also Present

Conor Campobasso, Palm Beach TPA
Lisa Marie Glover, City of Fort Lauderdale
Barbara Handrahan
Jessica Josselyn, Kittelson & Associates
Elizabeth Rockwell, Miami-Dade TPO
Jessica Rubio, Florida Department of Transportation
Franchesca Taylor, Miami-Dade TPO
Maria Vilches, Miami-Dade TPO

REGULAR ITEMS
(All Items Open for Public Comment)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Cross called the workshop to order at 1:30 p.m. He advised that today's meeting would be held in hybrid format, with a number of individuals and one Committee member attending remotely.

2. Approval of Minutes 2021

Chair Cross advised that a full year's worth of workshop minutes were presented for approval at today's meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Uhlir, seconded by Mr. Edmonson, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Yesbeck, seconded by Mr. Sofoul, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Comments from the Chair

None.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to Recommend Approval of the Transportation Regional Incentives Program (TRIP) FY 23-28 Priorities List

Chair Cross recalled that the three transportation entities have coordinated their efforts on the Transportation Regional Incentives Program (TRIP) Priorities List for fiscal year (FY) 2023-2028. Today will be the second viewing of this list by the Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC). The document is being presented for a vote. The Chair emphasized that the document must be passed at today's meeting, as it will be presented to the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) for a vote in less than two weeks.

Paul Calvaresi of Broward MPO Staff gave a presentation on the TRIP list, pointing out that two new columns have been added to the list's format: one noting where projects stand in the process and one noting the year in which the project was added to the list. These columns make it easier to track the projects' progress.

The TRIP list represents a collaborative effort between the three transportation entities as well as the two Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts and transit planning partners. Later in the year, FDOT will be invited to provide additional information on the Grant Application Process (GAP).

Motion made by Mr. Edmonson, seconded by Ms. Ye Fong, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Aubery stated that FDOT Districts 4 and 6 will work together later in the year to provide additional information on GAP, which has been created for all state and federal grant programs. FDOT will receive all applications through this system, which will also be used to manage projects from the time they are awarded until they are closed out. This process has been used over the past few years for specific grant programs, such as SunTrail and Safe Routes to School, and is now being opened to all such programs.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Scope

Conor Campobasso of the Palm Beach TPA gave a presentation on updates to the scope of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The scoping efforts have been completed and the RTP is moving into the procurement phase. The three transportation entities are beginning scoping efforts for their Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), as well as updates to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Campobasso explained that there has been significant coordination between the three entities. The scoping effort began in April 2021 and recent updates have been provided to the RTTAC. At today's meeting, final approval of the scope by RTTAC is requested, to be followed by adoption by SEFTC.

The mission of the RTP focuses on seeking to meet the changing needs of the region. The Plan has four major themes:

- Accessibility
- Resilient infrastructure
- Transit-supportive land uses
- Emerging technologies

These themes are reflected in the RTP's mission statement as well as throughout the document in goals, objectives, and scenario planning efforts.

Mr. Campobasso noted that this RTP cost slightly more than previous documents at just under \$1 million, due in part to inflation. The planners hope to maximize where these funds are spent by working with the three entities to determine where their respective staffs can provide assistance.

The Miami-Dade TPO will take on the administration of the RTP once the scope has been adopted, although all agencies will continue to work collaboratively throughout the process. Miami-Dade will also manage RTTAC and SEFTC.

Mr. Campobasso briefly reviewed the RTP's scope, which includes the following tasks:

- Administration and support services: these include invoices, progress reports, and updates to the website
- Public participation: consultants will work on regional outreach and needs with local coordination from the three transportation entities
- Goals, objectives, and targets: these will reflect legislative updates
- Revenue and finance: these include financial documents, such as a tech memorandum for financial resources and a list of funding codes; the RTP will include a summary template to show that funding is aligned and consistent throughout the three agencies
- Regional transportation network: this will include consideration of regional congestion and high-capacity transit
- Scenario planning: thus far, three scenarios have been identified, including Automated/Connected/Electric/Shared (ACES) vehicles and technology, resiliency, and disruptions/opportunities, with the potential for a fourth scenario if necessary
- Model support, including the cost feasible network
- The RTP document itself

Ms. Yesbeck recommended the removal of a reference to a Strategic Regional Transit Plan, as this is an outdated item.

Ms. Bush advised that a reference on p.11 under Transportation Policy and Plan Review states the consultant will provide a draft list of resources to TPA Staff for review. Mr. Campobasso clarified that this should instead refer to the Miami-Dade TPO.

It was also suggested that the document expand upon equity in transportation, which is mentioned under Tasks 8 and 9. Mr. Campobasso noted that equity is included under Task 4 as well.

Mr. Sofoul addressed Task 4.1, Plan and Policy Review, suggesting that the Broward County Systems Plan be added under this Item.

Motion made by Mr. Edmonson, seconded by Ms. Yesbeck, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Chair Cross asked if the Miami-Dade TPO will assume control of the procurement process for the RTP. Mr. Edmonson confirmed this, noting that the timeline has not changed.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

1. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Schedule

Chair Cross advised that he is working with a member of FDOT's revenue forecasting group and will share any updates with the Committee as they become available.

Ms. Delaney stated that the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) has taken on an active role with respect to rail safety and trespass mitigation throughout the region. In January 2022, they held a quiet zone workshop, which included a focus on grade crossings and field diagnostics at all grade crossings identified for Brightline Phase 2. This segment extends from West Palm Beach north to Sebastian. Corridor diagnostics for grade crossings in Brightline Phase 1, which extends from West Palm Beach to Miami, were also reviewed.

Ms. Delaney emphasized that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has increased its focus on rail safety and trespass mitigation in the South Florida region, as this area has the highest number of trespass incidents resulting in serious injury or fatality of any region in the country.

Ms. Delaney continued that the PTAC helped FRA with a Trespass Mitigation Summit in September 2021, which was held as a webinar. She pointed out that the presence of trespassers in railroad corridors contributes greatly to the number of serious injuries and fatalities. FRA has increased its efforts and plans to hold a number of town hall-style work sessions across the three counties, working directly with local governments, law enforcement, and public works directors to understand the reason for so many trespass incidents and whether or not specific measures may be needed to counteract this trend. The goal is for South Florida to make trespassing on rail corridors less attractive.

Ms. Delaney briefly reviewed some of the measures under consideration to discourage trespassing, which may include:

- Four-quadrant gates
- Adding medians
- Adding delineators
- Identification of areas where fencing and landscaping may be implemented

There are also programmatic changes that may help to discourage trespassing, including additional law enforcement training, issuance of more trespass citations, and mental health assistance/suicide prevention. Ms. Delaney noted that FRA has been encouraged to provide up to 100% federal funding for various safety measures, as it can be very difficult for local governments to provide a 10% match on a timely basis.

Ms. Delaney concluded that there are three grant funding sources that may be helpful, including FRA, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), and Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants.

2. Review of the February 25, 2022 Southeast Florida Transportation Council Agenda

Chair Cross stated that the upcoming SEFTC meeting of February 25, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. will be hosted by the Miami-Dade TPO. Mr. Edmonson advised that he would provide different types of directions for any RTTAC members who may wish to attend this meeting.

Mr. Uhlir noted a typographical error on the draft SEFTC Agenda: the reference to the TRIP list should reflect dates from 2023-2028.

The Committee members agreed by consensus on the SEFTC Agenda with the noted corrections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – no discussion

1. Modeling Subcommittee

Mr. Edmonson stated that the Modeling Subcommittee continues to work on the development of Southeast Florida Regional Planning Model (SERPM) 9, which he estimated as 95% complete for the roadway network. The team used open-source maps to develop this network using actual geometry, which is an improvement over the previous model.

The next step will address transit networks, which should be complete within the next two to three weeks. The 2020 employment allocation is currently being finalized as well. Mr. Edmonson noted that the Subcommittee is moving to the vZOOM platform. They are currently on schedule, although there has been a delay in receipt of the population breakdown from the 2020 U.S. Census. This is expected to be provided to the Subcommittee by the end of March 2022, but the schedule should not be altered if this information is late.

Ms. Bush requested additional information on the open source map used to develop the roadway network. Mr. Edmonson replied that this map uses the actual locations of the roadways: for example, the curvature of streets will be reflected in the network. Ms. Bush pointed out that this will also be helpful in determining the resilience network.

Mr. Edmonson continued that he plans to have further discussions with the SERPM 9 developer regarding scenarios and what models can and cannot do. He hoped to ensure coordination between the agencies and the model developer to ensure useful outputs and insights into various scenarios.

Chair Cross asked if a Non-Action Item on modeling should be included on the next RTTAC Agenda, or if the Committee Report was adequate. Mr. Edmonson replied that he will provide an update as a Non-Action Item at the next meeting.

Mr. Uhlir recalled that FDOT purchased statewide employment data at the address level. Mr. Edmonson explained that the Subcommittee received base employment information from 2020: employment projections will constitute a separate effort to be undertaken by each of the transportation entities. The information from the state will be consistently used throughout the region.

Ms. Bian requested that the schedule of modeling efforts be shared with the Committee members, pointing out that Miami-Dade Public Works is developing its own Transportation Master Plan and wishes to ensure consistency of data. Mr. Edmonson replied that at present, SERPM 9 will only be available to the respective transportation entities for their LRTP/MTP teams in June 2023. It will then be available for public use after 2024.

Mr. Calvaresi asked if the data will cover all the employment information that is needed for a travel demand model. Paul Flavien of Broward MPO Staff confirmed that this would be the case. He recommended consulting other data sources, such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to ensure comfort with control totals.

2. Public Participation Subcommittee

None.

3. TSM&O Subcommittee

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Member Comments

Chair Cross recalled that in the past, documents were brought forward to RTTAC and SEFTC for approval throughout the year; however, this will end in 2022, as there will be fewer meetings needed by either entity through the end of this year. He requested feedback from the members on this, proposing that at the next RTTAC meeting, a draft calendar of meetings to be either held or cancelled be provided.

Ms. Bush recommended keeping RTTAC meetings on the calendar, as they could be cancelled if not needed. Chair Cross explained that his intent was to identify the meetings most likely to be cancelled.

Mr. Sofoul called that members' attention to Bus Route 14, which operates north/south on Powerline Road. A dedicated transit-only signal has recently been implemented, which allows buses moving south on Powerline Road to access the Tri-Rail station directly. He recognized FDOT as a major partner in this improvement.

With no other business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

NEXT SEFTC MEETING: February 25, 2022 (*Hosted by Miami-Dade TPO*)

NEXT RTTAC MEETING: April 13, 2022 (*In person at BMPO*)