



DRAFT

**MEETING MINUTES
BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Regional Transportation**

Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC) Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 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
Anna Bielawska, Broward County Transit
Lois Bush, Florida Department of Transportation District 4
Kim Delaney, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Tewari Edmonson, Miami-Dade TPO
Ken Jeffries, Florida Department of Transportation District 6
Christina Miskis, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Nina Verzosa, Palm Tran
Andrew Uhlir, Palm Beach TPA

Broward MPO Staff

Greg Stuart, Broward MPO Executive Director
Paul Calvaresi
Peter Gies
Christopher Restrepo
Rebecca Schultz

Also Present

Sabrina Aubery, Florida Department of Transportation District 4
Xiomara Nunez, Florida Department of Transportation District 6
Franchesca Taylor, Miami-Dade TPO
Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

REGULAR ITEMS

(All Items Open for Public Comment)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Cross called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2022

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

3. Review of Agenda

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

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Comments from the Chair

Chair Cross welcomed Ms. Bielawska in her new position representing Broward County Transit (BCT), and Ms. Verzosa, representing Palm Tran.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of 2023-2025 Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee & Southeast Florida Transportation Council Meeting Schedule

Chair Cross advised that this Item must pass at today's meeting, as it is scheduled to go before the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) for approval at their November 4, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Edmonson added that the entity hosting each meeting will be responsible for providing minutes.

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

NON-ACTION ITEMS

1. Transportation Regional Incentives Program – FY 2023 Updates

Chair Cross introduced Sabrina Aubery of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 4 and Xiomara Nunez of FDOT District 6, who provided a presentation on the Transportation Regional Incentives Program (TRIP) cycle.

Ms. Aubery advised that Districts 4 and 6 have worked together to develop a joint application for use in both Districts. All of FDOT's federal and state grant applications must go through a grant application process (GAP). FDOT is currently preparing for a TRIP application workshop as the next cycle begins. TRIP is managed from FDOT's local program offices in each District.

Ms. Nunez explained that making the Districts 4 and 6 applications the same is intended to make them more concise and complete, providing relevant and targeted information for reviewers. Most elements of the application will be the same as in the past, while some previous elements have been removed.

Applications must provide general information on the project, including its scope, schedule, and location. They must be included in the Capital Improvement Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and Comprehensive Plans. Applications must also show where the projects will be programmed and include Resolutions of support from the local governmental entity as well as the public.

Solicitations for applications will be sent out by both Districts on October 31, 2022. The GAP cycle will be open from that date until March 1, 2023. The TRIP workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2022, at the Broward MPO from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. All partners are encouraged to attend and bring any questions they may have about projects they may submit.

After the March 1, 2023 deadline, FDOT will vet the applications until July 2023. The Districts may reach out to the submitting agencies during this time period if they have questions or require clarification. From July to September 2023, the program team will program these projects. TRIP allocations are typically received the last week of September. This will show which projects can be funded during the cycle. New projects will be planned within the new fifth year of funding: for example, the new fifth year of the cycle that will begin on October 31 will be fiscal year (FY) 2029. FDOT then develops the Draft Tentative Work Program between September and November.

The March 31 GAP deadline is a hard deadline. The application and documents can be downloaded, filled out, and uploaded for submittal. FDOT's Central Office can provide assistance with the GAP process, as well as a resource link to a webinar that shows how to use GAP. The first 90 minutes to two hours of the TRIP workshop will provide more detailed information on the submittal process, and will be followed by one-on-one sessions for the remainder of the workshop.

Mr. Edmonson asked if it is possible to schedule new TRIP projects at an earlier date than the fifth year in order to use up any remaining available funding. Ms. Aubery confirmed that there may be potential funding available in earlier years. If additional funds in earlier years are available when FDOT is developing the Draft Tentative Work Program, FDOT may be able to fund new projects earlier than FY 2029. This cannot be determined when the solicitation letters are sent out, however, as the letters only reflect the funding available at that time. In addition, some funding may be necessary to cover cost increases on existing projects.

Ms. Nunez added that District 6 would not program any new projects for FY 2024 in the next cycle. If funding is available for FY 2025 and later, and a project is ready, they can

consider funding additional projects in earlier years, based on readiness and funding availability. Ms. Aubery also emphasized the importance of a local commitment for matching funds in the year for which the project is scheduled for programming.

2. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Updates

Franchesca Taylor of the Miami-Dade TPO advised that the cone of silence is currently in effect for procurement related to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which will limit the amount of detail that can be provided. She confirmed that a consultant will be brought before the TPO Board in December 2022, at which time the cone of silence will be lifted. The advertisement of this project will close on October 13, 2022.

Peter Gies of Broward MPO Staff stated that he and Christopher Restrepo are leading the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) efforts for that organization. They have procured a consultant and begun collecting internal data for the 2050 MTP as of September 2022. The next major task will be the call for projects, in which local entities are asked to submit projects for inclusion in a needs assessment prior to moving into the revenue forecast.

Mr. Uhlir of the Palm Beach TPA noted that the next statewide revenue forecast meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2022, and will be led by FDOT and their consultants. The TPA sent out a request for proposal (RFP) two weeks ago and hopes to have a final selection before its Board by December 2022, followed by a kickoff in January 2023. They are focused on scenario planning for land use and development patterns, as well as transit-oriented development (TOD) and multimodal transportation choices.

Ms. Taylor also provided an update on the Miami-Dade TPO's 2050 LRTP, stating that the organization has outlined five tasks in its scope of work for this document. These tasks will be divided among five consultant groups. Task One, which was a kickoff public involvement event, was held on October 11, 2022. The four remaining tasks will be assigned over the next four quarters in a staggered approach.

Mr. Uhlir asked if SEFTC must approve the final consultant selections for the LRTPs/MTP. Mr. Calvaresi replied that SEFTC approves the scopes for these documents; however, it is the responsibility of the hosting agency's Board to approve procurement and contract management. Ms. Taylor advised that any questions regarding consultants be directed to the Miami-Dade TPO's procurement team.

Mr. Edmonson addressed the Southeast Florida Regional Planning Model (SERPM) 9, for which testing of the activity-based model is complete. He thanked the team responsible for collecting 2020 population and other information. The American Community Survey (ACS) data is being broken down into different populations and their variables, and is expected to be complete within the next one to two weeks. Calibration

and validation data is currently being collected, and the next step will be applying this information to the model.

3. Federal Discretionary Grants Discussion & Coordination

Mr. Calvaresi gave a presentation on previous and upcoming grants that are being pursued by the Broward MPO. The organization has submitted a joint application with Broward County for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program, which is geared toward MPOs. An award announcement is expected in February 2023.

The Broward MPO also submitted a joint application with Broward County and Brightline for the Rail Crossing Elimination Program. Rail safety continues to be a challenge for South Florida and Broward County in particular. The Broward County Sealed Corridor project would provide gates and/or medians at each rail crossing. This project will require coordination with County and private sector partners as well as with Broward municipalities.

The MPO is also considering applying for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program and the Thriving Communities program. They are partnering with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) on an application for the Rail Vehicle Replacement program. Mr. Calvaresi noted that SEFTC has been very supportive of Tri-Rail's efforts to increase its rolling stock through funding commitments from TRIP as well as from the various LRTPs/MTP. This grant recipient can receive up to 50% of its need from this program and up to another 30% from federal funding.

Mr. Calvaresi emphasized the regional nature of this grant, pointing out that the RTTAC and SEFTC can support this regional project not only through supportive efforts from the three transportation entities but through the counties' legislative representation in Washington, D.C.

Additional upcoming grants that meet collective needs include the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program, as well as the electric vehicle (EV) corridor and community charging program. The Broward MPO leads a bi-weekly grants coordination meeting among Broward municipalities, which has been helpful in ensuring all parties are aware of current and upcoming efforts. This also prevents the MPO and municipalities from competing against one another for the same grants by determining which entity has the best chance of securing the grant in a given year.

If synergies exist between projects, it may also be possible to combine two projects into one regional project, which would strengthen the application. Mr. Calvaresi characterized this as an opportunity for the RTTAC to bring more grant money to South Florida.

Mr. Uhlir requested additional information on the Rail Vehicle Replacement Program. Chair Cross recalled that the Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach entities have discussed how to support Tri-Rail's rolling stock for a number of years through the TRIP program. Based on Broward's eligibility, there would be local eligibility for up to \$43.75 million in grant funds for rolling stock, which means there could be up to \$68.75 million total including the additional \$12.5 in SU funds and \$12.5 in TRIP funds. He estimated that with participation from Miami-Dade and Palm Beach, this could result in complete fleet replacement for Tri-Rail.

Mr. Uhlir estimated that the Palm Beach TPA has planned roughly \$5 million in Tri-Rail funding. Mr. Edmonson added that Miami-Dade has planned for \$2.5 in TRIP funds and \$5 in SU funds.

Mr. Uhlir advised that it has been difficult to identify a local match for some grants, and noted that it may be easier to determine how to tap into state funds. He cited the Safe Streets for All program as an example, pointing out that the West Andrews Avenue corridor is a state roadway. He asked if there are other ways the transportation agencies are exploring how to secure matching funds.

Mr. Calvaresi confirmed that this conversation has been ongoing at the local, county, and state levels. The Broward MPO has also looked at different ways to secure local matching funds, such as toll credits, although these are not typically useful for capital projects. FDOT's Central Office recognizes the difficulty of local matching funds for grants, as most MPO funding is planned six years out.

Regarding local funds, there is a similar difficulty, as local entities do not often have dollars available for use as matching funds. Most municipalities "zero out" their budgets each year, as they do not wish to increase taxes when it is not necessary. Mr. Calvaresi noted that Broward County has transportation surtax funding, and can leverage funds that are already committed.

Mr. Uhlir also requested additional information on the Broward MPO's bi-weekly grants coordination meeting. Mr. Calvaresi explained that this is a standing Zoom meeting at which upcoming and new grants, grant partnerships, and other information is discussed and shared, with the intent of different entities supporting one another in seeking grant funds. Grants are also discussed at the Broward MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and MPO Board meetings each month, which provides additional opportunities for coordination.

Ms. Delaney observed that the current environment provides unprecedented federal investment in transportation infrastructure. She suggested that the RTTAC consider this as an ancillary activity, noting that federal sources favor regional grants. She proposed that this be discussed further on a future Agenda.

Chair Cross commented that the recent federal infrastructure bill has made significant funding available on a nationally competitive basis, which makes more work for the transportation agencies. He recommended that grant discussions be included on future Agendas when Palm Beach takes over the RTTAC process.

Ms. Taylor added that RTTAC meetings can also be used as workshops for conversations about grant funding. Mr. Jeffries noted that District 6 has assisted Miami-Dade County and the TPO with letters of support for grant applications.

Ms. Bielawska requested additional information on the Broward MPO's coordination meetings. Mr. Calvaresi clarified that these are open to all BCT staff and are advertised at the MPO's TAC and CAC meetings. The coordination meetings are informal and are held every other Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

4. Review November 4, 2022 Southeast Florida Transportation Council Meeting Review & Discussion

Chair Cross noted that an error on the SEFTC Agenda has been corrected: the date of the next SEFTC meeting is Friday, November 4, 2022.

Mr. Calvaresi briefly reviewed the draft SEFTC Agenda, which includes two action items: endorsement of the 2050 RTP scope, and the 2023-2025 meeting schedule. The non-action item is an update on TRIP. An update on grants will be added to the Agenda. This meeting will be hosted by the Broward MPO at 9:30 a.m. and will require in-person attendance.

Mr. Edmonson requested additional information on the action item approving the 2050 RTP scope. It was determined that SEFTC had taken this action at their February 25, 2022 meeting, which meant it did not have to be presented again for approval.

Ms. Taylor asked if information on hosting future RTTAC meetings could be provided to Miami-Dade, which will take over these duties in the new year. Mr. Calvaresi confirmed that the Broward MPO will provide the Miami-Dade TPO with an updated schedule and notes on hosting.

Mr. Edmonson asked if the TRIP update that will be presented to SEFTC is the same update seen today by the RTTAC. Mr. Calvaresi replied that it would be an abridged version of the update, providing the time frame for applications and the application process.

Mr. Edmonson emphasized the importance of making sure that partner agencies are aware that they need to bring their projects forward to the transportation agencies. He suggested trying to fully allocate TRIP dollars wherever possible, and asking SEFTC to then endorse a prioritized list of projects. FDOT will then go through the process of ensuring that all projects are program-ready and meet other requirements. He offered

the TPO as an example, stating that they typically provide FDOT with two lists: one including the number of projects and one listing the amount of funding available. He recommended that the agencies identify more than enough projects to use all the TRIP funding that was provided the previous year.

Mr. Calvaresi stated that going forward, due to the need to work together as a regional entity, the RTTAC will begin to meet monthly and SEFTC quarterly. It may also be possible for SEFTC to empower its Chair to write letters of support for regional grant applications on behalf of that agency. Chair Cross proposed that this be brought back to the RTTAC as an Agenda Item for full discussion before it is presented to SEFTC. He pointed out that SEFTC's actions require a unanimous vote, which meant empowering its Chair may require legal review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – no discussion

1. Modeling Subcommittee

It was noted that Mr. Edmonson addressed modeling under Non-Action Item 2.

2. Public Participation Subcommittee

None.

3. TSM&O Subcommittee

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Member Comments

Chair Cross concluded that he was excited for the transition of the RTP to the Miami-Dade TPO.

With no other business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

NEXT SEFTC MEETING: November 4, 2022 (Hosted by Broward MPO)

NEXT RTTAC MEETING: December 14, 2022 (In person at BMPO)