

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2026

The Broward MPO supports federal policies that will make the region safer and more sustainable, accessible, and dynamic for both new and existing residents and businesses. The Broward MPO's goals in the federal legislative space include efforts to reduce fatalities and emissions while making transportation options available, accessible, and affordable. The Broward MPO will work to achieve these goals by pursuing targeted federal funding opportunities with the support of its congressional delegation, particularly in advance of the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization (STR) next year. Advocacy priorities include support for:

SAFE & HARDENING INFRASTRUCTURE

At a time when pedestrian fatalities are trending upward and aging transportation infrastructure does not meet modern needs, the Broward MPO understands that it must take innovative approaches in designing transportation systems that benefit not only the pedestrians that use them, but the surrounding real estate as well. The Broward MPO will work with congressional and Administration policymakers to ensure that its priorities are reflected in relevant federal transportation initiatives, and will specifically prioritize the following actions.

- Pursuing competitive funding, and fostering political support among congressional delegation members for various pedestrian safety, infrastructure hardening, and complimentary transportation development initiatives.
 -
- Advocate for permitting reform policies that will enable timely project delivery and factor in important environmental considerations.
- Work with federal and state officials to ensure federal formula allocations and discretionary awards are drawn-down timely (ex. Metropolitan Planning Formula grant program).

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

- Pursue adoption of Community Funded Projects by delegation members and relevant appropriations subcommittee bills in the annual appropriations process.
- Promote inclusion of appropriation and STR report language to reflect MPO's transportation priorities.
-

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

- Increase Planning Funds to Meet Federal Planning Requirements—Planning is the foundation of effective, efficient project delivery. Despite expanding responsibilities, PL funds remain below 1% of total formula dollars. At the Broward MPO, we are responsible for efforts such as freight coordination, congestion management, and economic development, to name a few responsibilities. These activities require sophisticated modeling, public engagement, and

interagency coordination. We encourage an increase in the total amount of metropolitan planning funds and an increase in the federal share to adequately meet the needs of the evolving role of MPOs. These funds empower MPOs to plan for transportation systems that are responsive to the needs of our communities, fostering economic growth, safety, and mobility.

- Reducing Local Match for Federal Transportation Programs—The Broward MPO is tasked with developing federally required transportation blueprints that guide billions in public investment and are central to meeting national performance goals. Yet, we must secure local funds just to access the planning resources needed to carry out these obligations. For our region, including this requirement poses a recurring challenge. By reducing local match requirements for federal transportation funds, we aim to give MPOs the flexibility to address critical infrastructure needs. Reducing match requirements supports rural and economically distressed communities that struggle to access critical federal funds.
- Allowing for Carryover of Federal Funds—Many of the Broward MPO’s projects, such as Long Range Plans, capacity projects, and freight enhancement, require extensive coordination and span multiple fiscal years. Often times, these critical efforts do not align neatly with the federal fiscal calendar. Allowing the carryover of federal funds from one fiscal year to the next ensures uninterrupted progress on essential long-term projects, promoting consistent infrastructure improvements that enhance safety, mobility, and economic vitality for residents.
- Shifting Certain Discretionary Funding to Formula Funding— While competitive grants like RAISE, SS4A, SMART, etc. are valuable, the Broward MPO often lacks the financial resources needed for extensive grant applications. A shift to formula-based funding for certain federal programs ensures a more predictable and equitable distribution of resources, allowing MPOs to strategically plan for the long-term growth of their communities.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2026

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 decisions and principles, expanded mobility and access, and a net-zero carbon future with clean, reliable, and affordable transportation options.

SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE HARDENING

- Expand regulations on distracted driving.
- Improvement of electrical grid, including increased capacity to accommodate electric vehicle charging stations, and addressing hardening 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 facilitate the development of transportation alternatives.
- Encourage FDOT to fast-track safety projects.
- Add funding for MPOs to conduct driver, pedestrian, and cycling safety educational campaigns.
- Encourage legislation to provide resources to update and modernize utility poles.

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.
- Encourage MPO independence from host agencies.